

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Deight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of November, 1912, was 49,805.

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

Come on, boys, there is plenty of room for the Good Fellows.

Red Cross stamps may still be had for the buying. Help down the white plague.

It's a wise kleptomaniac who knows just where dentists keep the gold they use for filling teeth.

A young aviator who had been in the business eighteen months meets death. At that, he was an old veteran.

Despite all the oleaginous talk handed out to him, Uncle Sam just insists on butting into the Butter trust.

Pouring oil on troubled waters is always dangerous, for some incendiary is sure to happen along with a match.

That idea of revising names of old warships for new vessels might lead to altogether too much confusion in history.

"No cold weather this week," says the weather man, being a friend of the clerk and the belated early shopper.

Judging from the distribution of pardons, Santa Claus seems to have begun his round of Nebraska at the penitentiary.

What most of us cannot understand is why so much fuss should be made over the shooting of a man by a woman in Paris.

B. Fay Mills doubtless wishes he had run across the fiscal agent of the bull moosers some years earlier in his campaign.

A New York base ball team has taken from a Chicago team, via Cincinnati, the biggest chance either of these ever had.

Those bull moosers all enlisted for principle only, but it goes without saying that none of them will shy at a public payroll job.

If only the job hunters greet President-elect Wilson upon his return, he will be sure of a tremendous welcoming concourse.

In every city every great enterprise is put through by a comparatively few public spirited men. Omaha is no exception to the rule.

Anyway, that Nebraska code revision commission has scored a success in producing a fat bill for printing its voluminous report.

An election contest is too often like the proverbial bear's tail which the man who has setted it finds hard to hold on to and dare not let go.

When President Taft goes to Panama he will not have as heavy a personage to leave sitting on the lid as did his predecessor in office.

Governor-elect Sulzer is bubbling over so in anticipation of being transplanted to Albany that the suspicion is growing his name should be "Seltzer."

President-elect Wilson tried his hand at steering ships on his way home from Bermuda. Experience will help a lot on the old ship of state.

Why do the New York suffragettes walk to Albany to petition the governor when the trains are still running? Isn't their road to success hard enough?

The late Whitelaw Reid worked his way up in life from a newspaper reporter's job. We mention this fact by way of encouragement to the struggling young scribe.

Unwarranted.

The Bee takes it upon itself to resent the unwarranted imputation on the honesty of Omaha people so recklessly made by one of our local contemporaries.

Because the lights went out for a few minutes in a big department store crowded with Christmas shoppers, the wholesale charge is blazoned without a scintilla of foundation that thousands of dollars of goods were stolen during the period of darkness.

This charge is manufactured out of a wicked assumption that every one doing Christmas shopping in Omaha is dishonest, and only waiting for a favorable opportunity for thieving propensities. For the good people of Omaha, The Bee denies this vigorously and emphatically. We agree with the head of the big department store in question, who promptly, and without hesitation, disclaimed any notion that darkness could convert his patrons into plunderers.

Take it from us that the men, women and children who constitute the army of Christmas shoppers in Omaha are thoroughly honest, and wholly undeserving of reflection upon their integrity.

The Butter Trust.

The government's suit to dissolve the alleged Butter trust must strike a chord of vital interest because of the prime necessity for the commodity. What most concerns the consumer is that butter reaches abnormal prices at a time of plenty and becomes so easily subject to the manipulation of commercial greed. It is not a question so much as to the power behind the movement, as it is to remedy conditions that seem oppressive. The government's information is that 60,000 tons of butter are held in storage against natural distribution, nullifying the law of supply and demand while the market is raised or lowered to suit the avarice of those in control. Evidently the government has reached this case none too early and the hope of every consumer will be that it will succeed in destroying the monopoly, if there is one, as every evidence indicates.

Whitelaw Reid.

