## THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: DECEMBER 27, 1914.

#### The Law of Military Occupation. THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

# FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

#### VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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CORRESPONDENCE, Address communications relating to news and edi-torial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department. NOVEMBER SUNDAY CIRCULATION.

# 44,671

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, sa. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average Sunday circulation for the month of November, 1914, was 44,671 DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subacribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 5th day of December, 1914. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily abould have The Bee mailed to them. Ad-dress will be changed as often as requested.

# Be a good fellow all the year round,

Still, don't let the Christmas spirit stop with the Christmas holidays.

The "City Beautiful" and the "City Smoky" do not harmonize well together

All right, Mr. Weatherman, we admit you have lost none of your versatility.

The exchange counter now takes its turn as the most popular corner of the store.

The neutrality among these hungry Nebraska ple-seekers is nothing to brag about.

The year 1914 has been making a record more like what would have been expected in 1913.

We move the adoption of the good resolutions .----World-Herald.

Second the motion.

The refusal of the Japanese Diet to vote the war program ought to afford some consolation for our yellow perilista.

Texas claims the biggest man, physically, in the world, but everybody knows what state has the biggest one in every other way.

Five hundred childless married couples, says the St. Paul Ploneer Press, sought to adopt a baby left on a doorstep. What's the answer?

In making our New Year's resolution, how would it be to scan the last list for unredeemed pledges to be taken up as unfinished business?

The war bulletins report bravery on the part

## What are the rights of the Belgians, or for that matter, of the Germans in Ellesis and the

Poles in Galicia, while the country where they live happens to be in control of a hostile army? Does the possessor by force of arms become

for the time being the sovereign ruler of the territory held in his power, or are there limitations to the authority which may be rightfully exercised by an army of military occupation through its commander or provisional governor?

These are questions which are propounding themselves to thoughtful people. Partial, if not wholly satisfactory answers happen to be at hand in a discussion of "The Hague Conventions" contributed by Prof. John Bassett Moore to the Columbia University Quarterly, the writer being recognized as our foremost authority on international law and himself one of those who represented our country at The Hague congress, which considered all these momentous subjects.

Prof. Moore explains that the fourth of The Hague conventions, relating to "the laws and customs of war on land," deals also with 'military occupation" and confinues:

The term, "military occupation," is used in respect of territory possessed and held by the enemy in such manner that he can actually exercise authority over it. The actual governing power having thus passed into his hands, it is his right and his duty to take all possible measures to maintain public order and safety, but the temporary character of his rule is recognized in the provision that he must, "unless absolutely prevented," respect "the laws in force in the country." The inhabitants of the oceapled territory owe him obedience, but he is forbidden to force them to furnish military information or swear allegiance to him. He is commanded to respect family honor and rights, the lives of individuals and their property, and their religious convictions and practice. Confiscation of private property is prohibited: pillage is "formally forbidden." If the military occupant collects the taxes, he is to follow, as far as possible the rules which he finds in existence and is obliged to defray the expenses of the ordinary administration of the territory "to the same extent as the legitimate government" was bound to do. Contributions in money, in addition to the regular taxes. may be levied only for the needs of the army or of the administration of the territory, and it is forbidden to inflict any general penalty, pecuniary or otherwise. upon the population for acts of individuals for which it cannot be regarded "as jointly and severally responsible." Requisitions in kind and service may be demanded from municipalities or individuals only for the needs of the army of occupation; and are then to be "in proportion to the resources of the country, and of such a nature as not to involve the inhabitants in military operations against their own country. Contributions in kind are to be paid for in cash; and if

this is not done, receipts are to be given, and payments are to be made as goon as possible. Public funds and generally all movable property of the state useful for military operations may be taken by the military occupant; and, subject to restoration or impensation when peace returns, so also may articles and appliances useful in war belonging to private individuals. Submaripe cables connecting the occupied territory with neutral territory may be selzed or destroyed only in case of "absolute necessity," and, when peace is made, they must be restored with compensation. Of public buildings, real estate, forests and farms belonging to the state, the military occupant is regarded as only "administrator and usufructuary." and he must care for them accordingly. Finally, all property of municipalities, or of institutions "dedicated to religion, charity and education, the arts and sci-ences." even when state-owned, is to be "treated as private property." and any damage done to it or to historic monuments, works of art and science," not only forbidden, but is declared to be the subject

of legal proceedings. The convention relating to the laws and customs of war on land, we are reminded, was signed by all the powers except China and Spain, although some of the smaller nations, including Servia, have neglected to ratify it, while Germany, Austria-Hungary, Japan and Russia made their ratifications subject to reservations. So

while it is clear that these stipulations embody the rules which all the powers agree should govern under such conditions, the point remains open as to how they are to be regarded as lesally or morally blinding upon combatants in the present war. Here comes into play the express declaration of the compact-"The provisions of the present convention do not apply. except between contracting parties, and then only if all the belligerents are parties to the convention"-and since Servia, one of the belligerents in the pending European war, has not ratified, the conclusion is unescapable, as Prof. Moore emphasizes, that the rules here laid down are to be regarded as binding only so far as they are declaratory of existing international law.

