

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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JANUARY CIRCULATION. 53,102

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 January, 1916, was 53,102.

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

The promise of clothes going up \$2 a suit will not interfere seriously with knockdown sales.

By the time the courts give the general public the benefit of the doubt the millenium will have reached its destination.

Baltimore is now the wickedest city in the country, or rather, it will be until "Billy" Sunday finishes the job of "brightening its corner."

Preparedness is speeding up in unlooked for directions. Senator J. Ham Lewis of Chicago has added a pocket testament to his defensive equipment.

Behold, democrats, Omaha's hold-over postmaster, who, we have no doubt, is willing to serve until your little internal party differences are settled.

The coming automobile show will combine utility with style and speed—three traits which distinguish and animate life in the Missouri valley corn belt.

The chief difference between a holdup man and a holdout man is that the law condemns one and argues for the other. Morally they are in the same class.

At any rate, credit the School board for not even considering importing an outside architect to put up our new school buildings, as did the university regents.

If the senator is so eager to welcome a debate, he might himself enter the lists against "Met" on the salient issue upon which they are known to be in sharp disagreement.

The discovery of American brands on Carranza hides occasions needless suspicion. The American brand went with the Carranza recognition. Venustiano knows a good thing and how to work it.

Corporations suffering from an excess of water and expert manipulation are more fortunate than an afflicted individual. Surgical treatment on themselves is averted by an operation on the public.

If a private business establishment bought \$10,000 worth of fire hose on the same plan that it is bought for the Omaha fire department, somebody would be starting an inquiry into the management.

When the Rock Island puts in its 3-cent rate, it will be careful not to include the business between competitive points, for if it should, it would not sell any tickets between those stations. The road will only bump the towns that can't escape its exactions.

Rock Island and the Two-Cent Rate. The temporary restraining order, just issued against the Nebraska Railroad commission, and suspending the 2-cent passenger rate as applied to the Rock Island, is another step in the fight of the railroads to set aside state authority in the matter of rate control.

Whatever of truth may exist in the allegation of the commission, some facts, taken from reports of the railroad's business, may be of interest in assisting in making up a conclusion. The Rock Island has been in the hands of receivers for about a year.

But this will not stop the onslaught on the 2-cent rate, which has apparently come on in earnest now, to be determined in court by a showing of facts as to whether it is a fair price for hauling passengers.

Writing New Law for the Seas. It is unfortunate in a sense that the exigencies of actual war were needed to bring to action the long mooted revision of international law as applied to maritime affairs, especially the status of neutrals and noncombatants, but such work is now fairly under way, attended by difficulties that will make any progress a real achievement.

The determination of the Entente Allies to arm their merchant vessels interjects a new issue that complicates the whole situation, increasing the danger as well as the tension between the several countries. Pledges of the Teutonic powers to provide for the safety of all on board any merchantman that may fall prey to a submarine have been secured by the United States, and these are relied upon.

The natural disposition of a belligerent to seek advantage, even at the cost of neutral rights, is more apparent now than ever, and plenty of work remains for the diplomats before the law of the sea is so established as entirely to conform to humane requirements.

Root's Review of Wilson's Administration. That distinguished American citizen, Elihu Root, never more adequately exhibited his eminent qualifications for critical analysis than in his summing up of the shortcomings of the present administration of national government.

The Mexican muddle, with its dark picture of indifferent incompetency and partisan meddling, is lucidly set forth, and the miserable failure of the president to measure up to his full duty in dealing with the European war situation is presented with such clarity as to leave nothing for the defenders of the shilly-shallying policy to hide behind.

Even now, the republicans in congress are looked upon to save the administration from the consequences of its own blunders. The people of America expect and demand something the democrats can not deliver. The call is clear to the republican party, which is pledged to protect American citizens at home and abroad, to moderation in government, and to the advancement of our cherished ideals of freedom.

Tribulations of a Troubadour. The sweet singer of our senator's personal staff is having a trying time these days, having to pitch his tune to suit the tastes and tickle the ears of a large variety of hearers. He must pipe a warlike lay, as piercing as the pibroch, to suit the president's passing policy, and at the same time he must warble as "gently as a sucking dove" that he give no offense to the pacifists.

Under the circumstances, the clean-up campaign cannot start too early.

Our Fear of Snakes

Literary Digest. IS THE FACT that most of us are instinctively afraid of snakes—even of the harmless kinds—an evidence that the human race originated on the continent of Asia, where serpents of all sorts have always been abundant and generally venomous?

"This abhorrence of serpents is really a deep-seated animal instinct, which has survived long after the conditions that gave it origin. 'Rational persons who are informed on the subject know that the great majority of snakes are harmless, being without venom or fangs; and indeed the writer has determined, to his own satisfaction at least, that in this particular region the only one of the snake family that is a menace to human life is the now rarely encountered Crotalus horridus, using the term in a generic sense.'