Whitelaw Reid belonged to that old-fashioned aristocracy of patriotism that believed citizenship involved a responsibility of personal service and so as soldier, journalist and diplomat he rendered his best powers unto his country. And had fortune decreed his elevation to the vice-presidency, for which he ran with President Harrison, he would have brought to this office the same superlative powers that he gave to every other. His distinction as one of the conspicuous American ambassadors at the Court of St. James was but the cap-sheaf of an abundantly fruitful career.

Mr. Reid's part among that celebrated group of editors characterizing the Greeley campaign and the period immediately following first stamped the impress of his dynamic character upon the minds of his countrymen. The death of the melancholy Grepley gave him the position of editor-in-chief of the New York Tribune, whose destiny he continued to direct until his death. In later years being the owner of the paper. With all his great service to his nation at foreign capitals, his official powers were no more dedicated to the permanent upbuilding and progress of American institutions and prosperity than were those exercised in his private capacity as editor.

A providential coincidence attaches to his death transpiring a few weeks before, in pursuance of custom, he would have laid down this mantle which he wore with such distinguished honor to his government and Great Britain.

The Archibald impeachment trial has become threedom to the senators sitting as a court. Yes, but just wait until federal judges are impeached in the court of public opinion, and the verdict awarded by popular vote.

A half-carat diamond was found in the gizzard of a Minnesota chicken. That's nothing, a particle of anthracite coal was once discovered in the craw of a Nebraska rooster.

But will the party coming into power remember Mr. Bryan's version, that a platform is binding for what it omits as well as for what it includes?

The Millionaire.

The late Senator Bayner left a fortune of \$1,000,000. We may yet witness the approach of an era when a man can be known as a democrat without feeling it necessary to starve to death or keep his pockets turned inside out.

Premature Peace Talk.

Somebody should drop a hint to General Miles that this is not the time to predict peace. With the army and navy bills coming up, the season now opens for Japanese invasions and German war scares.

The Rule of Reason.

One reason why the women like to do their Christmas shopping early is that it affords them so many more opportunities to take back their various purchases and exchange 'em.

Looking Backward This Day in Omaha. COMPILED FROM BEE FILES. SEPT. 17.

Thirty Years Ago—

Rev. W. J. Harsch preached at the First Presbyterian church on the subject, "Your Speech."

It has been decided to continue the Social Art club exhibit a few days longer. Rev. Dr. Stelling's sermons on "The Redial Son" are attracting large audiences.

Dr. Coffman has been receiving congratulations on the arrival of a brand girl in his household.

Hon. J. A. McShane left for Chicago. Hon. J. M. Bennett and wife have gone on a trip to Utah, N. Y.

John McCreary left to join his family in California. M. Heilman, the clothier, accompanied by Albert Chinn, started for New York on a purchasing tour.

The Emmitt Monument association is preparing for a grand ball next month, with E. P. McCreary chairman of the executive committee in charge.

A bunch of keys found at Thirteenth and Jones streets is awaiting the owner at Coldin & Co's drug store.

Twenty Years Ago—

W. D. Mellough went to Portland, Ore. to take depositions in a law suit to be gone until the last of the month.

Mrs. Clara Riley was home from Chicago, where she visited her sister, Mrs. T. S. Dillon, for four months.

Mrs. Annie Bosen of London, Eng. it was announced, would be the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Jensen during her stay in Omaha.

A gasolene street light burned at night. The Metropolitan Street lighting company having failed to pay its debts, was attached by the Sun Vapor company and the lights went into the charge of the sheriff, who refused to turn them on.

Three new followers of Blackstone were added to the list of legal luminaries in Omaha, John W. Battin, Charles S. Dickey and Paul Bergen, all of whom blossomed out into full-fledged young lawyers.

The election of George Gould as director of the Union Pacific in Boston the day before was received with evidence of satisfaction in Omaha, where he was regarded as the logical successor on the board of his late father, Jay Gould, J. H. Millard, president of the Omaha National bank and member of the Union Pacific directory, expressed a very favorable opinion of the road's future, saying: "It is a well-known fact that there are many croakers against the Union Pacific—street cleaners in the employ of the rival Chicago roads—who impair the standing of the road and who constitute a standard of services for no other reason than that they are jealous of its success."

