

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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APRIL CIRCULATION. 53,406

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss.: Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of April, 1915, was 53,406.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 14th day of May, 1915. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Thought for the Day. Selected by Alberta Newton. Where the apple reddens Never pry Let us lose our Eden Eve and L' -Browning: A Woman's Last Word.

A neutral nation is bound to be criticised by all the belligerents. That's inevitable.

At that, there is no more excuse for anti-German riots in London than for anti-British riots in Berlin.

Those who fear for the nation's honor in the present crisis should survey President Wilson's lower jaw and cheer up.

The international court peace plan at the start involves an infringement of Colonel Roosevelt's justly celebrated device.

Observe that we always hear of these pronouncements that come true, but never of the pronouncements that fail to materialize.

Unless San Francisco can enjoin the slides of Culebra, the prospect of annexing the fleet to the show next summer goes glimmering.

If the Lincoln Highway is to be the route for the cross-continent airship race, the landing places, as well as the roadbed, may need attention.

"Birds of a feather flock together." The knockers on Omaha always find mutual comfort in one another's company, and when one starts, the chorus follows.

Another advantage held out by Nebraska is that a man dying here without heirs may have heirs promptly manufactured for him if only the fortune be big enough.

So long as President Wilson has the last word in foreign affairs the country will bear with equanimity the baking powder explosion of Senator Gumshoe Bill Stone.

Even if the city hall pie factory worked double shifts, it could not supply the demand. As an appetizing confection municipal pie commands higher favor than the article mother used to bake.

The disclosure of crooked election methods in the election commissioner's office in Kansas City, Kan., illustrates how easily the best designed laws respond to the touch of dishonest administrators.

The dangerous situation in which bearers of German names find themselves in maddened England emphasizes the folly of lighting the fires of racial hate without providing fire escapes for innocent victims.

On the first of April the cold storage warehouses of New Jersey held 16,223,115 pounds of meat, or 60 per cent more than a year ago, and seven times the quantity in storage two years ago. Still there are those who contend that speculation has nothing to do with the high cost of meat.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha. QUINCE FROM THE FILES.

The Nebraska state druggists closed their meeting by electing H. D. Boyden of Grand Island as president, F. F. Zimmer of the same city as secretary and C. F. Goodman of Omaha, treasurer. They also decided to hold their next meeting again in Omaha.

The Nebraska Telephone company has sent the following notice to subscribers: "Certain parties are going about town attaching a small wooden tube to telephones, claiming by their use better results in talking. We would respectfully call your attention to the fact that such inventions are frauds and their use on transmitters positively forbidden by the American Telephone company."

The fair held at Brownell Hall to raise money for a building fund proved a grand success and the entertainment netted \$21.65.

J. B. Williams, the dry goods merchant, returned from California, but will remain only long enough to close up his business and will then remove permanently to that state on account of his greatly improved health.

Rev. D. W. C. Huntington, late of Rochester, one of the most eminent divines of the Methodist church, is to be in Omaha and occupy the pulpit of the Seward Methodist Episcopal church Sunday.

An International Court of Justice. The court convention at Cleveland has tentatively put forth a suggestion that deserves serious consideration. It is for an international court of justice, to which may be brought causes that are now handled through other channels, and which only too frequently lead to serious friction between nations. Such a court could easily be made an instrument for the preservation of peace between nations, following the ideal of President Taft's proposals, when he sought to negotiate treaties providing for the arbitration of international disputes. The desirability of such a tribunal is admitted.

Judge Alton B. Parker's criticism of the United States senate for having blocked the way to the consummation of the Taft treaties is well put. Partisan or personal selfishness engendered opposition to President Taft's plans and brought his efforts to naught. When revived by Mr. Bryan it proved that the senate was too busy trying to carry out a democratic caucus program for "reform" to give much time to the serious consideration of so important a topic as the establishment of peace throughout the world. It is not at all pleasant to view the present situation in Europe and recall at the same time some of the objections raised against the Taft treaties five years ago by senators of the United States.

The weakness of an international court of justice will lie in the difficulty of enforcing its decrees. However, the strong likelihood that after the present war more attention will be paid to treaties between nations supports the hope that harmony will be more easily established and preserved. A permanent tribunal for the settlement of international differences will be a mighty engine for good.