billboards violating every sense of propriety and beauty be stuck up to mar surroundings and depreciate property values in residential districts all for the profit of the man behind the sign. More and more cities are widening the latitude of the residence district in determining what shall and shall not do business within it. Evidently the crusade for eivic art is telling, even on the courts.

### On Public Service.

The attorney general of Missouri finds no law in that state making it illegal for an officeholder to take pay for Chautauqua speeches while drawing his official salary-the attorney general himself being something of a chautalker. If, as he suggests, such a departure is legal in all states, our public servants may proceed to book their 1915 engagements with perfect security so far as the law is concerned.

But is it not a matter of conscience, more than of law, whether a man ought to accept an office and salary from the public and then devote much of, his time to private gain? The fact that chautauqua side lines have become common among our statemen of lesser and greater rank does not affect the principle. For the most part, these speakers deal in their lectures with the affairs of government, exploiting all sorts of fine spun theories and ideals for achieving the highest efficiency and economy, and they have succeeded in the last few years in arousing a lot of agitation.

Yet if "Words are good, and only so when backed by deeds," as Roosevelt once said, how better could our privately paid public orators help to achieve these ideals than by devoting more time to them in their offices and less to talking about them from the chautauqua platform? Nothing beats objective demonstration when it comes to education. It is generally better to show a man than merely to tell him how a thing should be done. The people of this country are not penurious with their public officials, many of whom, for dignity's sake, if nothing else, should be given much latitude in their public conduct, and yet when it comes to the matter of dignity, perhaps the least said the better in speaking of the bustling business of chautauqua lectures.

#### The Mexican Farce.

Conditions in Mexico would be funny if they were not so tragic. Now comes reports of a probable split between Villa and Zapata, who joined hands against Carranza when he and Villa fell out and Carranza landed ahead of the bandit leader at the capital.

The whole black line of murder and rapine from the spring of 1910 to the present reveals no leader, except Madero, who possibly having a serious conception of the needs of Mexico, was bold enough to attempt to act upon it. And Madero died for his premature boldness. Madero displayed a real understanding of the evils of peonage and fuedalism and definite plans for supplanting them with modern agrarian rights and industrial freedom. Villa boasts that he knows all about the land question and is determined to settle it rightly, but beyond his wild vaporings has offered no proof of his knowledge or intentions. If he or any other self-proclaimed leader at present has any interest larger than his personal aggrandizement it is not apparent in the progress of events.

Not since Diaz abdicated have any two "leaders" been able to agree indefinitely. If this is not an indication that purely selfish inare the controlling factors now at work. what is it? In view of all this, it is idle to expect anything approaching peace and order in Mexico for the present.

# People and Events

An authenticated sample of the eugents baby is cooling in Wisconsin, to the great joy of family reformers. Some bables achieve greatness, the Wisconsin baby was born great. 'Its picture commands a premium.

The Episcopal bishop of the diocese of Tennessee has been sharply reminded of the perils of a man of peace taking sides in a war game. An indignant member of the church challenged the bishop to meet him in mortal combat. Nothing doing The poet of the Sierras left a fortune of \$42,000, the poet of Long Island a fortune of \$399,000 and gambler Canfield a fortune of \$1,000,000. The winged heels of Pegnsus kick up some of the "dust," but limp painfully in the race for first money.

Several sections of the country have had experience with "holy rollers," High rollers are a national institution. Now comes Michigan with a band of "flying rollers." They attempted to polize the town halo of St. Joseph, but established religious bodies objected and started a ruction which brought the leading rollers in to court, charged with assaulting the moral law.

According to Professor Max Muller of Philadelphia, the hobble skirt is a genuine antique of 3,000 years ago. It may be recalled that pictures of Pharaob's daughter in the act of rescuing the beard-Mosca from the bullrushes represents the princess in tightly-drawn skirts which art critics regarded as a precaution against wet heels. The antiquity of the garment being settled, its practical utility puts ancient fashion makers several leagues in advance of the Chicago push.