Ten Years Ago—

The second annual meeting of the Nebraska Real Estate Dealers' association was convened by President James Conkling of Franklin, Rev. E. Comble Smith, pastor of the First Methodist church, pronounced the invocation. C. K. Harrison made the address of welcome and J. A. Slater of Minden responded.

It was announced in Council Bluffs that the Council Bluffs electric street railway lines had been absorbed in the Omaha system and Frank Murphy would be president of the joint company. Guy C. Barton was in New York completing details of the transaction with the Seligman's.

Mr. Irwin, 1304 South Twenty-eighth street, was run over by a boy coasting down the incline at Twenty-eighth street and Poppleton avenue and was lying at her son's residence, 1148 South Twenty-eighth street, with a broken leg. She did not see the boys' sled soon enough to dodge it and it knocked her down, striking her on the leg.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Lemist, Mrs. Bourke and Major General Bates were guests of Judge Woolworth and Mrs. Howard in the evening.

Miss Rogers, Miss Lomax, Miss Gore, Fred Nash, Louis Nash and Mrs. Charles S. Young made up one of the theater parties at "Carmen" in the evening.

People Talked About

Spugs are responsive to the season's touch, but object to having a good thing overworked.

Two Chicago couples have secured health certificates as well as the license which insures Dean Sumner's benediction on their holiday union.

Sweden's king will not award the Nobel peace prize this year. The limousine of peace has a few busted tires and repair shops are some leagues away.

New York's smoke inspectors are to be equipped with powerful binoculars and quartered on the tops of skyscrapers. If they fall to spot smoke smudgers, they are armed, it is all off with their elevating jobs.

As an outlet for their surplus energy, the suffragettes of Denmark are to undergo military service on equal terms with men. So it is whispered in Copenhagen. Woe to the warring nation that tackles Denmark then.

Miss Dora Keen, daughter of Dr. W. W. Keen of Philadelphia, had some remarkable experiences in Alaska. She was the first woman to travel through the Skolai Pass and was the only one of her sex to climb Mount Blackburn, a feat that requires five weeks.

A four-round hammer and claw fight between two women scrappers in Chicago became so warm that both lost their clothes, causing a modest male spectator to beat a knockdown on the opposite wall of the ring, while the women hustled for safety pins. The battle was pronounced a scream and a draw.

Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, who is the chief on the British side of the Panama canal toll dispute, received last winter the unusual honor of being allowed to write the mystic letter "K. G." after his name. He was the first commoner to be made a Knight of the Garter since Sir Horace Walpole.

NEBRASKA AND THE SHORT BALLOT

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: A recent issue of The Bee contained an editorial deploring the complexity of the Omaha ballot. You ask "How is the short ballot to be obtained?" This is really not a very difficult question, though the process of doing the thing may require some time and considerable effort.

There are a few very simple and obvious things to be done in most of our states if any wish to obtain the short ballot without modifying radically the present form of government. Take for example the ballot which was used in your city on November 5.

The presence of the presidential electors covers considerable paper, but is not a serious matter from our standpoint. The voters understand perfectly well that the thing to do is to vote in the circle opposite the names of the United States electors. They understand that the electors are simply dummies and that there is no particular harm done if any one or more of them happens to be personally offensive. Anybody will do for a presidential elector.

Following the presidential part of the ballot comes the preference vote for United States senator. Not many people take it, at the present time, would seriously argue to have the United States senatorship removed from the ballot. The office is one of utmost importance, and more than that, it is a political one. According to every dictate of democracy, the United States senatorship should have been on the ballot long before now.

As to the governor, it would be out of the question to suggest, in the present state of public opinion, that there be some other method of selecting the officer than by direct popular vote. The time may come when we will see that it is not absolutely essential that the people should vote directly upon chief executives. England gets along very well by allowing the party in power to find its own head. But for the present, let the governor stay.

