

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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NOVEMBER CIRCULATION. 55,483 Daily—Sunday 50,037.

Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of November, 1916, was 11,482 daily, and 10,037 Sunday.

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

Write it 1917. With a little practice, it will come naturally.

Wait for the May day water wagon "and we'll all take a ride."

What of the New Year? As none of us can see ahead into time, each must guess for himself.

For the twentieth time Chicago's man-made juries uphold the right of wives to shoot up their husbands.

Both sides claim victory on the Somme. That being the case, it is up to the survivors to shoot off the tie.

If the pen is mightier than the sword, as we used to be told, the note-writers will eventually put on the finishing touches.

Arbitration gave the switchmen an eight-hour day and nine hours' pay. The big four rejected arbitration and gained a lawsuit.

Throw the search light on the contingent fee game and keep it there and the worst evils of ambulance chasing will cure themselves.

The speculative world hobbles leagues behind Tom Lawson in pulling down a fine line of free publicity from both friends and enemies.

All right, Mr. Lawmaker, you may have a part of the stage, but remember, the curtain will be rung down without confession about the first of April.

The free and unlimited coinage of bills by every member of the legislature is a constitutional right which no iconoclastic reformer can curtail or annul.

It is now proposed to effect a complete divorce of booze and pharmacy. Suppose a doctor prescribes spirits framenti, will the druggists forbid a reunion?

In the midst of plenty Uncle Sam pleads poverty as an excuse for issuing bonds to make ends meet. Public bonds are a certificate of party efficiency in trimming a treasury.

A paltry extra million dollars in state revenues for two years threatens to impair the speed of solons in "bringing home the bacon." A million is scarcely small beer to champagne appetites.

"Slackers" among the idle rich of England are given the alternative of going to work or going to the front. The former is impossible, the latter undesirable. Either way multiplies the horrors of war.

The chief significance of the London Spectator's summary of the Entente Allies' conditions of peace is the assurance it gives of self-restraint and modesty. Apparently they do not want the earth—right away.

Biologists may tear theory to tatters and flout the virile pep of war, but they labor in vain. As long as history glorifies war as the supreme force of national life theory smashing is as fruitless as "buying the moon."

The latest statement from the railroad brotherhoods clearly shows that the closer they get to the Adamson law the less hopeful it looks. All of which proves the wisdom of buying and paying for goods before actual delivery.

Traction and Progress

New York World. The entrance of the United States into a league to enforce peace would be a step demanding the gravest consideration, but it would not necessarily be an "entangling alliance."

Washington's warning, which has become a kind of religion with us, and properly so when correctly interpreted, was not directed against such a combination as today is discussed. Then as now we were inclined to place our European sympathies ahead of our Americanism, and the entanglements that he had in mind contemplated war and not peace.

No one was more conscious than the first president of the fact that American independence was gained by an alliance. Fully aware of the benefits thus achieved for ourselves and for mankind, he never could have regarded with disfavor national co-operation having the same ends in view and on a much larger scale. If we are sure that the purpose of a league to enforce peace is sincere, holding aloof from it might result in the greatest of mischiefs.

The suggestion that such a league would impair the Monroe doctrine seems to be baseless. That policy has resulted in a formidable league against conquest in the western hemisphere. As it is better understood it gains in strength. The proposed league to enforce peace would be an extension of the same principle to the old world. Entered upon in good faith by other important nations, our refusal to participate in it, instead of safeguarding the Monroe doctrine, would more likely be accepted as the abandonment of that noble inspiration.

In their lives Washington and Monroe did not undertake to rule the United States against right and reason. We must be careful not to let the narrow and the timid use their dead hands to bar the way to progress and safety.

Allies' Answer and the Future.

Shorn of its rhetorical language, the formal answer of the allies to the German proposal conveys only the statement that peace cannot be made on such terms as England, France, Russia and Italy conceive Germany is ready to offer. But aside from insisting that Belgium be restored and recompensed nothing is explicitly set forth as to what will be considered a basis on which peace can be established.

This does not dispose of the peace proposal, however, for the notes sent by the neutral governments to the belligerents are still to be considered. Through the way thus opened approach may be had to a discussion that will eventually lead to definite terms. It is all very well for the warriors to talk of one side crushing the other, but the finish is more likely to come through the operation of other agencies than the troops in the field.

According to Bernhardt, who figured so prominently as Germany's highest military authority previous to the war, resort to armed force is merely a continued effort to attain ends which diplomacy has failed to accomplish, and it is plainly a corollary that when force fails to achieve the end, resort again to diplomacy may become necessary. The answer of the Allies declares that they do not think the time arrived to suspend the conflict of arms on the conditions, or lack of conditions, proposed by their enemies but the contents of the note and its general tenor show appreciation of the necessity of holding a sympathetic public sentiment among the neutrals for which both sides are now so strenuously playing.