"The probable origin of this instinctive horror of serpents that still dominates the mind of civilized man was during the countless generations when early man was slowly climbing up from his animal ancestry to his present eminence as Homo sapiens. Being without fire and without clothing or shelter, he was particularly defenseless in his environment beset by deadly serpents, against this, probably the greatest danger and greatest menace to racial survival that he had to encounter. Hence his instinctive horror of the serpent form.

"The idea that India was the 'cradle' of the white race at least, with its serpent environment threatening racial existence for a very long period of its primitive development, appears to receive some degree of confirmation from the fact that among the inhabitants of India at the present time the most virulent attacks of serpents exceeds twenty thousand, notwithstanding the efforts of the British authorities to suppress the evil.

"The serpent-instinct in man has a close analogy in a similar instinct that characterizes the domestic horse of the present time, to which allusion has been made by writers on the subject. It is a familiar fact to every one who has to do with horses, the proneness of the horse to exhibit an insane and uncontrollable fear of unfamiliar objects, and indeed the phenomenon is such a commonplace that probably very few persons have given a thought in explanation of what appears to be a wholly unaccountable mystery.

"The suggestion that has been offered with compelling force to account for this curious horse-instinct is on parallel lines with that offered above to account for man's serpent-instinct, both of which in the nature of animal instincts are intense and deep-seated, and have long survived the conditions that gave rise to them.

"In the case of the horse, for a very long period of his racial development he was subject to one danger exceeding all others in magnitude by which racial survival was constantly threatened. This danger was embodied in the predaceous beasts that infested the horse's early environment, mainly of the feline family, that lay in wait concealed by bushes or other cover for the opportunity to spring upon him and devour any unfamiliar object. He had no means of defense against this danger except alertness in eluding the spring of his enemy and fleetness of foot to escape pursuit. The individual horses that developed these qualities most highly survived, while those that failed to reach an efficient standard fell victims to their enemies.

"And we now see, thousands of years after the domestication of the horse, that he suddenly falls into a senseless panic and flees at breakneck speed from an imaginary danger behind him, heedless of real dangers ahead which not infrequently cause him a broken neck.

"The instinctive fear of imaginary dangers in the horse, and the same kind of fear of serpents in man, appear to have had a similar genesis in the early experiences of both races."

Twice Told Tales. Brief Hope Banished. A sad and seedy individual gained admission to the offices of one of the city's best-known legal firms, and at last somehow penetrated to the sanctum of the senior partner.

At the Octagon Table. After the war editor had subsided at the octagon table of the Pittsburgh Press club, the Paragrapher spoke up: "When I was there yesterday afternoon I found my two hopefuls engaged in a battle royal with all the small boys of the neighborhood. It was a rough-and-ready scrimmage and all seemed to take it good-naturedly, but one boy had a bloody nose and another was tethered with a rope around his neck."

The Bee's Letter Box

Discussion of Religion. OMAHA, Feb. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: The position of R. L. Metcalf on the religious question is indefensible, and will be determined in the wisdom of a final analysis to be subversive of the political, religious and social order of the nation.

It is revolting to common sense; repugnant to American ideals, and ultimately means an intellectually, morally and spiritually entrained people. It is, therefore difficult, indeed, to discern the animating motive of the declaration of a religious principle, by a professed lover of democracy, which is so contrary to the trend of modern times, but interprets with historical precision the cause of the ignorance, superstition and clericalism of the past.

Religion, the one cause that differentiates the nations of the world—religion, the one interpretative formula of the possibilities of a nation's civilization. Religion, the highest conception and the noblest inspiration of the human mind. Not to discuss it is sacrilegious. Not to discuss it is a crime against this nation because it is an incontrovertible truism, supported by history and contemporaneous experience, that a nation does not rise above the religious teachings of its dominant altar, unless the people by discussion and determined action eliminate those teachings and pretensions of clericalism so dangerous to the welfare, happiness and sovereign rights of a nation. When this nation ceases to discuss religion it is doomed. The man who makes that condition possible will be the destroyer of this republic.

Disfiguring Animals. SOUTH SIDE OMAHA, Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: There is a penalty for docking horses' tails in Nebraska. There should be a law against the cutting of tails and ears of other animals. No longer ago I saw a letter that was pretended to be written by a dog and it started out as follows: "When I was born I was a beauty and perfect. Just look at me now. No ears, no tail. When I was a few weeks old one of those fellows who cut off other animals' ears and tails, cut off my ears and all of my tail."

"That is about what a dog would say if it could talk. Anybody who cuts off the tails and ears of dogs ought to have their ears or a finger or some other part of their anatomy cut off to see how it goes. Animals have feelings the same as people and they should be treated accordingly. Leading dog fanciers have told me they do not believe in cutting off the tails of dogs and that it is simply a fad with some dog fanciers and other dog owners. In my estimation it makes any dog who appears to be cut off any part of his tail, and it seems to me that the humane society has a large field to work in, for we see numberless dogs every day with their tails cut close to their bodies. It is a shame and disgrace to humanity and is simply a relic of the times of slavery when it was thought to make a person beautiful to have ears and noses slit and the face and parts of the body slashed with sharp instruments. Dogs are like people in many ways. There are worthless dogs and there are worthless men and women. There are also valuable and useful dogs. Nature gave dogs their tails so that they could express themselves, as the power of speech was not given them, and to take away their only way of expression is not only cruel, but should be made criminal. I like to see a dog wag his tail and thump the floor with it when he is lying down and to deprive him of that pleasure is cruelty in the extreme.

