

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.

DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed to my profession and sworn to before me this 24 day of February, 1916. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

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

Great is Allah, but he couldn't save Mush from the bear.

Mr. Bryan is strong for peace everywhere except in the Nebraska political war arena.

Omaha is again after the big meeting of the supervisory section of the National Educational association. Here is hoping we land it this time.

Is it not time for the lawyers to take up the whole question of blackmailing lawsuits, if only for the protection of legitimate professional practice?

The fact that his term has already expired does not seem to disturb Postmaster Wharton half so much as it does the hungry democrats aspiring to his official shoes.

A live visitor to the Omaha million-dollar auto show who can resist the temptation to invest possesses uncommon faith in the healthfulness of walking or straphanging.

This much is certain, the only reason Omaha has been paying 80 cents to \$1.10 per foot for fire hose has been to reward the political favorites, who slice the selling commission.

"Billy" Sunday's eight weeks' work at Trenton, N. J., yielded a personal thank offering of \$12,555.03. This is one vigorous exception to the rule that ministers are insufficiently paid.

Secretary Lansing expresses astonishment because diplomats are talking outside. This comes from the premier of a party fundamentally opposed to a monopoly of conversation.

Candidates for nomination on the bull moose ticket in this state are so far scarcer than hens' teeth. Somehow, the impression prevails that there "ain't goin' to be any" bull moose ticket.

American shipyards are crowded with business, some 230 vessels, aggregating 1,000,000 marine tons, being under construction. Coming from official sources the figures give the administration's pet shipping bill a painful body blow.

An immigration official throws a scare into the country by predicting that 20,000,000 fighting men, learning democracy in the trenches, will stampede for the new world when peace comes. Excluding the maimed and the number permanently located in the country, less than half would be available for travel, and precious few of the remainder will possess the price.

Land owners of Panama have not mingled with Americans for ten years past without absorbing keen knowledge of up-to-date promotion methods. General Goethals' story of joint land commission methods, and the inflated values placed upon condemned land, goes to show that Panamanians can tough the federal treasury as handily as peddlars of postoffice sites on the mainland.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

Compiled from Bee Files. The first annual ball of the Henry George assembly, Knights of Labor, signalled the newly-opened exposition building. It was estimated that at least 1,200 people were dancing and 500 spectators in the gallery.

The master of ceremonies was J. R. Young, and the reception committee David Knox, John Jenkins, J. S. Wood, J. E. Wigham, Thomas Cummings, J. Logan, Charles Ditt, R. McGinn, William Cullon, J. L. Huff, J. Broderick and T. F. Brennan.

Mrs. Richard Miller of Atchison, Kan., who has been visiting her brothers, the Schroeder boys, here, left for Germany to visit old country friends.

A. D. Jones, in a letter to The Bee, tells about J. Sterling Morton sending him Document No. 1 of Nebraska, in the Postoffice department of Washington, using his. A. D. Jones' resignation of his office as deputy postmaster at Omaha, Nebraska Territory, dated December 1, 1864.

Matthew A. McNamara died at his residence, near Seventh and Jackson, having come from Brooklyn several years ago.

Maggie Mitchell played the "Pearl of Savoy" at the Boyd in a manner that forbade even attempts at criticism.

Mrs. Brisbane, wife of General Brisbane of Fort Niagara, is visiting in Omaha.

J. M. Wolfe announces that he has just issued a new city map which subscribers to his city directory can have free.

George Washington and War.

All over the land today speakers will draw attention to the words and deeds of the first president of the United States, laying impressive emphasis on his parting advice to his countrymen. It is most appropriate at this time that this should be so, for the people of America need that admonition and advice today as much as ever they did.

Some conditions of life have not greatly changed since Washington's time. His foresight could not possibly unfold the present magnificence of the nation he did so much to found, but his experience could locate certain difficulties that are always present. This gives his parting address something of the quality of prophecy.

Washington's work was made the more difficult and his problems were the more perplexing because of the actions of well-meaning but misguided persons, who deplored the violence of war, just as the pacifists of today plead for peace at any price.

Our liberty was bought at the price of blood and treasure, freely paid by men who valued freedom above life or property. That liberty can only be maintained by men who are prepared to make any defense necessary to its full preservation.

It is time wasted to conjecture what Washington would say, were he with us today, but what he did say in his own time applies completely to ours.

Look to the Milk Supply.