The peace talk will not arrive anywhere for the immediate present, but it has to an extent already introduced an element of instability into the situation which will remain now until peace negotiations actually begin, no matter how long deferred.

The Wild Horse Game.

Those who followed the details of the wild horse confidence game as it developed in the federal court no doubt indulged in satirical smiles or chortled wonderingly at the simplicity of the victims. The stories told on the witness stand by investors show a degree of confidence and cupidly rivaling the trimmed betters on fake horse races or bogus wrestling matches. They placed boundless faith in the mellow words of promoters. They loved horses, tame and wild, and knowing the profits ahead and a ready market, the deal bulked large as a sure thing and they took the plunge.

There is nothing surprising in the game or the outcome. It is new only in commodity dealt in. The range of visibility of wild horses is no greater than the golden vista of imaginary wealth which is the common stock in trade of shady promoters. During the mad days of the South Sea bubble two centuries ago the progenitor of the wild horse game appeared in a scheme for "importing Spanish jackasses into England for the purpose of propagating a large mule." When investors sought a glimpse of the animals history intimates that friends silently led them to a looking glass. The modern promoter showed greater consideration in providing a distant view of the range and glimpses of skittish bronchos.

The trial and the outcome serve to emphasize the increasing risk of working a shady game. Without the use of the mails crooked schemes must be localized and that fact operates against wild-cattling on the nation-wide scale of twenty years ago. Then, as now, state laws lacked reach and speed to be effective. The greater reach of federal laws, the persistence of pursuit and ability to stand the expense of prosecution, constitute a judicial buzz saw that few sane promoters will triffl with. Moreover, a federal summons overcomes the victim's dislike to "giving himself away" in public and pulls down the main prop of crooked promotion. The forces working under federal auspices steadily reduce the range of easy money and diminish the wool clip of easy marks.

Scandinavians and Peace.

One of the most interesting expressions of willingness to aid in restoring peace comes from the Scandinavian countries. None, save, perhaps Holland, has felt the pressure of the war more definitely than Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and none have withstood it with more of national dignity, or firmer insistence on neutral rights. Sweden has been forced to an open break, almost, with England over the mail situation. Norway has incurred the deep displeasure of Germany by declining to permit Norwegian waters to be used as a place of rendezvous and operation by the submarines, while Denmark has undergone much of privation by reason of restrictions put on trade between neutrals. All these nations have been "pat on rations" that they might not trade with Germany.

These conditions have made the maintenance of neutrality a continual strain on national patience, and therefore add weight to the identical notes sent to belligerents, as the joint representation of the Scandinavian governments, signifying their "sympathy with all efforts which could contribute to put an end to the ever-increasing suffering and moral and material losses" incident to the war. In all that has arisen to concern the neutrals since the war commenced, none have met emergencies with more of composure than have the Scandinavians, and none will be more entitled to a seat at the council table when the difficulties of Europe ultimately are composed.

The noted French seeress, Mme. de Thebes, passed away at the height of her fame. She guessed that this war would come and traced in advance some of its results. Like a somewhat noted weather prophet of Missouri, who guessed right occasionally, the thrifty Frenchwoman utilized keen knowledge of old world affairs and scored an occasional hit. The thoughtless wondered and imagined superhuman powers. Like the Missourian, the madame "sawed wood" and scooped in the profits.

The second assistant postmaster general holds the railroads responsible for the blockade in Christmas mail. Somebody had to be blamed. The failure of the railroads to provide the post-offices with sufficient help to distribute and deliver a 25 per cent increase in postoffice business plainly points to gross neglect of patriotic opportunities.

"The Omaha Bee," observes the Minneapolis Journal paragrapher, "is calling excitedly for the construction of a grape juice factory. This shows something of what actually hit Nebraska at the late election." It sure does. The blow makes more imperative the duty of providing "something just as good" for hospitality in greeting Minneapolis visitors.

How Wars End

New York Sun. There is no parallel in modern wars for Germany's action—an undefeated belligerent asking its adversaries to meet it and discuss unformulated terms of peace. The impression, however, that the Allies desire to end a war generally, avail themselves of the offer of some friendly neutral to act as mediator is utterly unfounded, though a great deal of the talk about the possible action of the United States in such a way has proceeded as if that were the almost invariable rule.