One Disadvantage Apparent. One complication that is likely to arise from interruption of friendly intercourse with Germany is the possible disqualification of the United States to act as mediator when the time for readjustment of international relations on a peace basis arrives. This contingency is, of course, remote, and yet it is within the range of possibility, and is a factor in the importance of the present intercourse with Germany. It might not be vital to the cause of peace to have the United States eliminated as arbiter of the negotiations, yet the advantage of having the proceedings moderated by the presence of the most powerful nation of the world not actually engaged in the war is so distinct as to need no argument.

If the United States should be disqualified, the situation might bring to the fore one of the South American republics, for the neutral European nations will suffer for the same reason that we do. It has been all along tacitly conceded that this country would be looked to as the "great and good friend" of all the belligerents, a position that is jeopardized to some extent by reason of present conditions.

Bring Back the Backstamping. Here is a demand voiced by former Congressman Murdock, again on the job with the Wichita Eagle, which we want to endorse and emphasize. It is a demand for restoration of the backstamping of incoming mail, and Mr. Murdock states the case lucidly as follows:

The postoffice department should put back the back-stamp the time of receipt of a letter. The department sneaked out of the custom with the plea that back-stamping caused delay. That is balderdash. The trouble was that back-stamping let the public keep tab on the efficiency of the postal service, and led to a flood of complaint and protest, which was irritating certainly, but beneficial to the public and the service. The receiver of a delayed letter without a back-stamp can not tell whether the delay occurred in the office of deposit, on the train, in the local office or in delivery. He is in the dark. But the receiver of a delayed letter can check up the local service at a glance, if the letter is stamped in the office at the hour of receipt. The country is demanding a return to the former practice. The Postoffice department is resisting the demand. The country is right about it, and ought to have its way. And if it howls long enough and loud enough, it will have it.

With the automatic mechanical stamping machine generally in use in all of our postoffices of any size, the backstamping would take no time worth mentioning, although it might entail a little extra labor. As a matter of fact, however, there is much more reason to have the receiving time noted on a letter than the sending time if one had to be dispensed with, but there is no good reason why we should not have both.

Letting Off Steam. Every once in a while the pressure in the boiler of the big locomotive becomes so strong that the engineer finds it wise to let off steam. That is the condition produced in this country by the Lusitania incident, followed as it has been by over-heated outbursts of excited people denouncing the torpedoing of the vessel as an outrage or defending it as a legitimate measure of warfare. These ebullitions of voice and pen are in a way simply letting off steam that will soon result in again equalizing temperatures and permit of cooler judgment. It is a mighty good thing that we have free speech and free press as safety valves of the republic in all such critical times.

The melting pot of Great Britain continues business, for which the war is responsible. Legal notices published in newspapers as required by law show a large number of Germans born or naturalized in Britain are abandoning their surnames and substituting Anglicized names. Joseph Schweigert becomes Joseph Palmer; Carl Ernest Zundell switched to Charles Ernest Sundell; Francis Norman Maximilian Pfistermeister changed to Francis Norman Maximilian Masters, and so on. Britishers object to the practice because ancestral identity is hidden under English names, a practice fortified by centuries of English custom.

The remains of the doctrine of states' rights, long ago embalmed and placed in a mortuary chapel, are booked for early and final burial. Federal laws are the grave diggers. Uniformity and efficiency, backed by the fearsome reach of the national government, are the forces behind the punch of federal laws which win popularity at every turn. Even manufacturers, hitherto relying on state laws, now demand a federal statute governing the working hours of women and children, as the only means of securing uniformity and effective regulation.

Is Nebraska Slowing Up?

Frederick M. Davenport in The Outlook. I AM not at all sure that the distinction would hold, but if slowing up in the pace of progress is more or less of a voluntary act, and slowing down indicates fatigue, that is the precise distinction I wish to make between conditions in Nebraska and circumstances in Kansas. Nebraska is slowing up in the onward march, but gives no evidence of weariness. Kansas exhibits some symptoms of at least temporary political exhaustion.

Nebraska has been radical. For nearly sixty years Nebraska and Kansas have been subject to periodic volcanic outbursts of fiery political energy. And Wall street has more than once sat up nights in alarm. Well, the physical and moral vigor of pioneers is apt to be radical. But there are other reasons in Nebraska. The border always feels the need of ready money, and the fiat fever of the territorial days lasted well towards the close of the century. It is a national failing. The most depressing chapter of American history, from the colonial days down to 1890, is the financial chapter. Men like Hamilton and Gallatin are cases in a dreary desert of blundering despair. The whole United States is now on the way to financial self-control, but it has been a slow process. Don't blame Nebraska too harshly. At the crest of territorial settlement it ran into the panic of '37. Just as eastern Nebraska was being widely settled there came the panic of '73. And while western Nebraska was rapidly filling up with farms and homes, on swept the panic of '93. On the whole, there has been a good deal to disturb Nebraska all the way along.