So far as the necessary implements are concerned amoking the pipe of peace might have been the easiest feature of the first meeting of the king of Italy and the new ambassador from Germany. The smoking room in the king's palace in Rome, decorated in the subdued tones of embossed leather, with easy chairs and lounges to match, is equipped with a fine assortment of pipes, ranging from briars to meerschaums clustered around a huge china smokehouse of Dutch vintage with a yard of stem. Cigars and cigarets are not visible, but a handsomely carved cigar box, about a foot square, holds a place of honor as a conversation promoter.

## MUFFLED KNOCKS.

Some men are so worried over the Eu ropean situation that they can't hold their own.

Tangoing is waisting time, but some men seem to squeeze a lot of pleasure out of it.

A man will always agree with you when you tell him that he is overworked and needs a rest.

Most people expect the Lord not only to provide, but to also clear off the table and wash the dishes.

A woman may do a whole lot of praying for her husband, but she never forgets to keep one eye on him just the same.

A sob sister claims that a kiss should last for at least thirty seconds. Huh! Three seconds is long enough for a wife

to find out what she wants to know. There are lots of people who will tell you that the latch string is always out.

But they do not mention the fact that there is a buildog loose in the front yard. A young man doesn't know it. But the

boss can tell a man who is capable of doing a higher class of work by watch-

SECULAR SHOTS AT PULPIT.

Washington Post: Proceedings at the Richmond church convention indicate that some of our foreign missionaries look upon world politics as a major study, with Christianity optional.

Brooklyn Eagle: Roman Catholic religious women marooned in Turkey bear high tribute to the services of Henry Morganthau, United States minister. John Wanamaker sends felicitations to the pope on efforts of peace. The interdepen-

dencies of civilization are emphasized in war emergencies New York World: Twenty years ago

the name of the Rev. R. Heber Newton was a rallying cry for attack and defense along the battle lines of liberal theology His death at the ripe age of 75, after more than a decade of retirement, recalls for otten fights. But first of all it evokes rearet at the passing of a man of intellectual and moral worth. Such qualities are a lasting heritage. Humanity has a way of catching up with, "ad-

vanced" positions so that they no longer interest. Philadelphia Ledger: The Presbyter ians have set on foot a worthy movement

to maintain churches in the down-town districts from which the fashionable famlites have removed. The people who live downtown are citizens of the great spiritual democracy which knows no distinctions of wealth or of education. Theo retically, their souls are as valuable as the souls of those who dwell in palaces, and sometimes their souls' are much farger: but, practically, these people have too often been treated as though they were as negligible religiously as they are socially. But the vitality of a living church in the more select quarters will be demonstrated by its interest in the spiritual life of those who live in the less favored districts.

# DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"Why didn't you employ that beau-tiful stenographer?" "Didn't care to take the chance. She was sure to break a lot of hearts in the office and then I spose I'd be held under the employers' liability law."-Louisville Courier Journal.

"That old fellow over there got his wife through advertising." "What! For a wife?" "No: advertising money to loan."-Boston Transcript.

"I put my reliance in the wisdom of the plain people," said the peace orator. "But suppose the plain people do .oot happen to agree with you?" "Then I refuse to be influenced by the clamor of the thoughtless crowd."-Philadelphia Record.

"Did the prisoner strike you in an ebuilition of wrath?" "No, he didn't; he hit me in the stum-mick,"-Baltimore American.

"These eggs are exactly as I like them, Hortense," "Yes, Archimedes, I submerged them in water at 212 degrees Fahrenheit for exactly two and one-half minutes."-Philadelphia Ledger.

"My barber has quit discussing the

"My barned "My was that?" "Why was that?" "It was his idea to size up customers and take sides accordingly, but yester-day he guessed wrong four times."--Louisville Courier-Journal.

"How is it that nobody over ventures to discuss the war with Jinks, and he has all the talking to himself?" "Well, you see, he's the only fellow in the club who knows how to pro-nounce those Russian and Polish jaw-breaker towns."-Baltimore American.

Her Father-Young man, 1 must ask your object in coming here so often. Young Man-I love your daughter, sir. She is adorable a queen. Her Father-Then, I take it, your object is to become her subject. Very well, she's yours.-Boston Transcript.

Minister (to one of his members, a venerable old gardener-You have reached a great age, John. John-Deed ha'e I, sir: for gin I

beve till the lith of next month. I'll Becord,

# THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.

if we could see the goal on which we're bent: If we he mission knew on which we're ment:

Would our burden be the lighter? Would our pathway be the brighter? Or would we with our lot be more content?