When England desired to end the war with the colonies it began by sending separate negotiators to the French government and to the American commissioners in Paris. The latter, though positively commanded by congress to negotiate no peace without the participation of their French allies, did sign a separate treaty, though with the reservation that it should not go into effect until France had made peace. They then informed the French government, which accepted the terms.

The Napoleonic peace treaties usually began with an armistice. The most famous, the treaty of Tilsit, was brought about by a personal meeting between Napoleon and Alexander I on a raft in the middle of the river Niemen to agree upon an armistice which the czar had already sought. An armistice was also agreed upon after the battle of Lutzen, but Napoleon would not agree to the allied terms and resumed hostilities. His fall in 1814 was accompanied by no negotiations; the allies were actually in Paris. Napoleon's generals persuaded him to sign an act of abdication, and the French Senate dethroned him.

The way to the peace of Ghent, which ended the war of 1812, was paved by an offer of the czar to act as mediator, though it was rejected. In rejecting it Lord Castlereagh let it be known that he was willing to negotiate directly with the United States. The United States gladly accepted and sent commissioners, but England neglected to appoint envoys until long afterward, when its troubles had become so great that it was desirous of peace.

In the Mexican war President Polk was always anxious for peace, but his envoys were not accepted. At last he went so far as to send an envoy, Nicholas P. Trist, along with Scott's army, authorized to treat with Mexico the moment that country was willing to do so. Scott quarreled with Trist and refused to transmit his letter to the Mexican government and Trist had to get the British minister to forward it. After repeated failures and rebuffs he finally got in touch with commissioners appointed by a new government which succeeded Santa Anna, but not until Polk had ordered his recall, disregarding this order and negotiated the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

On the death of Czar Nicholas I, his successor, Alexander II, announced to the courts of Europe his desire that the Crimean war should end, and this is the nearest approach to a parallel with Germany's action today. A peace conference was held in Vienna, but in three months it was broken off and the war resumed. The war went on until Austria, a neutral power, threatened to join the allies unless the czar accepted its ultimatum. He at first refused, but a personal letter from the neutral king of Prussia induced him to reconsider, and the final peace conference was held.

The war of Italy, France and Austria in 1859 was terminated in a surprising fashion by an armistice agreed on personally between Napoleon III and Franz Josef, just as the French and Italian armies were in the full tide of success. Victor Emmanuel was forced to agree, and the terms of the armistice were embodied in a peace treaty.

The war between Prussia and Denmark in 1864 came abruptly to an end when the Danes learned that neither England nor France would help them. The dismissal of their war ministry from office and sent proposals for a truce directly to Berlin and Vienna.

The terms of peace between the United States and the confederacy were arranged by generals in the field. In the war between Austria, Prussia and Italy in 1866, Franz Josef, after his defeats at Koniggratz and elsewhere, informed Napoleon III of his willingness to cede Venetia to Italy and his desire that Napoleon be mediator. Napoleon accepted and Bismarck drafted the terms and sent them to Napoleon, who, as mediator, accepted them. An armistice followed.

In 1870 the French government which succeeded Napoleon III asked first for an armistice, then for peace, but the requests were declined and the siege of Paris began. After the surrender of Paris the Germans consented to an armistice to permit the election of a national assembly which it could recognize. The preliminaries of peace were agreed on between Bismarck and Thiers at Versailles, and the treaty followed at Frankfurt.

The Russo-Turkish war was cut short by England's threat to enter it. Russia arranged an armistice immediately and negotiated the treaty of San Stefano directly with Turkey, England, backed by France and Austria, refused to recognize it, and the congress of Berlin was summoned, but before it met the czar had negotiated a secret treaty with England embodying most of the agreements subsequently made there.

China made two approaches to Japan while the war of 1894 was going on, but through envoys who had no proper credentials, and Japan refused to treat with them. When China was wholly defeated and the Japanese armies about to march on Peking, the empire sent Li Zung Chang with proper credentials to Shimonoeki and the treaty was at once drawn up.

The Spanish-American war of 1898 closed when Spain, on July 26, made overtures to the United States through Cambon, the French ambassador at Washington. Seventeen days later the protocol was signed.

The Boer war ended in an unprecedented way. The members of the Transvaal government rode into Middleburg and requested to be sent to Lord Kitchener to arrange peace terms with him. He met them, but held that because of the peculiar character of the Boer army the men in the field would have to be consulted if any assurance of peace was to be given. Steyn, De Wet and Delarey went to the commandos, explained the situation to them, and each body in the field chose two delegates to meet at Vereeniging and decide the matter by vote.

President Roosevelt brought the Russo-Japanese war to an end by sending, on June 8, 1905, identical dispatches to both governments urging that they enter into peace negotiations. Both accepted.