There is nothing clearer in the development of Nebraska than the growth of political moderation, than the lessening of mere radicalism, than the coming of easy character, than the slow but steady and stable prosperity that has been established in the commonwealth. But you forget populism, says my reader, and the unregenerate days of the early '90s of the nineteenth century. Gentle reader, the other day I looked up the populist platform of that period, and it startled me. The astonishing thing is that so much of their program has been carried out by the nation and by most of the states of the country.

In Nebraska it was a revolution. Great open-air meetings from one end of the state to the other had far outstripped the political ties, to the music of the homely song of "Good By, Old Party, Good By." The wiser of the demands of populism in Nebraska have slowly been met, and as they have been met the state has grown in balance and in self-control. First came the Australian secret ballot, and the voter therefor could register his choice with none to molest or make him afraid. Next came the climax of the long struggle with railway domination of the politics of the state, the legislature cutting the tether of the free pass which had for a generation held "leading citizens" in leash of the railway machine, and through a government commission and supervision over rates popular sovereignty at last regained over the old railway regency. At the same time the people were yielding into their own hands the power of the law by the nomination as well as the election of candidates to public office. In 1907 was the year when freedom woke and the people of Nebraska came into their own. Their governor and leader was George L. Sheldon. He is a farmer somewhere in Mississippi now. He was not re-elected. As Nebraska looks back, it is difficult to see that any administration did more for the people of the state than the Sheldon administration. But the citizenship of Nebraska was unwary and allowed Sheldon's foes to get him in the next encounter. Democracy will take a rifle on its shoulder and go to the defense of the ideas which its foremost men have established in the law of the land; but democracy is very careless about backing up the personal fortunes and the honor of its choicest leaders—that is, while they are alive. It will be all right on the monuments!

Of recent years progress has been slower in Nebraska than in Wisconsin or Kansas. In 1911 came the initiative and referendum, giving the electorate opportunity, apart from the legislature, to adopt and reject laws. At the same time a law was passed providing for the commission form of government in cities. But the population has grown more conservative and is slowing up. Such states as Nebraska and South Dakota were more radical twenty years ago than they are now.

The population of Nebraska at present is probably one-half of foreign birth or the children of the first generation. This element is highly conservative, and has a considerable mixture of the later German immigration and of Bohemians and Scandinavians. Here is a situation which makes Nebraska a difficult state for the advance of prohibition, an issue which in a considerable number of the native American commonwealths of the west has already attained significant and startling proportions. It was this rock which bowled Mr. Bryan over in the leadership of the democratic party within the state in 1910 when he faced the convention with the county option proposal for the control of the liquor traffic. Woman suffrage has long been an issue in Nebraska and is now very close to winning. Last November, in a total vote of 20,000, it was beaten by only 9,000. And some of the "well" cities for the first time furnished a majority for woman suffrage. That was the work of the advanced young Germans. Out in the farming communities, where the later migration of Germans, Bohemians and Scandinavians have their homes, there was a strong voting opposition.

The advance of the people of Nebraska is steadier than it was, but easier and continuous. Owing to the long-standing feud between Bryan and Hitchcock, between radical and reactionary republicans, it is pretty difficult for mediocre ability to enter into elected public leadership for state officers, and the material center of public idealism—namely, the state capitol building—is a most disreputable shack. But the pulse of public opinion in Nebraska seemed to me to be exceedingly firm and strong. As to political parties, the progressive vote fell to 15,000 in 1914—not enough to affect the governorship, which is now democratic but sufficient to defeat four republicans for state office.

Government in Nebraska has grown by a series of separated impulses until there are now eighty-two bureaus or commissions or divisions to administer it. And each of the eighty-two groups goes to the legislature to lobby, and through its friends, to secure as much money as it can spend. The desire for economy on the part of the Nebraska farmer is partly just constitutional, and partly through a wish for real efficiency in government. But it is a healthy sign. In Iowa and Nebraska there is a strong demand to put a time-clock on the government employees, which is enough to make the cold shivers run down the back of all the patronage jobbery in the country. Nebraska also, like most other states, is coming to see the need of a far shorter ballot, if popular choice of officers is to continue to be anything but a shadow instead of a substance. Ballots in Nebraska have grown to be ninety-two inches long, with eighty choices to be marked by the voter from groups of candidates, to say nothing about deciding on a lot of initiative and referendum proposals which demand expert judgment. Of course the voter knows none too much about the legislative and constitutional proposals, and nothing at all about many of the candidates. Nebraska is after the substance rather than the form of democracy, and is sharpening the scythe to cut through this jungle.

