THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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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 October, 1915, was 54,744.
DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager.
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me, this 3d day of November, 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.

November 26

Thought for the Day

Selected by Martha L. Powell

"Noble deeds are held in honor,
But the wide world sadly needs
Hearts of patience to unravel
The worth of common deeds."

Not quite one month left now for the early Christmas shopper.

However, that judicial plum will be an acceptable decoration for a Christmas tree.

Time is sliding along on greased grooves. "Christmas don'ts" are beginning to bloom.

In justice to Utah's firing squad, it should be said that they harbored no grudge against poets.

The new Welfare board is admonished not to tolerate too much fowl talk at the poultry show.

Cheer up! The Congressional Record will resume business at the old stand shortly and enhance the gayety of the country.

Picturing Woodrow as a waiter bringing in the tray of turkey, gives a sort of ironical twist to his policy of "watchful waiting" in Mexico.

Offers of easy money on Nebraska state security flatters native pride, but it is still more comfortable to avoid semi-annual remittances.

Note that the Liberty bell and "Billy" Sunday both honored Syracuse with their presence at one and the same time without crowding one another.

Prohibition of "gun toting" by questionable characters is a kind of prohibition whose enforcement would invoke no protest from any law-abiding citizen.

After an expenditure of $22,500 of funds not their own, two Chicagoans are convinced that the Wall street game is unbeatable. There are a multitude of others.

Nebraska's junior senator is opposed to any preparedness plan, but he is ready to show us how to get the money for preparedness by putting a good, stiff tax on million-dollar inheritances.

What's this? Another mammoth auto concern to put up a branch factory in Kansas City? If good things like this are being passed around, Omaha wants a few and should not be content with less than its share.

Coastwise newspapers enliven the gayety of the season by pretending that congressional "pork" is confined to rivers and postoffices, ignoring the bacon in useless navy yards and stations.

Necessity is the spur of enterprise. The production of American dyestuffs amounted to 3,000 tons the year before the war. Blockade of the foreign product promises to lift this year's output to 16,000 tons. In this, as in other respects, Europe's misfortune accelerates America's commercial independence.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

TRANSLATED FROM BEE FILES

This Thanksgiving day was celebrated with a multitude of activities. Union services were held at the Kountze Memorial church, participated in by Rev. J. S. Detweiler, the pastor; Rev. George E. Albrecht, superintendent of the German Home; Rev. W. H. Bruechert, Evangelical church; Rev. E. B. Graham, United Presbyterian; Rev. A. F. Sherrill, First Congregational; Rev. Dr. Stone, Baptist; Rev. J. W. Harris, First Baptist; Rev. P. A. Edquist, Swedish Evangelical; Rev. Ingram, First Christian; Rev. G. S. Felton, Third Congregational.

The three Presbyterian churches held a united service at the First Presbyterian, conducted by Reverends Harsha, Hall and Blayney.

The Omaha Turner society gave a grand anniversary exhibiton and ball. The prize winners were Frank Lange, Tony Morovac, Robert Rosenzweig, August Spiteka, E. Wurm, and Fred Freuhauf.

The Omaha Gun club pulled off an all day meet at Athletic park. The high men were Kay, Lane, Hughes, and Worley.

he class in entomology at the High school gave an exhibition of beautiful bugs, under the direction of their teacher, Miss Mary Harris. Literary exercises were participated in by Messrs. Gilmore C. Price, Harry McCormick, Charlie Moyers, Emil Karbach, Fred Montmorency, Stuart Shears, and the Misses Heffley, Bertha Yost, Carrie House, Fannie Taylor, Neva Turner, and Anna Young.

Bryan on the 1915 Elections.

If any one who speaks as a democratic leader can look through rosy-hued spectacles despite surrounding gloom, it is our many-times distinguished Nebraskan, William Jennings Bryan. Thrice has our honored fellow citizen been a disappointed candidate for president, but each time he has come back promptly with the assurance that the prospects for democratic victory at the next election were never brighter.