An armistice in the first Balkan war was ended by a breaking off of negotiations. The powers then agreed upon terms and offered mediation. A second armistice was signed, but Montenegro would not join it and went on with the war. It captured Scutari, but Austria took it away from it, and the second peace conference, which was successful, met at London.

People and Events

Multitudes of urban celebrators blew into Boston and joined in the wet victory boozefest on Christmas eve. Previously the railroads announced they would not transport passengers with jags on the same train. Consequently the bibulous crowd stayed in town until sober. The standard test of sobriety at the Hub is pronouncing without a vocal tremor, "the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

Last May Georgia put in operation a dry law warranted to put booze out of business. For the sake of southern hospitality the law permitted two cases of beer and a couple of gallons of hard stuff to each person per month. Imports of booze began with 7,000 packages in May for Atlanta alone, gradually increasing to 40,000 shipments in October, about the same number in November, and a December holiday rush promised a record well over 50,000 separate consignments

TODAY

Health Hint for the Day.

If your home has a hot air furnace, see to it that the evaporating pans contain a sufficient amount of water; otherwise the very dry air is harmful to the mucous membrane of the nose and predisposes to catarrh.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Huge Russian forces hurried sledgeshammers from the Pripyet to Roumania's boundary.

Berlin reported Germans had made a successful surprise attack on a wide front and destroyed British trenches near La Bassée.

Vienna report declared sixty-seven vessels, including eight troopships and thirty-four merchantmen, were sunk by Austrian and German submarines in the Mediterranean in six weeks.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Bishop Worthington, being confined to his room with a serious cold, was unable to be present at the opening of Brown hall.

Audfor Eraustus Young of the Union Pacific has issued a circular announcing the creation of a new office in his department. It is that of auditor of disbursements and J. W. Griffith has been appointed to fill it.

A man named Yerga, employed in the packing house of Harris & Fisher, was dangerously injured by becoming suspended from a meat hook, which caught him under the left jaw. He suffered intensely until relieved by Dr. Galbraith.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Reeves of this city sent to President Cleveland and his wife a beautiful crazy quilt made by herself, which was acknowledged by a personal letter from the president, together with photographs of himself and wife.

Gus Williams, who has been in the employ of Paxton & Gallagher for the last seven years, has received the appointment of driver for engine house, No. 4. This will be a great help to the present force, which has heretofore consisted of only two men, who had more than they could do.

This Day in History.

1781—Benedict Arnold invaded Virginia.

1858—The Sepoy rebels were defeated at Fittsburgh by a British force under Sir Colin Campbell.

1881—North Carolina took formal possession of Fort Macon, the works at Wilmington and Fayetteville.

1882—End of the battle of Murfreesboro or Stone River, one of the severest battles of the civil war.

1872—Brigham Young returned to Salt Lake City and surrendered to an indictment charging him with the murder of Richard Yates.

1880—Charles Stewart Parnell and John Dillon, the Irish leaders, arrived in New York.

1890—More than 125 lives lost when the steamer Persia went ashore on the island of Corsica.

1892—Montgomery C. Meigs, quartermaster general of the United States army during and after the civil war, died in Washington, D. C., born at Augusta, Ga., May 12, 1815.

1904—James Longstreet, celebrated general of the confederacy, died near Gainesville, Ga. Born in South Carolina, January 8, 1821.

1905—Port Arthur capitulated to the Japanese.

1912—Dr. Sun Yat Sen was installed as provisional president of the republic of China.

The Day We Celebrate.

Dr. John E. Sumners has reached the age of 88. He is a native Nebraskan, born January 2, 1828, at old Fort Kearney, where his father was stationed as an army surgeon.

Richard Murphy was born in Omaha just twenty-seven years ago today. He is one of the head men of the Hugh A. Murphy company, paving contractors.

William H. Gould, Jr., was born forty-seven years ago and came to Omaha as a lad of 6. He lived at one time at 1615 Farmington, just west of the United States National bank. Educated in the Omaha schools, he engaged in the live stock commission and loan business.

August Benziger, New York artist who is considered one of the world's great portrait painters, born in Switzerland, fifty years ago today.

William Lyon Phelps, professor of English literature at Yale university, born at New Haven, fifty-two years ago today.

George Gilbert Murray, Oxford university who lectured at the Columbia university summer school last year, born at Sidney, N. S. W., fifty-one years ago today.

Miss M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr college, born in Baltimore, sixty years ago today.

Right Rev. William F. Adams, Episcopal bishop of Easton, Md., born at Enniskillen, Ireland, eighty-four years ago today.

George I. (Tad) Rickard, promoter of sporting events, born in Kansas City, forty-five years ago today.