Nebraska and Kansas have long been the target of the ridicule and misgiving of the conservative and moneyed settler. I wonder at it. The farmers of the middle west have helped New York bankers and the country out of financial perplexities more than once. At the outbreak of the present war we owed Europe \$200,000,000. And the possible demand for it gave Wall street great concern. But the increasing exports of the toll of the farmers of the middle west paid this vast sum off rapidly, so that we were soon over our alarm. And, furthermore, and finally, if there is any citizen in the United States who can be counted upon to shoulder a rifle and go to the front in defense of genuine property right, it is the Nebraska and Kansas farmer. He has a property stake in the richest soil in the world. He is the greatest natural conservative force in the American democracy. And the politicians of Wall street—if there be any such—would be wise to understand it.

The Bee's Letter Box

Defense of Gerhard. ENROUTE, May 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: Permit me to criticize severely your headline artist who took it upon himself to write the caption for Dr. Gerhard's letter, "From a German Who Glories in It." That headline was plainly intended to create prejudice and is a mischievous misrepresentation of the contents of the letter, which was obviously written as a defense against the furious denunciations arising from pro-British sources. It certainly does not refund to the credit of The Bee to allow its headline writers such latitude.

If an unbiased history of the war is ever written the attitude of the press as manifested through its headline writers will form an important chapter. Grossly, and in many cases maliciously misleading headlines, have probably done more to create prejudice and to spread "psychic contagion" than censored news, fake reports and editorials. You have an example of the viciousness of such tactics in the case of Leo Frank. If you would investigate through newspaper files about the time of the murder, you would find that inflamed public opinion had its first start right there, in the mob thirst for revenge, such as precedes every lynching, with newspaper headlines of sensational character carrying the poison to the unreasoning multitudes. Does the selling of a few more papers justify outraging the truth?

Your Plattsmouth contributor attacks George Weisenfeld's letter with the brilliant conclusion that the writer must be a German and therefore not possessed of good sense. Mr. Weisenfeld's letter was a model of logic and his reasoning incontrovertible, and an attack coming from such a source is ludicrous. If you will inquire as to the sanity of A. W. Atwood, you will learn many interesting things. A. L. MEYER.

The Lusitania Horror.

SHERIDAN, Wyo., May 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: The United States is facing the most serious problem since old Independence Bell rang out its glad tidings on July 4, 1776, since Fort Sumter was fired upon in April, 1861, and the battleship Maine was sunk in Havana harbor. All three of these incidents led to a war. But what of war? Where is the justice in it? What argument as to the right and wrong of a discussion is there in gunpowder? The best definition ever given of war was that given by General William Tecumseh Sherman: "War is hell!"

The destruction of the Lusitania was an act horrible enough to shame every fair minded individual. It is an act that will undoubtedly set all nations to thinking seriously of the right and wrong of war. They will realize that it is not right in the name of God and christianity, of justice, to march hundreds of thousands of innocent, irresponsible, young men to the front and shoot them down because the leaders of those nations are in a political discussion. They will realize that the shedding of human blood does not settle the right or wrong of a dispute. It is ridiculous and awful to kill these young men, as was the old-time practice of duelling, which never decided which party was in the right or wrong.

There are few people in the United States that really know why this European war started, and still less who can reason how it can be stopped and settled for. But, whatever comes up, it is to be hoped our people will be careful, thoughtful, conservative, hopeful and encouraging to all that means for peace, for everlasting peace between all the nations of the earth. Let us stand by our noble President Wilson and help him with all that is best in us. He is our president and we must uphold him and support him, no matter what our political beliefs may be. HORACE P. HOLMES, M. D.

To Put a Preacher Right.

OMAHA, May 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: A sermon recently preached in Omaha in opposition to Christian Science assumed such a bias as to call for a few words of comment.

It would seem that we might all agree upon certain axioms, propositions or statements that one should not make solemn and reiterated statements that the textbook of Christian Science is such a mass of jumbled confusion that no one can understand it, and then proceed for over two hours to expound its fundamental teachings and denounce them.

