

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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NOVEMBER CIRCULATION. 52,531

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwigth Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of November, 1914, is 52,531.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 7th day of December, 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.

It's to be "a White Christmas," all right. Now, all together for an early shop-early finish.

A small mite can be made to produce a mighty lot of Christmas cheer. It doubtless is more blessed to give than to receive, but also more expensive.

Most of the railroad locomotive engineers are said to come from the farm. "Safety first."

Where is that old-fashioned fellow who used to say "cam" for calm and "Sams" for Psalms?

A suit against a railroad for \$33,000 has resulted in a verdict for \$3,554. Why raise freight rates?

But would a prohibition on exporting munitions of war include our farmers' horses and mules?

Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud when the first-of-the-month bills remain unaccepted?

Those lions that went on a rampage in New York were smart enough to avoid the Tammany tiger.

Cheer up. If things seem dull, just remember that "Uncle Joe" Cannon will be on the job to liven 'em up in a little while.

With General Bliss in command of our troops on the Mexican border, we are moved once more to exclaim, "What's in a name?"

Water rates and electric light rates are both high in Omaha, and no contract obstacle prevents bringing either of them down.

Richard Harding Davis isn't saying anything now-or rather he is saying nothing in a somewhat different way--St. Louis Times.

Zing! There's a dum-dum for you.

Still, inasmuch as Secretary Bryan has not been able to control his daughter, it is a trifle far-fetched to hold him responsible for his son-in-law.

Don't save half-worn and out-of-style clothes. Give them to the needy, and buy new ones for yourself, for you won't wear the old ones again anyway.

It is illegal to whistle on the streets of certain Russian towns. Yet when a fellow finds the lid down tight what else can he do but whistle?

While too early to say much about presidential nominees for 1916, the mere mention of such names as Hughes, Whitman, Herrick and Coethals suggests that the G. O. P. must have survived Armageddon in tolerably good shape.

Former President Taft is doubtless correct in saying that better means should be devised for compelling the states to heed and support our treaties with other nations, and yet even of more importance would be a provision for compelling nations to observe their own treaty obligations.

The sworn declaration of the Chicago convict that Omaha is one of the few cities where no protection is afforded, is not only a tribute to the Omaha police, but a knockout to the graft states that the fakers like to circulate. It will not, however, stop the local yellow journals from continuing to spread their fictions.

Thirtieth Years Ago This Day in Omaha

The thermometer at Max Meyer's store at midnight registered 12 degrees below zero. The snow plows, for the first time this winter, were attached to the street cars. The snow had been blown by the furious wind in large drifts over the rails in many places. The mission school at Fourteenth and Leavenworth is holding Christmas parties in the form of articles of clothing for poor children to be left at St. W. Merritt's store, 322 Harvard.

The Musical Union orchestra distinguished itself in a concert given at Turner hall under the leadership of Prof. Hoffman. A talking feature of the program was the strived quartet, in which Mr. Saller, the well known violinist, reappeared in Omaha, and Mrs. Polanski continued a recitation.

J. L. Farnsworth of Parisville, O., and James Smith, brother of F. E. Smith of the Union Pacific, from the same city, are stopping over in Omaha for a few days on their way home from Los Angeles.

Rev. J. B. Detwiler of the Lutheran church presented on the last of December, using this holiday habit for an argument against intemperance.

Fee Grabbing Not in Favor.

Official circles in Illinois are undergoing a far-reaching disturbance caused by a court decision just rendered declaring unconstitutional and illegal the grabbing of hundreds of thousands of dollars by county treasurers as pretended fees for collection of the inheritance taxes. For more than twenty years, it seems, the treasurers over there have been holding out as their own 2 per cent of all the money taken in from probated estates, which for one incumbent's term in Cook county amounts to over \$100,000, to be recovered back from him or his bondsmen.

Now, the moral to the public is not that this graft has been going on, but that it is now to be stopped by construing the section of the constitution, which declares treasurers shall be paid salaries fixed by law, to mean what it says. If this case had come up ten or fifteen years ago we have no doubt hair-splitting lawyers and technicality-hunting judges would have found a way to help out the fee-grabbers, and let the taxpayers hold the sack. But fee-grabbing is no longer in favor anywhere--no more so in Illinois than it is here in Nebraska--and public officers who have their pockets lined with money that does not belong there, will do well to read the signs of the times and put it back as fast as they can.