No one can tell me it makes a dog beautiful to cut off his tail for it makes any dog ugly in the extreme. It seems to me that the humane society should start a movement to have the next legislature pass an act prohibiting the docking of the tails of all domestic animals, including dogs. F. A. AGNEW.

Was War Ever More Barbarous? ST. MARY'S Neb., Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: Considering the present methods of conducting warfare in Europe, by aeroplanes dropping bombs ad libitum upon innocent and inoffensive women and children, as well as dumb brutes, maiming and killing them, for no cause whatever, does this come within the scope of Christianity and civilization? Will someone kindly cite to any era in history when war was conducted on a more barbarian method? If this cannot be done we must frankly acknowledge that the world is growing worse, and it would be a sad reflection upon the loyalty of humanity to the teaching of Him who shed His blood on Calvary for our salvation, that General William T. Sherman once said, "War is hell," but present indications are that man has even been improving on it. H. SCHUMANN.

Tips on Home Topics. Baltimore American: A noted psychologist says that fathers ought to sing to their babies. But he overlooks the psychology of the fact that modern families live in apartment houses and that there are others. Washington Post: When one compares what Jess Willard gets for fighting with what preachers receive for inveighing against the rube practice it is easy to understand why so many youngsters want to be champions. Boston Transcript: The stupidity of the British censor makes it difficult to determine whether King George is eating his meals from the mantelpiece from having been thrown from his horse, or was wounded at the front. Louisville Courier-Journal: "Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, is at Palm Beach." Which will serve to remind you that there was a time when you dispatched a note to make a business or social engagement instead of trying to telephone and being told, with malignant pleasure, "Line busy."

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is a poor time for the American armor plate manufacturers to be threatening the government with extortion. That crowd has been given to holding up Uncle Sam in the past, but at present his naval construction is not in the hands of the political party which cheerfully throws up its hands every time an armor maker's gun is pointed at it. Neither congress nor the people are now in any mood to submit to that sort of thing.

People and Events. An official revision of Boston's moral code permits bare toes on the stage, but bare ankles—never. The veil of mystery which long enveloped the Arabic compound or confection known as "Zem-Zem" gave rise to many conjectures as to its food or medicinal value. Some regarded Zem-Zem as the solvent principle of Al-Sar-Hen pop. Others blamed it to Commercial club tobacco, and rude scoffers reckoned it as a hair renovator for baldheads. These unfeeling aspersions sprang from ignorance. Zem-Zem is more than pop, tobacco or hair renovator. It is an article of great medicinal value, esteemed a cure-all of surpassing merit by the brewers at Mecca. The German explorer Neufeld, who experienced its full effects, vouches for its efficacy "in restoring health, brightening the vision, physically and mentally, and facilitating the pronunciation of Arabic." Only the faithful receive the full benefit of the sacred elixir. Some samples of Zem-Zem have been exploited privately in this country, but since Neufeld lifted the veil of mystery imitations may readily be detected by the pronunciation test. Better be sure than sorry.

Nebraska Editors

A. H. Backhaus completed his twelfth year as editor and proprietor of the Pierce County Leader last week. J. H. Rickel of the Junata Herald, who has recently completed a term as postmaster, has filed for the republican nomination for representative from Adams county.

Charles D. Blauvelt, who recently purchased the Journal-Tribunal, has shed his hyphen. His paper appeared last week as the Johnson County Journal. Frank O. Edgcomb of the Geneva Signal published a daily edition during the Hamilton evangelistic meetings, which closed last Sunday evening.

GRINS AND GROANS. "Isn't it dreadful! This is the third time I have worn the same evening gown!" "Never mind, my dear; remember that it is just that sort of self-denial that develops one's character."—Life.

DEAR MR. KABBIBBLE, SHOULD I MARRY A MAN WITH BLACK EYES? —LEONORA

YES—BUT IT WOULD BE MORE OF AN HONOR TO MARRY THE WINNER! "So you're going in for public speaking?" "Yes." "Well, make up your mind that you can say more in half an hour than you can in two hours."—Detroit Free Press.

A WORD OF CHEER. (Many a bachelor has made a woman happy—by not marrying her.)—Extract from The Bee.

When Itching Stops. There is one safe, dependable treatment that relieves itching torture instantly and that cleanses and soothes the skin.

Chicago and East. FAST SPLENDIDLY EQUIPPED TRAINS. Chicago and the East. Over a double track system with automatic electric safety signals all the way from Omaha to Chicago. 7-DAILY TRAINS-7 all arriving at Chicago in the new Passenger Terminal CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RY. convenient to hotel and shopping district.

Persistence is the cardinal virtue in advertising; no matter how good advertising may be in other respects, it must be run frequently and constantly to be really successful.