The telegram sent by Nathan Straus, the noted New York humanitarian and philanthropist, to The Bee for the people of Omaha, with reference to our scarlet fever epidemic, may be summed up in these words: "Look to your milk supply."

Mr. Straus volunteers this suggestion, as he says, out of his experience of twenty-five years of labor combating milk infection by pasteurization, which, he assures us further, has been sustained by physicians and bacteriologists all over the civilized world; and, for our part, we are willing to take his word for it without further investigation.

While permitting no letdown on the quarantine it will be well for the milk inspection branch of the city health department to get busy and "take proper measures for the future prevention."

All of us should be appreciative of Mr. Straus' interest in our situation and acknowledge obligation to him for his timely advice.

An Evil that Needs Suppressing.

The Bee invites the co-operation of the other Omaha newspapers towards stopping the vicious system of shake-down lawsuits, based on framed-up evidence, which is permeating this community and bringing disgrace upon the courts as well as upon the reputable members of the bar.

All the newspapers of Omaha, not The Bee alone, are marks for shyster lawyers, taking advantage of loose conditions that encourage this sort of blackmailing litigation. We believe it is not far from the truth when we say that nine out of ten of the "allegation-of-affection" suits, the "breach-of-promise" suits, the "saloon-damage" suits, and the "personal assault" suits, to say nothing of the libel and slander suits, are instituted for shake-down purposes, in the hope of forcing a "settlement" for a small fraction of the amount asked as letting the defendants out for less than it would cost them to fight for their rights.

This rotten system stands upon the two legs of the contingent fee and downright perjury, and could not stand a moment if these props were knocked from under it. The lawyers who take these cases on a fifty-fifty split have everything to gain and nothing to lose, and so long as they can retain their standing at the bar, despite their disreputable practices, will continue in the shake-down business. We do not believe this condition exists in the same degree in other cities as it does in Omaha. We know the evil can be reduced, if not suppressed, if all who ought to be interested in its suppression would join together to that end.

Defense of the Do-Nothings.

Senator Root's speech to the New York republicans has stirred the democratic rooster into petulant activity, and the claqueurs of the party are raising a terrible hullabaloo over his criticism of the president because of his vacillating policies. No amount of positively asseverated misstatement is going to serve to detract public attention from the dispassionate indictment of the administrative shortcomings of Mr. Wilson, so ably drawn by Mr. Root. To defend "watchful waiting" and its four-score of murdered Americans as statesmanship and good management, will not deceive Americans, who have also watched with interest and indignation the course of events in Mexico.

The supporters of the president are quiet as the tomb when it comes to discussing the intriguing of Mr. Wilson on behalf of Carranza. No more miserable men of meddling in the affairs of another nation can be found on record than the president's interference in Mexican matters. He kept out of the "war" only by backing down after making a pretty pretense of defending the flag. Even Carranza was then ready to resist him, and the salute he demanded was never given. Lives of American soldiers and sailors were sacrificed in vain, but the single-track mind kept on its turning way. No similar instance can be found in American history.

The more the people learn of the truth about Wilson's foreign policy, the more the do-nothings will have to apologize for.

"Frumps, dowdies and unrepresentable persons," tagged as missionaries from the United States, are doomed to failure in Latin-America. The artistic spirituality of the Latin call for style, beauty, verve, and without these the eyes as the mirror of the soul are unresponsive. The catalogue of essentials to missionary success comes from a woman missionary on the spot, and may be accepted on trial pending the arrival of her picture.

It is well, perhaps, to have the curtain rung down on the criminal side of the Eastland tragedy by the federal court at Grand Rapids. Responsibility for that appalling disaster primarily rests on the government's inspectors whose gross incompetence and negligence led to the death of a thousand persons. Thus the government inferentially stands by its agents.

Fascinating Puzzle of Mars

Are they digging on Mars, or is there nobody there to dig? The whole question of the existence and the activities of those Martian giants is again thrown into the melting pot by a recent report of the director of the British Astronomical association, who expresses the belief that the "canals" of Mars are optical illusions.

And this report comes exactly at the moment when Percival Lowell, at the Flagstaff observatory, announces that the "canals" in the northern hemisphere of the planet are developing precisely in accordance with expectations based on the theory that it is water supplied by the melting of the polar snows which causes their visibility.

This is really one of the most interesting debates of our time. It is an intellectual duty for every intelligent human being to pay attention to it. There is that other world hanging above us in the sky, circling with us around the sun, with day and night fitting over its surface, as it spins on its axis, just as they do over the surface of our globe, and in almost exactly the same period of time (twenty-four hours). Its alternating seasons are like ours, though each nearly twice as long; its surface is divided into permanently marked regions which make it readily except in the details of outline, a school globe of the earth.