Timely Jotting and Reminders.

The senate interstate commerce committee today will begin public hearings on President Wilson's recommendations for railroad legislation.

The Bee's Letter Box

Good Suggestion—Push It Along.

Omaha, Jan. 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have been seventy-one years in this country and still what I do not know about the business of the Postoffice department would make a large book, but in the interest of economy I will give you my observations. I sit in a bay window where I can see the mail carrier from Burdette street to Willit avenue (one block). He crosses the street five times each trip and makes two trips a day, thus making ten crossings per day. It is about 120 feet from house to house, making all the crossings in this block per day 1,200 feet, multiplied by twenty-six makes 31,200 feet, which, multiplied by twelve, the number of months in a year, makes 374,400 feet, or 80,800 steps at three feet to the step in one block in one year.

This crossing of streets could be avoided by merging two adjoining routes into one, giving the odd numbers to one carrier and the even numbers to the other and letting them both go over the territory together.

If the above is noticed by the postmaster of Omaha and he thinks it of any benefit to the carriers I should be pleased to think I have done some one a service.

M. C. LAWLESS.

It's a Paper Package—Not a Bottle.

New York, Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: I want to call your attention to an article in your valuable paper which started off "Omaha is to have the largest vacuum bottle plant in the United States." I want to correct your impression that this is a vacuum bottle proposition. The O'Brien-Hicks Iceless Container company are going to manufacture an article that will deliver ice cream or any other commodity that is packed with ice and salt, without the use of same. This is a paper package, while vacuum bottles are made of glass.

I know that it is not your intention to misquote, but your reporter certainly must have been misinformed. I did not give any information to any of the papers, preferring to wait until my return to Omaha, about the middle of January.

Wish to thank you for past courtesies extended, and take this opportunity of wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

D. J. O'BRIEN.

"Why Reprehensible," He Asks.

Omaha, Dec. 30.—To the Editor of The Bee: For the last few years there has been a constant hue and cry about lawyers who are "reprehensible" in which lawyers should secure business. When men in all other lines of business advertise in their various lines and send out letters and circulars and hire men to secure business for them and ask for trade and business from the general public, I do not see where it is in the least wrong for lawyers to do the same thing. If anybody can tell me what is wrong in a lawyer asking for business and asking his friends to recommend him, I am "ready to be shown." In my experience of more than thirty years, I have found that lawyers as a class are above the average in dealings with others. Of course, there are some dishonest lawyers, but their are dishonest grocersmen, dry goods men, meat market men and men in every line of business.

I suppose one reason that lawyers are singled out for virulent attacks is that few of them take the pains to resent the attacks upon them. They take it as a matter of fact that lawyers have always been attacked by those outside the profession and they stand for it passively and the attacks are only increased in violence. Some in their zeal against lawyers are now proposing that laws be passed prohibiting lawyers from asking for business either directly or indirectly.

I suppose the next move will be to prohibit lawyers from having any signs to show where they do business. I noticed in a paper a few days ago a letter from some fellow at Plattsmouth who attacked lawyers because they want to cut down the number of

SUNNY GEMS.

"Do you dare to accuse me of giving you short weight on that trout?" "Oh, no. I merely remarked to my friend here that there was something fishy about your scales."—Baltimore American.

Pollitician—Who's back of you? Officerseekt—Ten generations of glorious ancestors! Follitician—Um—I might get you a job classifying fossils in the Smithsonian Institution.—Puck.

Briggs—That famous soprano you had at your dinner party last night sang like a bird. Griggs—Like a bird is right! I was conscious of her bill the entire evening.—Boston Transcript.

NEAR MR. WADSWORTH. I TOLD A YOUNG LADY I HAD \$25 IN THE BANK AND SHE BECAME ENGAGED. SHE CALLED IT OFF A FEW MINUTES LATER—WHAT DO YOU SUSPECT?—ARTHUR STEPHENS

SHE PROBABLY FIGURED OUT THAT YOU COULDN'T SHOW HER A GOOD TIME ON THE INTEREST!—Puck.

Flatbush—I just hate these paper gunkies they put out at some odds. Benenhurst—Why so? "Because when I try to tuck 'em in over my collar they tear so easily."—Yankee Statesman.

Willis—What team do these military aeroplanes work on? Gillis—One person runs the machines and the other is just an observer, but both of 'em fight.

Willis—I see; just like being married.—Philadelphia Ledger.

History Teacher—We learn this morning that Caesar defeated Pompey. Reddy Backrow—All right, but believe me, I don't see any crowing till he returns from the outlying districts are in in.—Puck.



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