Eating to Music.

War has been declared in Chicago on the cafe and restaurant dance and the people are rapidly taking sides. Mayor Harrison, heading a strong column of generous-spirited souls, defies the enemy to do its worst.

"They'd be burning witches at the stake if we could move back a century or two, these folks who denounce the dining room dance," says the mayor.

Well, there is no end of defense that might be made for eating our meals to music and dancing is music--some dancing. Dr. Johnson said that "a man seldom thinks with more earnestness of anything than he does of his dinner." Any little levity that leaves a good taste, then ought to be exactly the thing for him, it would seem. True, as Shakespeare put it, "Things sweet to taste prove in digestion sour," only Shakespeare should have added--"sometimes." Eating one's dinner to the tune and grace of high kicking is certainly not going to give one indigestion, especially if one is rather well along in life, where one's digestion calls for artificial excitement.

Of course, some folks are so far gone with crabbedness that even comely maidens' dancing availed naught to help along the food to its God-given service, but there is no use deciding the dance question one way or the other with reference to them.

Some has meat and comma eat, And some would eat that want it; But we have meat and we can eat. See let the Lord be thankit.

Perhaps, after all, one way to settle this cafe dance matter would be to submit it to a vote of the patrons of the dance cafe. Besides, there are restaurants that do not have dancing on the bill of fare.

The American Language.

Much good may come out of the national council of teachers of English to devise ways and means of improving our American enunciation, pronunciation and "artful use of the vernacular." For there is much that needs to be done along this line. Again our critics abroad are after us with the time-worn stricture that "among civilized folk Americans have the least agreeable speaking voice." If that is true, if it is even half true, why, of course, as a natural race of leaders, content only with the best, we must overcome it.

One gets an interesting, if not always accurate, view of himself reflected from the eyes of others. He must allow for faulty vision and yet he does himself injustice who does not seek to profit by honest criticism. So Americans will sit down once again and patiently listen to what even their bellicose European friends have to say about the defects of their speech and the weak spots in their culture, albeit they smile as they listen. For when it comes to genuine culture, the peace-loving Yankee is apt to prefer his old foggy habit of murdering the queen's English, to the spirit that has plunged other peoples of culture into the mad act of murdering each other.

For the time being, perhaps the study of comparative cultures may as well be deferred. Let us look simply at the merits as they appear on the surface. Americans are a big people, geographically and numerically. We know that, however inexplicable the causes, geographical lines make a difference in our speech, in our colloquialisms, our vernacular. The southerner draws his rounded corners, evading his "r's," while the northerner rolls his "r's" around his tongue, sometimes very harshly. The New Englander has his own peculiarities, and so fine are our geographical distinctions that New Yorkers seem to have a language of their own. Indeed, the people residing in San Francisco actually speak very differently from those in other parts of California. Doubtless this is due more to affectation than anything else, but it is true, nevertheless. In the middle west it is merely a babel of tongues. But now when we consider our country as the great melting pot of the world, where streams of every tongue and nation meet and mingle, is it any wonder that imperfections of speech exist? It is not, replies our critic, nor any excuse for delaying the proposed work of improvement. Very good, neither, then, must it be mistaken as an evidence of a lack of culture.

Lawyers and Law-Making.

It used to be said, and doubtless with an eminent degree of truth, that lawyers had a monopoly on law-making in this country, but the official roster of the coming Nebraska legislature discloses only two members of the senate listed as lawyers and only twelve members of the house. In other words, out of a total of 133 law-makers only fourteen are down as lawyers. What may be the explanation for this decadence of the legal profession we would not venture to guess. Perhaps a legislative investigation to inquire into the facts, and make a report on the same, might throw the needful light on the subject.

Lawyers and Law-Making.

Secretary McAdoo's intimate friends say he is a very witty man. Sure, he is or he would never have cracked that joke about so politics figuring in the location of those federal reserve banks.

Growth of Air Fleets

War Boosts the Business.

Figures showing the tremendous growth of the air fleets of Europe since the war began, and also during the period when hostilities seemed probable, have been made public in Washington. They represent the best information our government has thus far been able to obtain through its military and naval observers, as well as through other sources. Absolute accuracy is not claimed for them, yet they are confidently believed to correctly show the relative air strength of the contending powers.