Its snowy caps alternately expand and contract about each of its poles, the same phenomenon that occurs about the poles of the earth, though here the melting is never so extensive because, apparently, the quantity of snow is vastly greater with us than on Mars. All these are facts about which there is virtually no dispute.

The great question, then, is: "Is that earthlike planet inhabited or not?" Not to take an interest in that question would be simply stupid. Granted that we cannot go to Mars—at present; granted that we cannot even communicate with Mars—at present; are those good reasons for feeling no interest in the question whether it is an inhabited world like ours?

And as to communication, we have made progress in the last twenty years which should make us very chary about denying the possibility of existing communication anywhere. We know that the waves of light easily traverse the great gulf of space, and that electric waves go everywhere, and light and electricity have proved themselves marvelous Ariels for us, one or the other of them going at our bidding wherever we have tried to send them.

But this branch of the question is for the future. Whether we ever communicate with intelligent beings on another shore of the ethereal ocean or not, we, for the satisfaction of our intellectual curiosity, which is one of the indices of our semi-divinity, want to know whether such beings are there or not there.

Life is what interests us, and wherever we see the slightest indications of its existence a thrill of curiosity must run through us, together with a desire to find out all we can about it. Suppose that Columbus, after thoroughly exploring America, had returned with proof that it was entirely lifeless, Europe would have turned its back on the New World and not been able to see it, as we see the lifeless moon, would in ten years have virtually forgotten its existence.

But suppose, on the other hand, that Columbus had come back reporting that he had discovered simple indications of life in America, then Europe would never have rested until it had found out whether that life actually existed and what it was like.

There we see the reasons why Mars is vastly more interesting than the moon. We find no indications of life on the moon, whatever life may once have adorned it, but Mars shows many features which we know, from our own experience, are associated with the presence of life.

The "canals" are by no means the only features of this kind. They, in fact, are more or less mysterious and doubtful objects. It is usually supposed by those who are not familiar with the subject that the visible "canals" are the actual irrigating channels in whose artificial construction Mr. Lowell believes.

In fact, Mr. Lowell's idea is that these channels are too small to be seen with any telescope, and that the "canals" are simply long, narrow bands of irrigated land which become visible at certain seasons through the growth of vegetation, stimulated by the supply of water brought from the melting polar snows.

It is a fascinating theory, for it fills the imagination with pictures of gigantic engineering operations going on there, by means of which the irrigation is maintained and extended.

Now, Mr. Antonelli of the British association avers that the "canals" are not, as Lowell asserts, unbroken lines extending thousands of miles in a great network, but that the appearance of such lines is produced by a visual illusion which combines a large number of separated spots and the edges of shaded regions into the semblance of linear objects.

But even if this be so, it does not contravene the assertion that these spots never really appear on Mars until the polar snows have begun to dissolve and disappear in the hemisphere corresponding to that in which the spots are seen.

Mr. Lowell seems to have well established the fact that these things are phenomena depending upon the seasonal changes which go on upon Mars just as they do upon the earth. Even if no more can be proved than that there are water and air upon Mars, enough is thereby established to warrant the hypothesis that there may be life.

Washington's Wisdom

Selected from His Writings. The name "American" must always excite the pride of patriotism. Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness.

Let your discourses with men of business be short and comprehensive. Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of others. I never say anything of a man I have the slightest scruple of saying to him.

Peace is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace. Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire—conscience. Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all.

Good sense and honesty are qualities too rare and too precious not to hold in particular esteem. It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world. Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation: 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.

I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles; an honest man.

It would be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. There is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine maxims of an honest policy and the solid rewards of public propriety.

They Often Do That. A certain politician has the happy knack of being able to parry inconvenient interruptions with some smart retort that immediately quashes the opposition. He was speaking at a rather long meeting not long ago and after a short time a big lump of wood was thrown at him. Fortunately, the aim was bad and it fell harmlessly on the platform.

The speaker picked it up and showed it to the audience. "Good heavens!" he exclaimed, in tones of such anxiety, "one of our opponents has lost his head!" Philadelphia Ledger.

