

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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DECEMBER CIRCULATION
53,368 Daily—Sunday 50,005
Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average circulation for the month of December, 1916, was 53,368 daily and 50,005 Sunday.

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Some legislative bills only clothe a delicate invitation in legal verbiage.

It would seem that some of those "Tom" Lawson cartoons were a trifle premature.

A blanket of "the beautiful" a foot deep gives Texas the finishing touch as a resort of winter.

The "silent sentinels" of the White House are said to have cold feet. Impossible! The trail is too hot.

The privilege of having their pictures in the paper is doubtless considered glory enough for those White House suffrage pickets.

The astonishing growth of Omaha bank clearings emphasizes the wisdom of recent enlargements of local banking houses and facilities.

Living cost steadily mounts in the warring countries and steadily increases in proportion. Still the well-fed enthusiasts insist that war is a good thing.

Although fly time is several months away, the presence of several corporation swatters at the state house suggests active support of the policy of preparedness.

It is evident the Navy department has much to learn about the California coast. It is also evident that the Eureka school is too expensive for permanent results.

The best way to expedite the count in the election is to shorten the ballot by cutting out the offices that are superfluous or can be filled better by appointment.

If farmers do not want good roads, usable in wet as well as dry weather, the improvement may be deferred, but not defeated. Meanwhile the farmer is the chief loser.

That nervy Nebraska lawmaker who would regulate coffin bills may get away with it for awhile, provided he is youthful and healthy. Eventually the undertakers will "get him."

Despite his failure to boost the newspaper postage, Postmaster General Burleson retains the esteem of the craft. Should occasion arise his picture is assured a place "next to pure reading matter."

The second round of the legal battle to annul 2-cent passenger rate laws in the west ended like the first in favor of the states. The decision of Federal Judge Landis gives railroad attorneys the dazed feeling.

The new Commercial club regime will have to speed up just the same to keep ahead of the record of the immediately preceding administration, though with the transmitted momentum it should, and doubtless will, do it.

Still, the agitation to make the study of Lincoln compulsory in public schools would appeal more strongly, even to those of us whose admiration for Lincoln is unbounded, if it did not smack so much of book trust promotion.

The democratic office holder whose title is attacked for exceeding his campaign expense limit says the corrupt practices act is obscure. What he really means is that he himself is not as good at mathematics as he ought to be.

Shafts Aimed at Omaha
Hastings Tribune: A couple of Omaha detectives arrested some "crooked" poker players. When it comes to spotting poker players you just have to give it to those Omaha sleuths.

Nebraska City Press: The enforcement of prohibition in a big city is a man-sized job. Omaha couldn't hope to cope with the situation without help. It should not object when Governor Neville offers his service.

Neigh Leader: Douglas county members in the legislature have started in early to wash their dirty linen, of which they always have a plentiful supply, and it needs vigorous laundry work. Howell, one of the senators, accuses the other senators from that county of being tools of the corporations, etc. As the parties involved are all democrats it does not concern the republicans except that it takes up the time of the senate to no purpose. What Howell says about his colleagues may be true, but it is to smile when such charges come from Howell.

Kearney Democrat: The Omaha Bee believes that the liquor laws ought to be so arranged that the sp-alley club room and the backdoor booze joints in Omaha be eliminated, while the Omaha World-Herald makes sport of such an act and classes those who would make Omaha, and other Nebraska cities clean of such business as belonging to "boozehounds" and compares the undertaking as a companion of the "bloodhound" variety. The World-Herald objects to anybody smelling of its breath, and perhaps after one test the ordeal wouldn't be repeated. The Bee thinks, however, that as the people have voted to get the lawless state the demands of the people should be as well protected against the illicit dealing in liquor as it is against the violation of other criminal prohibitory laws.

Topheavy Government.

In the extract which we have printed from the inaugural of Governor Capper of Kansas he hits the nail of topheavy and extravagant government squarely on the head in a way just as pertinent for us in Nebraska as for his constituency in Kansas. It is so self-evident that we are governed too much, or rather have too much governing machinery, that further demonstration is unnecessary. As Governor Capper says, the multiplication and complication of unnecessary boards, commissions and officers charged with the conduct of public affairs would never be tolerated for an instant in private business and there is no good reason why the state and county and city should cling to wasteful and obsolete systems and refuse to adopt modern labor-saving, time-expediting and money-economizing methods.