As summarized by the Washington correspondent of the Brooklyn Eagle, the figures show extraordinary activity on the part of nearly all the powers involved in the present war in the construction of aeroplanes within the past few months, and a lesser activity in the manufacture of dirigibles. In the matter of aeroplanes, the allies have far outstripped Germany and Austria-Hungary, while in the case of dirigibles, Germany and Austria-Hungary have overtaken the allies and are now in the lead, a fact due wholly to the rapid construction of Zeppelins by Germany since the outbreak of the war.

Captain Mark L. Bristol, who has charge of aviation in the United States navy, presented the figures to the naval committee of the house. The statistics he produced embrace an estimate of the number of government and private aeroplanes suitable for military purposes that were owned in each country last March, then of the number which were owned in August, at the time the war broke out, and finally of the number which it believed are in service during the present month. The figures indicate that the allies have a total available aeroplane fleet today that is nearly five times greater than that possessed by Germany in March, while Germany and Austria-Hungary have a fleet three times greater.

Comparative Air Strength.

The figures showing the relative aeroplane strength of the allies and their enemies, according to the latest information reaching this government, are as follows:

Table with columns: Name, March, August, December. Rows: Allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, Hungary.

Divided among countries, the aeroplane strength of the nations now engaged in the European war is as follows:

Table with columns: Name, March, August, December. Rows: Austria-Hungary, Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Russia.

The above figures include both machines owned by the various governments and by individuals. All private machines, however, that are in any way suitable for military use, have already been commandeered for war purposes. There are certain omissions in the figures which do not materially alter their significance. For instance, it is unquestioned that Great Britain had a large number of aeroplanes available last March, although none are listed. The only country which has shown a decrease in its air strength since the beginning of the war is Belgium.

Slow Growth of Airships.

With regard to dirigibles, the figures submitted to the house naval committee show a materially different situation. Dirigibles are not so easily constructed as aeroplanes and for a variety of reasons are not considered nearly so valuable. Their number is far less than that of the heavier-than-air machines. The dirigible figures are as follows:

Table with columns: Name, March, August, December. Rows: Allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, Hungary.

Given by countries, the situation with reference to dirigible airships is, as follows:

Table with columns: Name, March, August, December. Rows: Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Russia.

While there is much debate among military authorities as to the actual value of aircraft in war, these figures are significant in showing one important fact: That both aeroplanes and dirigibles may be constructed and put into service in a short space of time. Captain Bristol told the naval committee that the various powers now at war are still adding to their air fleets very rapidly. Whereas the allies, for instance, have almost multiplied their air fleet by five since last March, any such increase in naval vessels would be beyond the wildest dream. It takes on an average of thirty months to build a battleship. An aeroplane or a Zeppelin can be built in a few weeks.

Twice Told Tales

His Version.

The small boy came home from Sunday school looking so disheveled and dusty that the mother had grave suspicions concerning his having been at Sunday school at all. He explained his disarray by the fact that he had stopped at a neighbor's house to see some young puppies and had climbed into a stable in order to be able to find them.

"What was the Golden Text?" inquired the parent.

"Don't worry. You'll get the blanket," was the answer.

"There's nothing like that in the Bible," declared the mother.

"Yes there is. I guess I know the Golden Text. Our class said it over and over."

To settle her doubts the mother telephoned the boy's teacher.

"Harry tells me that the Golden Text today was, 'Don't worry. You'll get the blanket.' What does he mean?"

With a peal of laughter the teacher explained the boy's statement, giving the text correctly: "Fear not, the Comforter shall come unto you."--National Monthly.

Preferred to Stand.

Herbert Quick, the author, smiled when the conversation at a smokefest turned to the unfamiliarity of the city people to the ways of the country. He said he was reminded of the experience of Sambo.

Sambo, who had lived all his life in a big metropolis, got a job on a farm. Not knowing that the game was new to him, Uncle Josh gave the farmhand a bucket and a three-legged stool and told him to milk the cow. An hour later Sambo returned from the barnyard.

"Look here, boss," he remarked, with a worried expression, "I guess I will have to give up de job uh milkin' dat cow."

"What's de matter?" wonderingly asked Uncle Josh, knowing Sambo to be kind and gentle. "She ain't afeared of you, is she?"