Reading the signs of the times today, however, Mr. Bryan is by no means assuring. "The elections of 1915," he says in the latest issue of his Commoner, "serve as a warning to the democratic party. They indicate that the progressives have returned to the regular republican party and the democrats can no longer hope to win by division in the ranks of the opposition; neither can the democrats afford to daily with vital issues. In Massachusetts our candidate for governor, an able man with a splendid official record, was defeated. In Kentucky the democratic candidate, Congressman Stanley, made an admirable record in congress and is a great campaigner, but he was badly handicapped by the position taken by the party."

But Mr. Bryan never shuts the door of hope or fails to find a rainbow strand somewhere. "While the elections contain a warning," he adds, "there is no reason why a democrat should be discouraged. If the party will take up the reform work where it was left at the last congress, adopt cloture, proceed to carry out the platform and add to its record on economic questions, it has no reason to fear the campaign of 1916". There, then, is Dr. Bryan's prescription, freely offered to the democratic party to cure it of what ails it. If it does not take the medicine according to directions, it must prepare for the worst. The only open question is whether the admonition "to proceed to carry out the platform" includes the plank pledging the nominee to the principle of a one-term presidency.

South American Trade.

Treasury department statistics show that trade with South American countries has doubled since the outbreak of the war in Europe. In theory, the trade of South America with outside nations belongs to the United States in a large measure, but facts have always confounded theory in this instance. The building up of this business has been the dream of economists and statesmen in the United States, the late James G. Blaine fathering the first organized and systematic move to divert it in this direction. Others have since done much, notably Elihu Root, while secretary of state, but in spite of all this the South Americans have not traded with us as much as natural tendencies would indicate they would, though some progress has been made. The war, however, has so disorganized trade conditions in Europe that much of the business has been diverted to this country. Obtaining it now, however, is an easy proposition compared with the one to follow—holding it after the war is over. That European manufacturers will permanently surrender this rich field without a struggle is not to be supposed, but, on the contrary, the best opinion is that with the war ended these nations will seek out foreign trade with greater energy than ever. They have so wasted their own resources and domestic consuming power by the destruction of war that other outlets must be found for manufactures, and it will be a fight for existence with them, and American producers, if they would hold the field must entrench themselves while they have the opportunity or be compelled to surrender what they have gained.

Rights of Stockholders.

Recent events in the reorganization program of several large corporations evidently have caused a new light to dawn on men whose interests are centered more on the corporation as an entity than on the stockholders who really comprise it. An interview with one of the leading bankers of New York, whose firm figures prominently in corporate finances, indicates as much. In speaking of the reorganization of a big railroad in which the stockholders upset the plan, he said that at first he refused to hear the man who led the fight for the stockholders, but that subsequent developments had convinced him that in such matters in the past the banking and big interests had regarded the properties and determined their financial needs, both in receiverships and in operating solvent companies, from reorganization and expansion ideas, without regard to the rights of investment stockholders, but that recent events must force a different procedure. He concludes that if Wall street does not wish to lose its standing before investing stockholders throughout the country it must consider not only the needs of the property and Wall street profits, but the rights of investment stockholders.

The logic of this should be apparent to all. While the big financial institutions provide the money for railroad and other corporate financing, the primary source of the money is the widely distributed investing public. The millions poured into such enterprises are made up of the hundreds and thousands that come from all over the nation, and if the faith of these people who provide the money is permanently alienated from the banking centers and investment houses, this stream will dry up or decrease materially in volume. That recent events will evolve a cure for all the ills of crooked financiering would be too much to expect, for similar lights have dawned on Wall street before, but each one has left an impression, and recent exposures and contests will doubtless tend to check for a time at least some of the plundering of the public and lead in the end to a better appreciation of the fact that mutual fair dealing will produce the best results for all.

If the parole business were operating to turn criminal characters loose in Nebraska alone we might put some check upon it, but, unfortunately, the parole mills are grinding convicts out from prison walls in more than half of the states of the union and, once out, they roam at large until they strike some community in which they come to grief.