There is considerably less reason for a lieutenant governor. New Jersey gets along very nicely without one, but if we are to continue electing the governor, we are to have a lieutenant governor, we might as well keep him on the ballot too.

Following the lieutenant governorship there appear on the ballot the names of candidates for secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, state treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, attorney general, commissioner of public lands and building and railroad commissioner. As a group these officers may be considered as heads of administrative departments. None of them is required or expected to initiate and public policies in which a great body of citizens has any interest. In any private organization they would be put under the control of the chief executive, who corresponds, of course, to the governor.

This in fact is the method which has been proposed by the short ballot committees in Ohio and Illinois, and a beginning of such program has already been made in California. Of course, there will be those who argue that the governor at the present time has sufficient appointing power and that to give him any more would be an invitation to him to build up a personal machine. This argument is not altogether without merit, but note one or two considerations: Who appoints these officers now? Theoretically, the people; practically, however, the people have abdicated this function and they go more or less blindly down this column voting for the party choice. Now go back one step further: You have the direct primary system of nomination, if the writer is not mistaken. Is it not true that in the last analysis the party candidates for these ministerial offices are suggested by someone very influential in the party? When you get down to bed rock, therefore, is it not true that the chief administrative officers of the state are appointed, not by a responsible officer, but by a party leader who may or may not be solicitous for the good of the government? Now, you suggest that the governor of the state to institute economic and to conduct an efficient administration. How can you honestly expect him to do this unless you give him the

choice of instruments? It is not necessary that the heads of departments be personal friends of the governor; by any means. It would not detract essentially from his responsibility, if he were obliged to select his subordinates from an eligible list of candidates secured by competitive examination. Within the last two or three years the progress of the civil service reform movement has demonstrated that it is possible to secure by a merit system the very best qualified persons to fill some very high offices. The city of New York, for example, selected its fire chief in this way and undoubtedly obtained the very best qualified man for the position. The city of Chicago selected its librarian in the same manner. May it not be that the heads of state departments could very well be chosen thus?

We have proceeded now about four feet down the ballot. The next officer is the congressman from the Second district. It is perfectly obvious that this office should be filled by ballot.

Now come your state senators. The obvious way to short the ballot in this connection is to select one senator from each district. The same philosophy applies to the state representative. Most states elect from small districts, and several of the states which have a multiple system like yours are taking more or less active steps to get away from it.

The county attorney, in the opinion of the writer, should continue to be elective; but there is no good reason that he have been able to discover why the assessor should be continued as an elective office. The business of assessing property is that of an expert, and when you throw the office open to politicians it is almost certain to fall into the hands of a man who is unqualified because of lack of training for the work. Why could not the assessor be made an appointee of the county commission?

The county commissioner is next on the list. If there is any virtue in the commission form of government, it is in the concentration by the voters in the county board. The tendency in county reorganization is to bring the business functions of the county under the undivided control of the county commissioners. The sheriff and county attorney are judicial officers and some other method of selection should be provided in their case.

Is there any special reason why justices of the peace should be elective? Why could they not be appointed to better advantage by a higher court? The same logic applies with much greater force to constables. In the county there is often conflict of authority between three distinct bodies of peace officers—first, the sheriff; second, the police force of incorporated cities; and third, the constables. You may be interested to know that in the charter recently adopted in Los Angeles, Cal., constables are to be appointed by the sheriff from an eligible list furnished by the civil service commission.

As for the election of thirty-two deputy assessors; that is positively the biggest joke that was ever put on a ballot. That party circle at the right reminds one of the book agent who shows an order book under your nose and a pencil into your hand and says: "Sign here please."

If some such methods as those which are outlined above were to be applied, you would have then only the following elective officers: First, presidential electors; second, United States senators; third, governor; fourth, lieutenant-governor; fifth, congressmen; sixth, one state senator; seventh, one state representative; eighth, one county attorney; ninth, one county commissioner. This would constitute the most conservative kind of short ballot treatment. It may require considerable constitutional amendment, but isn't it worth it? Much however, can doubtless be accomplished by statute.