Nebraska's state house is about as board-ridden and commission-ridden as it well could be and yet we have proposals for more boards and more commissions. Here in Omaha we have four sets of local governments—county, city, school district and water district—doing business over the same territory and for the same people on money coming out of the same pockets. We seem unable to realize that the high cost of living and the high cost of government are closely related and every merger of governing authorities is offset by the creation of new offices.

There is no doubt that if we could have the machinery of our state and local governments recast and rebuilt on efficiency lines we could save for the taxpayers at least half of their money or, rather, give them 100 cents of return for every dollar for which they now get only 50 cents value. Why, then, should we wait until the load becomes unbearable before setting about in earnest to lighten it?

No Mooching on the Land Bank.

Isn't a very pleasant commentary on American ways of doing business that the farm loan banks should be made the subject of a bit of questionable manipulation before even the first one is opened for business. Through the undue enterprise of a surety bond company the new institution is already made the subject of solicitation of its agents to inveigle themselves into bank positions, the effect of which must excite invidious comment. Member Norris of the board very promptly has rebuked the energetic executive of the company in question, and it is hardly likely that more will be heard from that source. However, the incident calls attention to the necessity of local organizations exercising extreme vigilance, that they be relieved from even the suspicion of graft in getting the machinery ready for operation. Machinations of private corporations to turn the farm loan banks even indirectly to their own profit if successful would hardly popularize these institutions when discovery is made.

Organized Agriculture in Nebraska.

One of the most notable assemblages of the season is now gathered at Lincoln, a meeting of farmers and scientists, who will discuss farming in all its branches and ramifications. It is through such methods the state has been brought to the forefront in both quality and quantity of its production. The Nebraska farmer is not only progressive, but is aggressive as well. He doesn't hesitate to experiment, nor to apply knowledge gained through another's experience. A great college of agriculture is maintained by the state for research and development work, and scientists there and in the field are continually engaged on the farmers' problems, not only to improve the breed, but to increase the yield, and the great industry has gained immensely through this service.

The Legislature of 1907.

Our democratic friends down at Lincoln are talking of imitating the example of the legislature of 1907. They couldn't pick a better model. That legislature, controlled in both branches by republicans, made a record which still stands without equal in Nebraska history. Its members were elected on a platform of definite promises, and it redeemed each promise in order. Every pledge made before election was enacted into law, and each law was signed by a republican governor, and when the session was ended it was with a clean slate. Reformatory laws then passed have stood the test of the courts, are still on the books, and citizens of Nebraska have the benefit of them. This legislature, however, was bitterly assailed by the democrats, who even today claim credit for legislation then passed by republicans. The lawmakers of today can do no better than to emulate the example of those of 1907. Only the shifty politicians will consider the likelihood of being overtaken by the ingratitude of the people, as were the legislators who made up that body, now coming to be recognized as the best of its kind the state ever knew.

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Whether Clerk Trimble will succeed himself largely depends upon himself. Barring death or resignation he will be confronted with a house composed of 215 democrats, 215 republicans and five belonging to neither party. The five not elected by either party and who defeated regularly nominated candidates of both parties are A. V. Fulmer, Ninth Massachusetts, independent republican; Thomas D. Schall, Tenth Minnesota, progressive; Meyer London, Twelfth New York, socialist; Charles R. Randall, Tenth California, prohibitionist; and Whitmill P. Martin, Third Louisiana, a "progressive protectionist."

According to expectations of the leaders of the two parties it is regarded as likely that Schall and Fuller will support the republicans, while London and Randall will vote with the democrats. So the question arises and will grow in importance, what course will Martin take? What "Judge Martin," as he is familiarly called, will do he has not given the slightest indication, nor is there any hint as to what side will have his vote on the election of speaker and the subsequent organization. The republicans earnestly point to the fact that he has a serious grudge against the democrats and that, as given in his biography in the Congressional Directory, he is the "first non-democratic congressman to be sent from Louisiana in over twenty-five years." On the other hand, democrats claim that Judge Martin, coming of democratic antecedents, from a district and state overwhelmingly democratic, and himself long a democrat, will not likely depart from affiliation in their hour of need with his former party associates. Thus the office of clerk, held by Mr. Trimble, assumes a power and significance it has not had occasion to exercise in nearly sixty years.