Twenty-six trainloads of the half finished product of war reached the hospitals of Paris in one day recently. Similar proportionate records are frequent at the repair shops of all warring nations. The finished product of war is confined to the names on the mortality lists. Appalling are the crimes committed in the name of civilization.

Sidelights on Suicide

Fred L. Hoffman in The Spectator.

SUICIDE as a life insurance problem has attracted the attention of executive officers, actuaries, medical directors and others for many years. The literature of the subject is quite extensive, but generally inaccessible to the student of life insurance methods and results. One of the earliest contributions is by R. Thompson Jopling, in the first volume of the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries (the Assurance Magazine for 1851), followed by another in the second volume (1852), and a discussion by Samuel Brown, and a contribution by Dr. J. W. Eastwood, in the twentieth volume, issued in 1878. The practice had been common from the outset of insurance developments to decline the payment of suicide claims, irrespective of whether sane or insane, upon the offer of the return (1) of the premium paid, and (2) of the accumulated reserve.

Among the more important American contributions to the subject of suicide in its relation to life insurance a brief reference may be made to an address by Ralph W. Breckenridge to the Life Underwriters' association at Chicago in 1904, which is summarized in the statement that a restrictive suicide clause is more in conformity to sound public policy than excessive liberality. This important contribution includes many references to the international literature and also to the available insurance experience data, extending, in some cases, over a long period of years, with a due regard to the exposed to risk according to age and duration of insurance.

The foregoing observations indicate a broad and growing interest in the more technical aspects of the suicide problem. There has been no thorough inquiry into the subject with a due regard to actuarial methods, making the necessary corrections for variations in the age and sex distribution of the insured, and most of all the duration of insurance. General medical statistics of life insurance companies are not strictly comparable on account of the widely varying length of actual experience. The indications are that in life insurance experience as well as among the population at large, the suicide rate is on the increase. The important conclusion is once more confirmed by the suicide returns of American cities for the year 1914.

The results of analysis of our compilations are in practical conformity to the corresponding statistics published in the Spectator for 1913. The seven cities which show the highest suicide rates are San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, Hoboken, St. Louis, Los Angeles and Oakland. All of these cities show rates of 32.0 per 100,000 of population and over and, with the exception of St. Louis and Hoboken, an increase in the rate and only two show a slight decline. Out of the 100 cities under review fifty-one show an increase and forty-eight show a decrease during 1914, as compared with 1904-1913.

The suicide rate in small cities is somewhat less than in very large cities. For small cities the average rate was 17.5 per 100,000 population, which increased to 18.2, or 4 per cent, during 1914. For cities with 250,000 population and over the average rate of 20.4 increased to 21.2, or 3.9 per cent. In other words, the actual and relative increases in the suicide rates were practically the same in both groups of communities.

The suicide rate for 1914 was the highest since 1909, and the third highest during the twenty years under review. The correlation of suicides to business failures is only pronounced under exceptionally disturbed business conditions which appear not to have prevailed in the country at large, but which seemingly affected the excessive suicide rate returned for the cities of the Pacific coast. This aspect of the suicide problem has not been thoroughly investigated, but the indications are that on the basis of a specialized analysis of the two sets of returns for the five principal geographical divisions of the country a fairly close degree of correspondence would be shown to exist. It must be obvious, of course, that the number of business failures reflects in a measure the social and economic conditions affecting the population at large. Only a thoroughly pronounced and extended, as well as nation-wide, economic depression would, however, be likely to affect the general suicide rate. In a number of individual instances, however, there is a direct relation between business failures and suicides, resulting in consequence of economic distress.