The Bee's Letter Box

Reform of Woman's Dress. HERBON, Neb., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: There are many women who favor a dress reform. No doubt it will lessen high cost of living as well as bring about many good results. I cannot think that some drinkers of intoxicants are any worse than women or girls who wear uncomfortable attire. Not only do they deform their figures, but set a bad or poor example for others.

Children as well as women often desire to imitate and often follow poor examples. Besides this, we are supposed to have governing laws, and while good work is in progress why not keep up the good work and adopt uniform dress in our public schools, allowing each school to adopt its own so as to be fair with our merchants?

To be sure, we must be considerate in all things. What we eat, do, think or say. However, at all times "thinketh no evil"; but first think how to remedy the evil or mistakes done and at the same hour be justifiable to all.

In conclusion, I wish to speak in behalf of the Omaha lady who received injury from a fall recently on an icy sidewalk—it would be well for her to receive damages, but no one else in the future. READERS.

Ask Us Something Easier. OMAHA, Feb. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: Can you inform the public through your paper why it should take four, six or ten months for a case to reach the supreme court after appeal had been taken from the district court? Some say it is the fault of the court clerks. If so, new men should take their places. J. R. RUSSELL.

Discussion of Religion. OMAHA, Feb. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: I quite agree with Mr. Garland in your Letter Box "that when the nation ceases to discuss religion it is doomed and that the man that makes that condition possible will destroy the republic."

Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur in lile and I am tempted to write a few lines to show how even a man like Dr. Lyman Abbott has come forward bravely to tell us how not only times change, but religion also, in his recent work concerning his long life he says:

The candles and whole oil lamps of my childhood have been replaced, first by kerosene oil, then by gas, then by electricity—the discovery of which was the origin of disease has created a new science of medicine; philosophy and theology have been revolutionized by the doctrine of evolution; the antiquity of man has been carried back thousands of years by scientific discovery; for the fall of man and his recovery has been substituted the ascent of man from a prehistoric animal order to the present position of God as a king, the conception of God as a father; for the conception of salvation as the rescue of the soul from a lost world, the conception of the transfiguration of the world itself into a human brotherhood.

He tells us he has gone through every shape of skepticism, but there is an undecurrent of pathos, the inevitable result of an earlier faith that has been "loved and lost." The fundamental dogma of the divinity of Christ was rejected with finality by the author and like Renan he rejects Christianity for modern science. For him Copernicus annihilated the Bible; Darwin undermined revelation.

"I look forward to the great adventure, which cannot be far off, with awe but not with apprehension. When the time comes for my embarkation, and the ropes are cast off and I put out to sea, I think that I shall still be standing in the bow and looking forward with eager curiosity and glad hopefulness to the new world to which the unknown voyage will take me." GEORGE P. WILKINSON.

Words Good Only Tested by Deeds. GLENWOOD, Ia., Feb. 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: In an editorial of Sunday you speak of "the faith of the imperial government," referring to Germany. In view of the recent German violation of treaties with Belgium and Luxemburg, please explain to this editorial was intended for irony? WALTER BUIWELL.

Popular Opinion on Preparedness. ST. MARY, Neb., Feb. 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: The daily papers are publishing many speeches arguing the necessity of preparedness. This does not prove that the people in general are in favor of it. From whom does this sentiment spring? From no one except the rich that expect to profit by it. They have the advantage of the common people in that they have the financial means to get their views before the public. If they have not the ability of oratory they express to get upon the platform and express their opinion, they hire some gifted orator to do it for them; money talks. And some orators have the ability and patriotism to speak with eloquence and pathos that would bring tears to the eyes, and yet the subject may be both, and their arguments misleading.

I have made a conservative canvass of this locality, and find that at least 90 per cent are unalterably opposed to preparedness, and yet there is not one who has the financial means or personal ability to express his opinion to the contrary. The speeches made in favor of it are published and read by many thousands, but the opinion of the many thousands are not published, therefore, not read by any one. It is only through the courtesy of an occasional paper to which they may contribute a letter and have it published that they can express their views before the public at all.

I fail to see the logic of this nation carrying a chip on its shoulder and starting any one to knock it off. They, the rich, want war, and they want us poor people to fight the battles, and then want us to pay the expense bill after it is over. They are asking too much; we protest. H. SCHUMANN.

TIPS ON HOME TOPICS. Boston Transcript: When Woodrow Wilson says that he will be a candidate for another cup of grog you can bet your war babies that here is one thing he won't change his weather-cock mind about.