Organizing a New Congress

Edgar C. Snyder, Washington Correspondent of The Bee
For the fifth time in the history of congress the office of clerk of the house of representatives becomes of supreme political importance. No party has a majority in the house-elect of the Sixty-fifth congress. The process of organization of the new house must begin with the clerk of the present house presiding until a speaker is elected. By time-honored practice fashioned after the rule of the British Parliament, the clerk in the next former congress takes the chair and holds it until the speaker is chosen. That practice, with one exception, has been followed in the American house ever since the first congress.

Congress had been running along smoothly for fifty years on this understanding when, in 1839, a house was elected which was politically so heterogeneous a mass that just what were the duties of the clerk as presiding officer came seriously into question. The first clerk to be entangled by difficulty was Hugh A. Garland of Virginia in the Twenty-sixth congress—1839. A house had been elected without any party having a majority, the parties then contending for power being whigs and democrats. It proved to be the most disorderly and uncontrollable house that had met in the history of congress. Garland, who had been clerk in the preceding congress, according to custom, took the chair at the opening of the Twenty-sixth congress and proceeded to call the roll. The call had got as far as the state of New Jersey, when the clerk stopped, calling attention to the fact that the claims of five of the seats from that state were in dispute and saying it was for the house to decide what action should be taken as to them.

The members of the house had been expecting trouble over New Jersey's representation. That state had a law providing for the election of its six members en bloc, the six receiving the highest number of votes being elected. It had been a very close election, with both whigs and democrats claiming victory and charging fraud against each other. One party brought certificates from the governor and the other certificates from the secretary of state. The whigs had the governor, and when the clerk failed to call the names of the five members who had the governor's certificates there was an angry protest from the house whigs. The clerk refused to proceed until the house decided the question for itself. The democrats were quite as insistent and vehement as the whigs, charging fraud and declaring the clerk had no right to yield to the dictation of the whigs. Thereupon arose a long and acrimonious debate as to the duties of the clerk. It continued ten days, at times it was characterized by the wildest disorder. The sergeant-at-arms was kept busy with his mace, trying to restore order and prevent members from riotous conduct. Words led to blows and there were not a few fistful fights.

It was the venerable John Quincy Adams then in his seventy-second year and serving his third term in the house since he had been president, who led the way to a settlement. Eloquently rebuking the house for the conduct which destroyed its usefulness, he ventured to put a question to it which called for a vote. Representative R. Barnwell Rhett of South Carolina offered a resolution that Mr. Adams preside until a speaker was elected. The resolution was adopted, and that after some days of debate led to the election of Robert M. T. Hunter (democrat) of Virginia, who had evinced a fair disposition toward the whigs, on the eleventh ballot.

The next close contest over the organization of the house occurred in the Thirty-first congress, when Clerk Thomas J. Campbell of Tennessee had to preside and Robert C. Winthrop of Massachusetts was chosen speaker, and again in the Thirty-fourth congress, when Clerk John W. Forney of Pennsylvania presided until Nathaniel P. Banks of Massachusetts was chosen speaker. Another political conglomerate composed the house. The whig party was about to break up, the republicans were growing and northern and southern democrats were at odds, though together they had a plurality of the strength. Banks was finally elected after a struggle from early in December until February 1. The next and last great struggle over organization, and the most seriously exciting to the entire country was in the Thirty-sixth congress, when James C. Allen of Illinois had to preside as clerk until a choice of speaker.