Attention is directed to the apparently increasing number of suicides resulting from mere suggestion of previous cases of self-murder in the same family. A typical case was reported from Springfield, Mass., where a woman committed suicide in exactly the same manner as her husband had done a year previous. The case was complicated by another suicide in the family of a very close friend of the woman, who had apparently ended her life in a similar manner. Such cases are reported with increasing frequency and they warrant the most serious apprehensions regarding the future. The psychology of suggestion is a much-neglected branch of modern medicine and education. The ever present possibilities of self-murder, regardless of an overwhelming amount of evidence, are generally disregarded and treated lightly even where the indications point strongly in the direction of unsoundness of mind.

Child suicides are seemingly more common now than in former years. A case was reported from Seattle of a boy 13 years of age who ended his life by drinking poison in exactly the way his father had done six years before, simply because he had been reproved by his mother for smoking. Also a case was reported from Mount Vernon, Wash., of a boy 13 years of age, who, upon being reproved by his mother for quarreling with his younger sister, ended his life by blowing out his brains. Another case was reported from New York City, where a boy of 16 years shot himself because he believed himself to be incurable of an ailment, the nature of which was not disclosed in the newspaper account. All such cases indicate a decided tendency toward moral and mental deterioration, and they emphasize the urgency of greater caution on the part of life insurance companies in the assumption of risks, especially for large amounts and the justice of a suicide clause which adequately protects all the policyholders against adverse selection during the first year of insurance.

The modern increase in suicide is, in part, attributable to exceptionally convenient facilities for self-murder, particularly by poison. The figures show that for both sexes, combined, suicides by poison are now nearly as frequent as suicide by firearms. In proportion to population the male suicide rate was 23.9 per 100,000 of population against a female rate of 7.6, but the sex differences in the rates are decidely more pronounced when the several methods or means of committing suicide are considered. Among men it is shown that suicide by firearms was most common, amounting to 8.4 per 100,000 of population, followed by poison with a rate of 5.8, and hanging or strangulation with a rate of 3.7. Among women suicide by poison was the most common, accounting for a rate of 3.4 per 100,000 of population, followed by asphyxiation with a rate of 1.3, and hanging or strangulation and firearms, with rates of, respectively, 0.8. Throughout, for all specified methods, the rates for males are decidedly in excess of the corresponding rates for females. Concerning poison it is shown that of the male suicides 34.2 per cent were attributable to this method, and of the suicides of women 45.3 per cent. It would seem perfectly feasible to bring about a substantial reduction in the frequency of suicide by poison in the direction of more restrictive and even drastic legislation limiting the conditions under which poison can be obtained. Much of the same conclusion applies to the sale of firearms.

From whatever point of view the subject is considered it is quite clear that the increasing frequency of suicide in the United States demands the most earnest consideration of those who may be in a position to direct public attention to one of the most serious problems of the present day.

The Kind She Wanted.

The much-traveled young man had just returned from foreign climes, and, of course, he must entertain his rich old aunt (with whom he was in favor) with stories of the wonderful sights he had seen.

"Yes," he said, in the course of his remarks, "there are some spectacles that can never be forgotten."

"Dear me!" exclaimed the absent-minded old lady; "I do wish you would get me a pair of them, John."—Washington Star.

The Bee's Letter Box

Want Right-of-Way for Mississippi.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: It has long been urged that the Mississippi river ought to be provided for by congress in a separate and independent bill, just as was done in the case of the Panama canal, and the work undertaken in a comprehensive and systematic manner and pushed rapidly to completion.

In all probability a measure will be framed and presented to the next congress to have this great river dealt with in such a way.

On October 25 there met here in Memphis a number of the senators and congressmen from the riparian states in conference with members of the Mississippi river commission and presidents of the local levee boards, when the whole matter was thoroughly discussed and it was decided to frame such a measure and present it at the next session of congress. This conference, to be held on November 29, in Washington, will be participated in by all senators and congressmen desirous of having something done in a definite and specific manner, looking toward the solution of the Mississippi river problem.

We are sending you a copy of a report of the Mississippi River Levee association to date, from which you will see that public opinion throughout the United States seems to be unanimous in favor of the Mississippi river being treated in a business-like way, independent of the river and harbor bill.