Would Investigation Two--Why Not Airt?

OMAHA, Dec. 20.--To the Editor of The Bee: In reporting my talk before the Real Estate exchange, one paper quoted me as stating there was at least \$50,000 wasted by the fire department each year, but the reporter neglected to add the words "on account of the double shift system." This left the impression that the waste was due to the management of the department and not on account of the very unfortunate law passed in 1907 forcing the city to adopt a double shift system which was not then in vogue in any other city in the United States.

I am not at all surprised that the head of the department, Mr. Withnell, should be incensed at the implication that there is waste in his department for which he is responsible, but an unintentional error on the part of the newspaper reporter does not justify him into a personal attack upon me, every statement of which is untrue and the slightest inquiry or research would have shown him that instead of supporting the double shift system bill in 1907, I was so active against it that every member of the fire department including Chief Salter knows that fact.

In my talk before the Real Estate exchange urging that body of the Commercial club to make a careful investigation of city finances in order that the delegation may be well informed as to the real needs of the city, I laid particular stress upon the fact that my remarks had nothing to do with the personnel of the present city commission for the absence and needless departments of the city government, if they exist, were created by statutes and the present city commission is compelled to fill these offices by law.

I simply wish to call the attention of the proper civic bodies to the need of the investigation at this time, in order that the Douglas delegation may be instructed how to amend the charter to save the heavy expense for salaries and departments that were created by law. In years past, but which have proven to be mere securities of political victory. These reforms can not be carried out by the commissioners, but the laws must be amended or repealed at the coming session if we are to make a more efficient and economic city and county government.

The same investigation should cover the county government. It is pretty generally conceded that the registry of deeds is an unnecessary office. The work can be done by the county clerk.

There is also some agitation to do away with the coroner's office and that work be done by the sheriff. Proper investigation will undoubtedly disclose other opportunities to save thousands of dollars to the county and city, which we need badly in our parks, boulevards and library and other places.

If the newspapers together with the Commercial club and other civic bodies will join in a nonpartisan, careful and business-like investigation into the city and county expenditures and with recommendations to the legislature to enact measures carrying out the efficiency reform such as the legislature is expected to carry out effecting its own affairs, I am sure that Omaha will within the next few years, if proper and efficient commissioners are provided, be able to put its own house in order to show to South Omaha, Dundee, Benson and Florence some advantages to be gained, other than the sentimentality, by becoming a part of Greater Omaha. N. P. DODGE, JR.

Rate Increases.

OMAHA, Dec. 20.--To the Editor of The Bee: Most of us are too busy settling the European war to spend valuable time about our own business, but there is still a limited number interested in unimportant matters like rate raises and street car fares. These are concrete things near at hand that ordinary mortals can grasp.

A part of the Interstate Commerce commission has decided that the railroads are in bad condition and must be allowed to charge 5 per cent extra on all freight or go under. A minority of the commission say not. Now here's what we'd like to know--what do they need the 5 per cent for? For a number of years everybody who claimed to know anything about it, said the railroads were paying dividends on millions on millions of water, and all the agitation has been based on this state of affairs, which has never been seriously disputed. So far as I have ever seen in print, not a dollar of the water has been squeezed out. A few years ago the Lincoln Traction company of Lincoln, Neb., desired to increase a certain fare and applied to the State Railroad commission for permission. This was granted, after a hearing, but the brazenest member of the commission made a dissenting report in which he showed that it was not denied by anyone, that after allowing a good return on all their actual investment, the only way the rate could be justified was by allowing a return on some millions of dollars that represented absolutely no investment. Has the Interstate Commerce commission done the same thing?

This isn't any old question. Nobody wants to hurt legitimate business, we're all in the same boat, what hurts legitimate business hurts capitalist and laborer and lawyer and doctor and editor and school teacher and cook. Railroads and street car companies have a right to a good return on investments, but you're never going to get people to believe they need higher rates, no matter what state and national railway commissioners may say, so long as the corporate fight to the last ditch any effort toward finding out what the real value of their properties is. The street railway company of Omaha comes into court and alleges that it costs so much to haul each passenger, but defiantly refuse to let anyone know upon what basis it figures out. We do know that it figures, somehow, an income on some \$1,000,000 or \$11,000,000 of common stock, or at least the agent for the sale of the bonds so advertised, but it refuses to make any showing and in spite of laws looking to that end, no showing has been made.