In each of the last prolonged contests for speaker over a hundred different members received votes in the balloting. In the Thirty-sixth over half the members were voted for. A resolution to vote for all the members alphabetically to try out their strength was seriously considered. One member thought the house ought to resolve to have a "fight" for speaker until a speaker was elected. On January 30 John Sherman, the republican candidate, who had been receiving the votes of his party all along, while the democrats were voting for first one and then another of their leaders, withdrew. On February 1 William Pennington (republican), who had been governor of New Jersey, was elected speaker. Then the much-tried clerk, James C. Allen, found relief. It was some time in April before the other officers of the house were elected. It is a singular fact that Pennsylvanians have held the office of clerk during half the life of congress, with Kentucky next in possession.

"South Trimble, present clerk, due to preside at the opening of the next congress, should approach the ordeal with no misgivings. He has been three terms a member of the house and has had an experience presiding over a legislative body and having a right to feel that he is equalled by any living man. He was speaker of the Kentucky legislature during the Goebel contest for governor, when not only Goebel lost his life by assassination, but within a month or thirty men were killed in and around the state capital, when the state militia backed by 2,500 armed mountaineers, sworn to prevent Goebel's seating, precipitated a period that tried the souls of all Kentuckians. Speaker Trimble so well acquitted himself that his people elected him to congress. Retiring at the end of his third term, he was elected clerk in the Sixty-second congress, a post in which he has more than met the expectations of his democratic supporters and won the approbation of all parties.

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THE DAY

Health Hint for the Day.

Antioxin is practically a sure preventive of diphtheria after exposure if given at any time before the disease is manifest and in large doses an almost sure cure if given within the first few hours after the development of diphtheria.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

British artillery bombarded French city of Lille, in possession of Germans. Germans for the first time reported fighting side by side with Turks in Persia. Reinforced Russian columns pushed new offensive against Turks in Caucasus along a 100-mile front.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Hon. W. R. Vaughan, who has been a resident of Council Bluffs for the last eighteen years, during which time he was mayor for five years, has removed with his interesting family to Omaha. Mrs. Vaughan is a sister of P. C. De Vol of the wholesale hardware firm of Rector, Winhelmy & Co. of this city. Mr. Vaughan is one of the most enterprising men alive, is way up in secret and benevolent organizations and will succeed in any venture that he may engage in.



of the signal service here, has arrived in the city and is stopping at the Merchants.

The Eastern Omaha Land company filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk, the incorporators being G. W. Holdrege, H. W. Yates, L. H. Fowler and R. C. Cushing, associating themselves together with a capital stock of \$50,000 for the purpose of buying and improving land in Douglas county, Nebraska, and Pottawattamie county, Iowa.

This Day in History.

1795—First patent for machine for heading and cutting nails granted to Jacob Perkins of Newburyport, Mass. 1809—Sir John Moore killed at battle of Corunna between the British and French.

1815—General Henry W. Halleck, chief commander of the federal army during the Civil War, born at Westerville, N. Y. Died in Louisville January 9, 1872.

1817—Alexander J. Dallas, secretary of the treasury under Madison, died at Trenton, N. J. Born in Jamaica, Westchester, N. Y.

1838—Lord Durham was appointed governor general of Canada, with special powers for dealing with rebellion.

1845—First territorial legislature of Nebraska convened at Omaha. 1845—Edward Everett, orator and statesman, died in Boston. Born at Dorchester, Mass., April 11, 1794.

1847—A bill passed both houses of congress providing for the admission of Colorado to statehood. (Voted by President Johnson.)

1890—Dr. Lyman Abbott was installed as pastor of Plymouth church, Brooklyn.

1910—Dawson City, Klondyke, almost destroyed by fire.

1910—Widespread boycott of meat was started at Washington by Anti-Food Trust league.

1912—President Taft warned the Cuban government that the United States would intervene if the military continued to interfere in political affairs.

The Day We Celebrate.

William H. Thomas, the real estate and loan man, has a birthday today. He was born in Utah in 1857. He is recognized as one of the best experts on real estate values in Omaha.

Rt. Hon. Ivor Churchill Guest, second Baron Wimborne, the present lord lieutenant of Ireland, born forty-two years ago today.

Robert W. Service, who has been named "the poet of the Yukon" and "the Kipling of the Arctic world," born at Preston, England, forty-one years ago today.

Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., retired, who commanded the battleship Maine when it was destroyed at Havana, born at Albany, N. Y., seventy-two years ago today.