Indianapolis News: Notwithstanding the monotony of war times, an event of real interest happens once in a while in England. Baron Astor has just taken his seat in the House of Lords. We in America ought to swell up with so much pride as to beat all the buttons off our vests.

Baltimore American: Statistics have been furnished to prove that the college girl spends 67 per cent of her money upon necessities as against 3 per cent for pleasures and luxuries. With the face and figure of a Venus and the thrift and common sense of a Griselda, the college girl of the present is going to be the prize package of the age.

Editorial Snapshots

Pittsburgh Dispatch: In proposing that debate with the Commoner, Mr. Metcalf forgot to mention the important matter of the gate receipts.

Detroit Free Press: The suffragettes sent valentines to the congressmen. In return they'll probably get a nice large package of free seeds shortly.

Indianapolis News: What the retail dealers can't understand is why the anthracite operators continue to refer to a ton of coal in the obsolete terms of 2,240 pounds.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: More than half a century ago we had conscription in these United States. And it's still a free country. If this will help Britain any, let it be.

Washington Post: Representative Smith of New York wants to resolve February 23 as "prosperity day," but once in four years will hardly satisfy the vociferous claims of either party.

Boston Transcript: Those who are apprehensive that Europe will never be able to pay off its war debt overlook the fact that American tourist travel will be resumed as soon as peace comes.

Philadelphia Ledger: Colonel House breaks his silence to say that the president has a policy nobody knows about and that it will be approved by everybody when it is known. The oracle at Delphi was not more mysterious.

Boston Transcript: Senator Tillman having introduced a bill to permit the government to seize munition plants in time of war, it is understood that he will shortly propose a radical amendment to the constitution authorizing it to raise and maintain armies and carry the mails.

Houston (Tex.) Post: Dick Metcalf has challenged William Jennings Bryan, his longtime partner and associate in journalism, to a joint debate on preparedness. We would enjoy attending this debate as much as the woman enjoyed her fight between her husband and the bear.

Baltimore American: An American survivor of the Anconia disaster wants something done towards pushing her claims against Austria. She says she cannot live on notes. When people will insist on such selfish interests, how is diplomacy going to get proper patriotic support?

Springfield Republican: Twenty-seven vessels are now under construction in American shipyards for Norwegian owners and are to be finished before the end of the year. If the war goes on indefinitely the ship building industry may become so firmly entrenched that the return of peace and international competition will not so seriously interfere with it as many persons have imagined.

SMILING LINES.

Hill—The Chinese must be glad when the shortest days in the year come. Jill—Why so? Hill—I understand it takes half a day to sing China's national hymn.—Yonkers Statesman.

"The newest submarines can now make a catch thirteen miles from base." "Yes, but how about their ability to make a home run?"—Baltimore American.

"Are you Hungary?" "Yes, Slam." "Well, come along; I'll fix 'em."—National Geographic Magazine.

DEAR MR. KARBIBLIF, SHOULD MY FINANCE COMPLAIN IF I TAKE HER TO MOVING PICTURE SHOWS? LOUIS BUCK

NO—CONSIDERING THAT THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED DOWN LOWER THAN IN HER OWN PARLOR!

"Jane, what time is it?" called down the irate father. "I don't know, pa. The clock isn't working." "But I am," spoke up the young man, who could take a hint.—Detroit Free Press.

"Some of these juvenile court enthusiasts are carrying matters a trifle far." "Huh?" "Seem to think it would be a good thing for every boy to start life under a suspended sentence."—Chicago Post.

Mabel—So you asked papa for my hand? Did he give you any encouragement? Arthur—Well, no, but he gave me a drink and a cigar, so I had no kick coming.—New York Times.

BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON.

Columbian Songster, Published in THE Americans, rejoice! While songs employ each voice, Let trumpets sound; The thirteen stripes display, On flags and streamers gay, 'Tis Washington's birthday, Joy shall abound.

From scenes of rural peace, From affluence and ease, At Freedom's call; A hero from his birth, Great Washington stands forth, The scourge of George and North, And tyrants all.

These renowned chiefs of old, Casars and heroes bold, Who realms have won, Smit by his brighter blaze, Hide their diminished rays, And yield the palm of praise To Washington.

The silver trump of fame His glory shall proclaim, 'Tis time is done; O'ercome, with taste refin'd, Valor, with courage join'd, 'Bove all, an honest mind Has Washington.

Long may he live to see 'Tis land of liberty Flourish in peace; Long may he live to prove A grateful people's love, And late to heaven remove, Where joys ne'er cease.



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