If we but knew the reason for our births Or realized our own intrinsic worth; Would our character be stronger? Would our days be any longer? Or would we find more happiness on earth?

If we knew tomorrow's sun would drive

a way The sha ows that bestrew our path today. Would we shirk the tasks we're doing? Change the course we're now pursuing? And would it better fit us for the fray?

The present only can we call our own. Each moment holds some task for each

alone. Is now we should be living, orking, helping, loving, giving; we'll garner in the future all It

Tis well we're placed upon a certain

The weil we're pincer upon a certain track. Without the power of ever turning back; And without the power of knowing Whither leads the row we're hoeing. With NOW the only time in which te

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of a descendant of Joan of Arc, which is gratifying as showing that the family record is being sustained.

At last count 1,598 active members were enrolled in the Omaha Commercial club. And no one shut out because he happens to live in Dundee, Florence, South Omaha or Benson.

Those grim warriors who have pulled off this big world fight have been delivering severe punishment to one another, but no signs yet of any of them being winded or knocked down long enough to be counted out.

That army officer who declares the American nation never conquered an enemy at war must then admit that if we do not outfight them, we must be tolerably strong on strategy to have gotten the results we have secured.

What we're waiting to see is which beats the other to it with a rate reduction-the generous public body known as the Water board or the greedy private corporation, commonly referred to as the Electric Lighting monopoly,

Remember the old school book ditty: Oh, Jack Frost is a reguish little fellow: When the wintry winds begin to bellow, Then up the chimney skips the roguish boy And all the children clap for Joy. No discount on the joy of the season thus far, then.

The base ball magnates' meeting in Omaha brought the biggest publicity ever accorded a convention held in this city-except possibly the populist national convention or the Methodist general conference. In other words, nothing but politics and religion excites as widespread interest as base ball.



The Concordia Christmas entertainment took place at Germania hall tonight with a musical program lowed by dancing. The committee in charge H. G. J. Lehmann, G. E. Struttman, August Schaffer, William Slevers, Max Becht, Julius Meyer, T. Sinhold. and W. F. Harding.

George E. Timmo qualified as county commissioner, filing his bond with Judge McCullouch with the following survius: Ed Wittig, Ernest Dahl, Peter Goos, W. H. Joho and W. R. Lewin.

William A. Reed of the Treasury department at Washington was in Conaha on his way to Idaho on He says the Missouri is the first large river he ever saw frozen over.

The Christmas festival of the Saraloga Union Sunool was a gratifying success. D. H. Christie played the role of Santa Claus in the tableaux under supervision of Mrs. Dr. Lucs.

The clerks of S. P. Morse's dry goods establishment remembered the head of the firm with a hand-

Lovers of fine art are invited to see the hand-some plane draps on exhibition at William Gentleman's ods slore, which is a marvelous combination of flowers, fruit, arrasoine work and ribbon em-

C. S. Goodrich has returned from his duck hunting

#### Triumph of Postal Service.

Few realize what a job it has come to be to handle the Christmas mail in this country. Even a casual inspection at some big postoffice or postal terminal will not afford a fully comprehensive idea. Yet mammoth as this task is, it is met each year by the Postoffice department with a minimum of delay, inconvenience and loss to the public. It requires, of course, an enormous number of extra men, but the same general facilities otherwise, which serve the people at all other times in the year, answer for these increased demands.

This only goes to show the yet undeveloped powers of the federal postal system. As steadily as it expands to include some new branch of service, such as postal banks and parcel post, its potential greatness becomes the more evident. The fact is that even postal experts are not able to fix the limit of the possibilities of this gigantic machinery of the government, which is bound to continue its expansion and development. Its next important step undoubtedly will be to take in the telegraph and telephone, which are natural parts of the general system of communication and ought to be no more difficult to operate than any of the other parts, or all combined, as they are so operated in many other countries.

Billboard Local Option.

Some day-maybe-we shall have no billboards, such as now commonly disfigure our streets and highways. At any rate, the evolution that brought them is still evoluting and where the billboards are not disappearing, they are improving in appearance. Incidentally, this very voluntary improvement is a concession on the part of the billboarders, themselves, that they see both the demand and reason for change. The Bee recently had occasion to remark upon the more artistic tendencies of billboard builders as a tacit recognition of the handwriting on the wall.