What is going to be the result? Are we going to get down to a business basis, or are we going to return to the old-time astroland of highway robbery by franchised corporations with those who know, snatched away late at night by the cry of hard times? It seems to me that now, if ever, is the time to fight this out. If there has been misrepresentation on the part of newspaper and magazine writers, let's know it and quit. If they have told the truth, let's not submit to robbery any longer, but let's know what is the truth. Any other course means simply a repetition of the same. If we let the corporations get away with their defiance, simply because business is not good, we'll just have to do it all over again, and business will go up and down like a giant sea-saw.

With railroads and street cars and electric light companies and gas companies and all other companies making a good fat return on every dollar invested, there would be none of this agitation. With all intelligence people believing what they have heard and read, that they are not satisfied with this but are demanding a return of two to five times their investment, agitation is bound to continue and business is bound to suffer. Why not stick to a demand for the facts and, do it now. H. W. MORROW.

Calls It Unworthy of White Men.

HANCROFT, Neb., Dec. 20.--To the Editor of The Bee: Now we find the English calling Japanese and Indians, the French calling the Senegals and others, and the Russians calling the Cossack hordes to help them win from Germany thirty-five square miles, this being the whole of Germany's Atlantic territory. The Germans do not know how to handle such a situation.

The Germans feel that the conduct of their enemies has amounted to a reversal of the dignity of the white man. It seems incredible to Germans that European nations should add to the horrors of war by calling to their aid the Mongolian and Ethiopian, whose ideals are low or non-existent, who are really worse barbarians than the Germans have been unjustly charged with having shown themselves to be in Belgium. It has been said that Germany is dazed. It is not, for it is utterly alert and comprehends the situation as it is, but has been almost incredulous in its astonishment at the whole unbelievable affair.

For forty-three years, although Germans have maintained a large and very powerful standing army, they have taken no inch of ground save through peaceful arrangement with the other nations, who have taken their full share of that to be divided. The German people do not covet any inch of foreign territory on the surface of the earth. Germany's ambassador said to Sir Edward Grey that if England would stand neutral Germany, after its inevitable victory over France, would not claim a hoctare of French territory. After the German victory, which is no less assured now than it was then, they shall, of course, consider matters with no regard for that suggestion, for England did not stand neutral, although that was Germany's proposition.

I am especially anxious to emphasize the fact that Germany is not at war because of any greed for anything belonging to its neighbors. Germany was very busy and utterly contented with its own affairs when forced into this unjustifiable war.

As to German cruelties, incidentally, why cannot America find a good basis for judging whether or not the German nature is capable of such cruelties and outrages, as those charged by passing in review its German-American citizens? Could such tales as have been told of Germans be safely believed of them without incontestable proofs? In one sense the United States is the largest German colony in existence. In all Germany's colonial possessions there are but 2,000 Germans, while in the United States are more than 3,000,000 Germans, aside from Americans of German descent. G. H. OLTHOFF.

SMILING REMARKS.

Mrs. Boren Wright--Gracie, why isn't you brother George at our party, too? Gracie--George's been a good boy all week, and mamma said he needs't come.--Philadelphia Bulletin.

Marie--And when Jack asked you if you wouldn't like him to kiss you, your reply, I hope, was properly scornful. Kitty--I didn't reply at all. I just turned up my nose.--Boston Transcript.

"How much did he pay for those grand opera tickets?" "Five dollars apiece," replied Miss Cavens.

"He must love music." "Possibly. And on the other hand he may have very little respect for five dollars."--Washington Star.

"I wish I knew how to get rid of trouble." "I'll help you out, I know a fellow who's always looking for it."--Judge.

Go Home For The Holidays. Christmas coming on Friday gives you three holidays in succession--an excellent opportunity to visit family and friends or to have them visit you. Every family ought to have a reunion once a year, and what time can be better than the Christmas holidays? Fares Only 2c Per Mile. Look at the map, you will find Great Western service most convenient in nearly every direction, and our Union Depot connections at terminals are especially attractive. Call or phone for actual fares and train schedules--P. F. BONORDEN, C. P. & T. A., 1522 Farnam Street, Omaha, Phone Doug. 280.



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