JOHN A. FOX.
Secretary Mississippi River Levee Association.

The Armenians.

LINCOLN, Neb., Nov. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: In order to understand the Armenian atrocities we must understand their history. Geographically as well as topographically Armenia is the key to the Anatolian peninsula and the lowland of Mesopotania. As the Balkan states are the key to Constantinople so is Armenia the key to the independence of the Turkish empire.

At present the Armenians are divided among Russia, Turkey and Persia. Since the breakup of the Armenian kingdom in the fifteenth century they have always been under different alien rulers.

There are four important races in the Caucasus, namely: the Georgians, the Armenians, the Tartars and the Russians. The Tartars and the Armenians occupy the eastern provinces.

The Armenian people number in all some 3,000,000 souls. In the Caucasus there are about 1,200,000, in Asia Minor 1,500,000 and a few hundred thousand in Persia and the rest are scattered all over the world.

In the towns the Armenians often constitute a majority, but in the rural districts they are usually outnumbered by the Tartars in Transcaucasia, or by the Turks and Kurds in Asia Minor.

The population of Armenia contains a greater variety of elements than any other country of the same size in the world—the languages are estimated at forty-five. But the great majority of these races are mere fragments of a few thousands, in some cases hundreds, of persons.

In the eighteenth century the Russians began the conquest of Armenia, which after a series of wars was completed with the occupation of Kars and Batum in 1878 by virtue of the Treaty of Berlin. It was then that the Armenian destiny became an international problem.

The six powers of Europe solemnly pledged themselves to introduce, through the sultan, administrative reforms into the provinces inhabited by the Armenians. The sixty-first article of the treaty stipulates that "The sublime porte undertakes to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds."

In spite of that treaty the Armenians were butchered and outraged in 1894 and hardly anything was done to save the handful of stray sheep from the hungry wolf—that is the Ottoman empire.

The Armenians crave for a fair opportunity to develop themselves. They ask to be treated as men and women. They plead to be allowed to live as free citizens of the Ottoman power.

At present whole villages are being wiped out by fire, sword and deportation. It is estimated that already 800,000 have perished at the hands of the Turks and Kurds in their fiendish "holy war." The innocent Armenians are paying the penalty of the nations' mutual rivalries and jealousies.

The United States is under obligation to intervene in behalf of the Armenians for the following reasons: The United States, single handed, is more powerful than the six powers of Europe, because it cannot be accused of motives of territorial aggrandizement in any effort put forth for the welfare of the people of Turkey. The voice which defended the cause of Cuba—which remonstrated with Roumania and Russia in behalf of the persecuted Jews, which stopped the partition of China among the European powers, which spoke to Belgium in the interest of the native of Congo—that same voice ought to speak again in distinct human accent in the ears of Europe. Thus peace and order may come out of chaos to bless the people of Armenia.

Meanwhile the atrocities are going on without interference. If the surface of the globe were paper, the trees pens, the lakes ink and all our civilized nations were writers, I assure you a millionth part of the cruelty and desolation could not be expressed. FELIX NEWTON.

Navy League Announcement.

OMAHA, Nov. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: By way of illustrating a point in a public address, John Wanamaker of Philadelphia made this statement:

"General Grant, in proposing the health of Sir William Armstrong at a dinner, laid his hand upon a 100-ton gun and said the inventor of it had produced the most wonderful peace-compelling implement the world had ever seen."

There are many instances proving the truth of Washington's axiom: "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

These quotations illustrate the attitude of the Navy League of the United States, which advocates a stronger navy as a means of insuring peaceful relations with foreign nations. All the literature of the league supports this view of the case, and some of it points out the actual necessity for keeping a weather eye out for a possible, but not inevitable storm.

The Nebraska section of the league is sending out free literature upon request. We ask all university and high school debating teams to raise the question for discussion, and we ask all commercial clubs and other organizations to adopt resolutions favoring a stronger navy.