Over in Illinois the doom has already come. The state supreme court has upheld a Chicago city ordinance, which the lower court condemned. giving property owners in residential sections the right to deny existence to unsightly billboards. This does not necessarily mean no more billboards in those sections; it means simply no more except with consent of the property owners. It is to be a matter of local option whether | with the railroads

# Choosing a Vocation.

Vocational conferences are coming into vogue with many of the amaller mid-west colleges, where students are pursuing classical instead of technical courses. The plan is, once or twice a year, to have a man of proved wisdom and some prominence confer with the young men about their life work. These conferences often bring out suggestions and sidelights as to adaptability which may prove of indispensable value in later years.

Admittedly, about the most important selections a young man has to make are those of a vocation and wife. Serious error often leads to tragic consequences, not only for those directly concerned, but for society as well. Young men -and women, too-need the counsel and experience of older and wiser heads to help them in meeting both of these tests, although some are not as ready as others to avail themselves of the advice, especially as to one of the choices.

A thorough four years of college course gives a broad basis on which to build a life work, and fortunate is the young man or woman who can afford such a training, for it is training more for living than for a livelihood. But somewhere between the freshman and senior years special attention ought to be given by every student to the selection of his vocation. No college-bred man has a right to come out onto the world entirely undetermined on this point. If he has not found himself before graduation, it is a good deal of a chance after that, and sometimes many of the advantages of the educational training are thus lost. Vocational selection is being reduced to a science, and the more general its practice becomes the sooner will each be made an efficient unit of himself.

Judge Sutton's suggestion of district workfarms, to be established and maintained by the state for offenders who fall short of being candidates for the penitentiary, deserves serious consideration. It could easily be tried out with one or two districts at a time, and extended later as conditions should warrant. It would certainly be better, and at least as economical, to establish such workfarms than an enlargement or duplication of the penitentiary which will be necessary before long unless some intermediary reformatory is provided.

We may take it for granted that the vote on the national prohibition amendment will not in any way interfere with the plans for precipitating the campaign for state prohibition in Nebrasks by submission of the question at our next election.

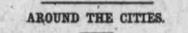
An up-state exchange says farmers of that locality have raised \$1,200 to fight the proposed increase of freight rates on western railroads. But no such an amount will ever stir up a fight

ing how he does the small jobs started in on.

If they have been married long enough it often surprises a man to see how agreeable his wife can be when they have company and she has to put on her company manners with him.

A fashion hint for men says that strapped pantaloons are coming back into style. We can remember when strapped pantaloons were the style for all boys between the ages of 4 and 14. This allenated affections stuff is great. It has gotten so that if an ash cart

driver marries a kitchen mechanic and then takes a scrub woman to a picture show, the kitchen mechanic sues the scrub woman for \$9,000,000 for allenating the 9-cent ash waron driver's affections. Cincinnati Enquirer.



The elevated rallways of Chicago carried \$2,500,000 persons during the first half of 1914.

Salt Lake City authorities propose in creasing the police force by twenty-five men in order to properly protect stopover tourists next summer.

Cleveland is debating the problem of borrowing \$1,000,000 to run the city machine or cut expenses to fit the income, Place your bets on the million.

The entire town of Sunnyside, Tex., embracing a dozen mercantile establishments, many residences and forty acres of land, is owned by one man.

St. Louis expands its chest, over the rospect of becoming the fur market of the world. Any kind of fur, from the hide of a mouse to that of a seal, finds a buyer there.

The district attorney of Denver puts out the proposition that gambling can be suppressed in the city by strict enforcement of the law giving half the fines collected to the informer.

Vancouver, Wash., has made arrangement for "a home for hoboes." where Weary Willies will be given a bed after taking a bath. Meals, bath and lodging are priced at 5 cents each.

The trial of thirty-six plumbers accused of maintaining a co-operative cinch will begin in the federal court at Des Moines February 8. A special jury venire of fifty men from southern Iowa has been summoned.

The electric light company and the authorities of Salt Lake City have reached an agreement by which the cost of light to householders will be reduced 19 per cent and to large consumers 30 per cent beginning January 1.

The Sicur City Journal makes a touching appeal to the authorities for skating ponds large enough for both youths and elders who delight in the winter sport. Small skating ponds may be all right for youngsters, but the old youngsters need ample room to out pigeonwings and sprawl over.

A committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Des Moines has been appointed to examine the terms of a franchise for a "contral heating plant," pending before the city commissioners. Electricity for light and power is to be the product of the heating plant, and the com purpose is to secure a square deal and prevent the franchise seekers from slipping over a perpetuity joken