George V. Hobart, well known as author and playwright, born at Cape Breton, N. S., fifty years ago today.

F. Erskine May, pitcher of the Philadelphia National league baseball team, born at Atlanta, Ga., twenty-six years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Today is the centennial anniversary of the death of Alexander J. Dallas, who was secretary of the treasury under Madison and father of the famous "United States Bank."

Republicans of New Jersey will gather in force today at Trenton for the inauguration of Governor Walter E. Edge and the other state officials chosen in November.

The inauguration of Governor James E. Ferguson, marking the beginning of his second term, will be celebrated in Texas, will take place today at Austin.

The Board of Health of New York City today will put into effect an order prohibiting the practice of "bloating" oysters, which is estimated to cost the consumers many thousands of dollars yearly.

Storyette of the Day.

The family were having guests to dinner, and a 6-year-old Edward had his supper alone and was sent to bed somewhat earlier than usual. The appetizing aroma of roast turkey, in which he had not shared, reached him as he lay awake pondering over his hard fate, and he decided to descend to the dining room and claim his rights.

But when father, beholding the small figure at the door, demanded sternly, "Well, sir, what do you want?" Edward's courage fell, and he answered apologetically, "I just came to see if you would lend me a bone when you're through with it."—New York Times.

The Bee's Letter Box

Hits a Responsive Chord. Manly, Neb., Jan. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice the article in The Bee, "What Are We Doing?" That is what I say, and the man who wrote that wrote the truth.

I was in the army in 1863, and well remember that time. If we could have had President Jackson or President Lincoln as president the last four years I know we would have nothing now to feel ashamed of. I voted for Wilson four years ago, but did not this last time, and it is my opinion that a goodly number now wish they had a good kicking machine so they could vote themselves a good kicking.

Yours on "Government and Good Roads" I think is fine and to the point. I came to Nebraska in 1890 and I am sure the roads in this section were kept up better under the system of that period than they are now.

What is done with the \$350,000 now paid in as auto license? The letter by Frank A. Agnew deals with a subject that we should all write about. If the fourteenth amendment to our constitution gives the negro the right to vote I say it is time we, who want to be law-abiding people, should see that they get their rights.

I like your paper and close with respects. W. B. ESSICK.

Plan of the League to Enforce Peace.

New York, Jan. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: When a movement as vital as the League to Enforce Peace is seen to be sweeping over the country, it is to be expected that doubters, objectors and maligners will arise. But would it not be a good plan if the league's opponents, before becoming vocal or rushing into print, should read the twenty-two words in the league's preamble, the 164 words contained in its four proposals and the sixty-five words added as the official interpretation of article III.

Thus in the senate last week no less a statesman than Senator Borah was moved to say: "Suppose the United States and Argentina and some of the nations of Europe enter into a league to enforce peace, and let us suppose that Argentina and one of the governments of Europe disagree in one of their disputes and Argentina refuses to submit its dispute to an international tribunal or to a council of conciliation."

Under the doctrine of the League to Enforce Peace we would not only have agreed that the European nations could come here and get into war with Argentina, but if we were called upon we would have to join with our army and navy to enforce the matter against Argentina.

This, of course, is a misstatement of the league's position. Article III of the platform, as interpreted by the executive committee, reads as follows: "The signatory powers shall jointly use forthwith their economic forces against any of their number that refuses to submit any question which arises to an international judicial tribunal or council of conciliation before issuing an ultimatum or threatening war. They shall follow this by the joint use of their military forces against that nation if it actually proceeds to invade another's territory."

It follows, therefore, that if Argentina refuses to refer its dispute with a European power to an international tribunal or council of conciliation, the other members of the league will not make war, but "forthwith use their economic forces" against it. Indeed, they will not proceed against Argentina at all with their military forces unless Argentina actually makes war on the European power. Of course, if it submits its case to a court of council and then is dissatisfied with the decision or recommendation it can then make war without any resistance whatsoever by the league.

A more flagrant misstatement of the position of the League to Enforce Peace is made by Mr. Roosevelt in his diatribe against the league in the February Metropolitan magazine. Says he: "The proposals of this league vary somewhat from time to time; but in their essence they are that nations shall arbitrate all questions and that

they shall agree to enforce the decrees of the arbitral court by war."