Further, the dispassionate listener is apt to be put on inquiry when it is admitted that the church has failed in its duty to obey the command to "heal the sick," admits that Christian Science is endeavoring to meet that duty and then denounces it as unscriptural and, contrary to the teachings of Jesus. It brings one near enough to the shores of Galilee to hear the Pharisees say: "These fellows do not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils," and thus history repeats itself. "Whereas I was blind, now I see" has been accepted for centuries as the final word of argument and so long as Christian Science submits to this test, it will become any other church to denounce as blasphemous the works which they admit Jesus commanded and which they have failed to do. It needs no prolixity of discourse to prove the fundamental teachings of Christian Science, nor should it be the occasion of any surprise, or as if a mystery had been uncovered.

That Christian Science teaches that God is Love, that God is Spirit, Life, Truth, is indeed true. The mystery lies in the fact that a minister of the Gospel, of an orthodox church in an unusually intelligent community should find fault with the proposition. It is safe to say that not a member of the infant class in his Sunday school but what knows that "God is Love" and probably not one of them ever heard of "Science and Health." There is nothing in Christian Science that is not in the Bible, and the text book occupies the same subordinate position to the Bible that the preacher does when he delivers a sermon from a Bible text. The text book being impersonal, never loses its temper, which, on the whole, is a good thing.

Mrs. Eddy does indeed define God as All-in-All, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, all-loving, eternal, Principle, the great I Am. Do the schools of theology place a limit on God in any of the above particulars? Moreover, it is quite true that Christian Science draws a very sharp line of demarcation between the real man, made in the image and likeness of God, and the carnal or mortal man. In common, however, with the other teachings of Christian Science there is no originality in this. The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So, then,

they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you." What a wonderful theme for a denunciatory sermon if Mrs. Eddy had written that instead of St. Paul.

It was stated, actuated by a "sense of Christian duty," that Christian Science taught, "If you want to get rid of your sins, just forget them." It does not so teach. The pastor said he could not understand Christian Science. He has not yet understood it.

"A sinner is not reformed merely by assuring him that he cannot be a sinner because there is no sin. To put down the claim of sin, you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion, and thus get the victory over sin and so prove its unreality." (Science and Health, page 467).

After you have gotten the victory over sin, do you still wish to keep it on hand like an Egyptian mummy? It must be highly gratifying to an audience of thinking people to be adjured to investigate Christian Science for themselves, as they were but illy fitted to do it, and anyway it was lots of trouble.

Surely there is no "commercialism" in going to the public library and getting a copy of "Science and Health" and finding out what Mrs. Eddy really does say about the Book of Genesis, about prayer, about the healing as taught by Jesus, and if they do this the words of the Psalmist will again be verified, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee."

CARL E. HERRING.

SUNNY GEMS. "Keep still, now," cautioned the butcher, "and we'll get rid of some old stuff." "How's that?" inquired his assistant. "Here comes a lady who is marketing with the aid of a household guide."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"So you son of a bitch has become a doctor?" "Yes, but I ain't allowin' 'im ter practice yet. None of the children is sick an' I ain't takin' no chances on him experimentin' with the cattle."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"I think that women ought to have the ballot." "Do they really want it?" "They must want it. Some of them are working so ardently for suffrage that they are paying absolutely no attention to dress."—Boston Transcript.

"There's nothing like a nice, comfortable home," said the earnest citizen. "Oh, I don't know," replied Mr. Growcher, "as soon as you get a place so that it attracts attention for comfort the agent is liable to look it over and raise the rent."—Washington Star.

KABIBBLE KABARET. STUNDS FOR '200. I GO THERE EVERY SUNDAY. THE OSTRICH KICKS WHEN I GO HOME. AND THE CHAMELEON IS BLUE ON MONDAY.

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BUSY BEE BOYS. It's lots of fun to play Daddy-long-legs and walk with stilts. We will give TEN PAIRS FREE to the ten boys that bring us the most pictures of the stilts before 4 P. M., Saturday, May 22d. This picture of the stilts will be in The Bee every day this week. Cut them all out and ask your friends to save the pictures in their paper for you too. See how many pictures you can get and bring them to The Bee Office, Saturday, May 22d. The stilts will be given Free to the boys or girls that send us the most pictures before 4 P. M., Saturday, May 22d.