ARTHUR C. SMITH,
President Nebraska Section.

Tips on Home Topics

Washington Post: It always cheers a man on his way home swelling with big news to be informed on arrival that the furnace is out.

Chicago Herald: Nebraska appears determined to put some candidate for the republican presidential nomination before the public if it takes all winter.

Brooklyn Eagle: John Brisbin Walker is still one of the bitterest foes of preparedness. What he learned at West Point at the expense of an indulgent government has been all too easily forgotten.

Springfield Republican: When Justice Hughes was an avowed candidate for the republican nomination for president in 1908 western states like Nebraska did not rally enthusiastically to his support in the republican national convention. But today the desire to nominate Mr. Hughes appears to be consuming in the valley of the Platte.

Washington Post: The story of business improvement and development in this union for the last fifteen months is the most wonderful and amazing that has ever had a place in the annals of time. He that runs or walks in any town or city or district of the United States can read it easily, and, if an American, with the utmost satisfaction. Prosperity is here to stay for decades if rightly treated.

Washington Star: Those Nebraska admirers of Justice Hughes have erred on two points: (1) They should have applied for permission to use his name, and (2) they should not be talking now about "conscription." Their first offense must have grown out of a conviction that such a request by them would be denied. All the more bound should they have considered themselves, therefore, not to proceed. They should have respected the easily inferred feelings of the eminent jurist. When they neglected or refused to do that they were guilty not only of a discourtesy, but of a personal injury.

GRINS AND GROANS.

The tramp looked over his dilapidated garments when at a safe distance from the farm house.

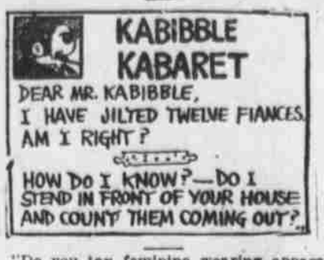
"I can't see," he muttered, "why such a fuss is made over the dog's instinct in attaching himself to man."—Baltimore American.

"Will you have a cherry or an olive in your cocktail, Major?" asked the host.

"Neither," replied the Major. "They merely take up a lot of space that might be better devoted to the likker."—Cincinnati Inquirer.

"Who was it," inquired the student, "that said 'after me the deluge?'"

"Don't ask me," rejoined the superficial person. "I never did pay much attention to weather prophets."—Washington Star.



"Do you tax feminine wearing apparel on this planet heavily?" asked the man from Mars.

"Really, I can't say. Why do you ask that?"

"I thought maybe the ladies were on a strike."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mrs. Highupp—They seem like a very cheap kind of people.

Mrs. Wayupp—They certainly are. They actually had the nerve to buy one of last year's battleships and try to palm it off as a yacht.—Puck.

Hokus—I actually caught Longbow telling the truth yesterday.

Pokus—Wasn't he embarrassed?

Hokus—Only momentarily. He immediately tried to lie out of it.—Life.

OPPORTUNITY.

Edgar A. Guest in Detroit Free Press.

Men look for me beyond their doors,
They think I dwell in places strange,
In distant fields or foreign moors,
And come their lives and thoughts to change.
I have been likened to a god
That favors few, and many spurns;
Some think I am the magic rod
On which the wheel of fortune turns.

Men pray to me by night and day;
They sit and count the golden sum
That shall be theirs along the way
In distant years when I shall come.
They fill their children's ears with tales
Of splendors I alone bestow,
And many a man in anguish wails
That I have failed his worth to know.

What foolish superstition this!
Relic of books on dusty shelves!
How can it be that men still miss
That I am born within themselves;
That I am with them every day,
Whether they travel, far or near,
Waiting to help them when I may,
Ready their eager calls to hear?

I am that spirit of a man
That makes him want to be his best;
I am the seed of every plan
He cherishes within his breast.
Alone I'm nothing but a dream
Of what, perhaps, some day may be;
All that I ever am or seem
The man himself must make of me.

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