In the first place, the league's proposals have not been changed one iota since their adoption at Independence hall, Philadelphia, June 17, 1915. In the second place, there is no proposal whatsoever "to enforce the decrees of the arbitral court by war." The proposal is not even to enforce a reference to the court or council of conciliation by war. The only time that force can be invoked by the league is when the league proceeds against a nation that goes to war without first submitting its case to a court or council of conciliation.

The League to Enforce Peace enforces delay. It does not enforce a judgment. Is any American statesman unwilling to have the United States go that far?

LAUGHING GAS.

"As I was crossing the bridge the other day," said an Irishman, "I met Pat O'Brien. 'Brady,' says he, 'how are you?' 'Pretty well, thank you, Brady,' says I. 'That's not my name, 'Faith,' says he, and mine's not O'Brien. With that we agin looked at each other an' sure enough it was nashyer of us."—Boston Transcript.

Raggey—'Hey! You won't get nothin' worth eatin' in that place. Day's vegetarians. Raggey Higgins—'Is dat right? Raggey—'Yeh, an' dey got er dog wot ain't'—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I hear the coal barons are again raising prices." "That's foolish. The public are mad enough as it is, and this continual raising of coal only adds fuel to the flames."—Baltimore American.

DEAR MR. KABIBBLE, I AM GOING TO DESERT MY WIFE IN THE MORNING, SOME MORNING—WHERE SHOULD I LEAVE THE NOTE? —ZIMMY BLUNTZ.

NOT IN YOUR TROUSERS POCKET—SHE'LL KNOW ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE!

"There seems to be more business about the seaside resorts than about the mountains." "How do you explain it?" "Because there is less business in the mountains, but there is always more or less booming of the sea."—Baltimore American.

She—Do you think it will be all right for us after we are married to settle a couple of squares away from my family? He—'I was going to say a couple of states.'—Dallas News.

Bill—Isn't nature kind? Jill—What now? "See how darlin' it getting." "Well, then what?" "I have to pass my tailor's on my way home."—Tonkers Statesman.

"I want a dog for my suburban place, but not one to get into mischief. Do you know what kind of dog is apt more than another to steal eggs?" "No, I don't, but I suppose it is a setter."—Baltimore American.

Babeon—Why do you always take a taxi home from the club night? Bibber—When I arrive at my door and learn how much the fare is, it sobers me instantly.—Boston Transcript.

THE BAGGAGE MAN.

Washington Star. We often blame the baggage man and say he lifts a trunk for fun, as high up as he can. "Then let 'em fall!" Yet patiently he hurries round amid the dust and gloom. Until at last your things are found down in the baggage room. He uses brains and muscle, too. To save the luggage fine: Likewise the boxes, far from new. Made shut with pins and twine. He sees a glad procession go. But never joins the throng. For he must hustle, there below, To help the crowd along.

He asks no praise, he fears no blame. When weary tempers flare, And handles 'em with care. When work is done, for mild repose, A comic page he'll scan; And 'mongst the gibes he reads are those About the baggage man.

Owl Fire Sale A Great Success The \$20,000 fire sale, which started at the Owl Drug Co. Monday Morning, was a howling success, as the store was packed all day Monday, and goods were carried out by the armfuls. We shall continue the sale today (Tuesday), and possibly through Wednesday until every bottle and package of fire singed or smoke-smelling goods are closed out. Ask anyone who attended this sale what they think of the bargains obtained. Nothing was sold for over half price, and much at one-third regular price, and in some instances less than this. There were thousands of items, and are still hundreds left. Come today or tomorrow if you wish to avail yourself of these really, truly bargains. Sherman & McConnell Drug Company The Owl Store. 16th and Harney.

Try this easy way to clear your skin with Resinol Soap. Resinol Soap contains for harsh, injurious alkali, and is not artificially colored, for rich brown coloring entirely due to the Resinol balsam oils. It is sold by all druggists and dealers in toilet goods. Physicians have prescribed Resinol Ointment for over twenty years in the treatment of skin and scalp affections.