We hope that the citizens of Nebraska will wake up to the fact that before they can derive the best results from direct primaries and the interests of direct legislation, they will have to do something with the frightful ballot, which is considerably longer, in our sense of the long ballot, than anything else which has ever come our way. Yours very truly, H. S. GILBERTSON, Assistant Secretary.

TAFT FOR SUPREME BENCH

Appointment Probable in Case a Vacancy Occurs. Louisville Courier-Journal (dem.).

Hot upon the heels of the news that President Taft has been considering an offer of the Kent professorship of law at Yale comes the news that it is believed that President Wilson will offer him the first vacancy upon the supreme bench.

William H. Taft upon the supreme bench would be a valuable man in the right place. He still has before him, if he is destined to live out his "expectancy," to use a term familiar in life insurance parlance, many years of usefulness. His training fits him for the supreme bench much better than his temperament ever fitted him for the presidency.

President Taft is not at all an unpopular man, although he has proven so good a republican in the White House that he was not a popular candidate for re-election. He is respected for both ability and integrity, despite the fact that as president he has found it somewhat difficult to harden his heart toward friends who believed—until the recent election—that it was possible for the republicans to continue in the old ruts and remain in power.

President Wilson has been silent as to his intentions. It is improbable that the Washington rumor as to the appointment of President Taft to the supreme bench results from leakage. More probably it is guesswork, but the guess is not unreasonable.

The Kent professorship at Yale is an honorable post that is vacant and would be admirably filled by the former president, but the popular feeling will be that he would be capable of rendering larger service upon the supreme bench than in a chair at a university. If president Wilson should offer him the first vacancy occurring, the tender of the place would not be considered a mere graceful compliment, or merely a tactful and politically act upon the part of a president. It would indicate a sincere desire to strengthen the supreme bench.

KNOCKS AND BOOSTS.

Waterloo Gazette: It is a merry little war that has been started between the merger of the Omaha and South Omaha newspapers, and Victor Rosewater is coming in for much abuse because of recommending same. But will it avail, since it seems to be following the policy of the department in similar cases?

Omaha Examiner: By his successful efforts in securing the consolidation of the Omaha and South Omaha postoffices, Dec. Vic. Rosewater has got himself much disliked by the people of the latter city. He certainly did stir up a hornet's nest, and he's liable to be stung several times before the indignant South Omahans resume their normal temper.

Newman Grove Reporter: The Omaha Commercial club is taking into itself the credit for a big increase in Nebraska's corn crop this year. It is true that the credit belongs to the giver of all things. The season was much more favorable this year than last and farmers had a better opportunity to raise a corn crop. We believe in the new methods of farming and think when they are generally understood and adopted there will be a great improvement in farm profits, but credit should be given where it is due.

Western Laborer: Victor Rosewater manages to do big things that are unpopular. His putting South Omaha into Omaha in a federal way by making the South Omaha postoffice a substation of the Omaha postoffice is unpopular in the Omaha fourth.

THESE GIRLS OF OURS.

"Miss Croxon, am I free to call you 'Imogene'?" "Indeed, Mr. Squinchley, I consider that entirely too free."—Chicago Tribune.

"When she wasn't looking I kissed her." "What did she do?" "Refused to look at me for the rest of the evening."—Cleveland Leader.

Post—My fancy paints my dear love's face to me. "Friend—I'll bet your fancy isn't half as good on the job as your dear love's maid."—Baltimore American.

The young man was figuring out ways and means. "They say two can live as cheaply as one." "Do not delude yourself, Ferdinand, said the girl. 'For one thing, I shall positively have to have a separate car.'"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Mrs. Wombat is quite a resourceful woman." "As to how?" "She never can remember on which end to endorse a check, so she indorses 'em on both ends, and really the idea works very well."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mrs. Datus—is your daughter marrying well? "Mrs. Argo—My dear, she'll never need to worry where the gasoline is coming from."—New York Globe.

AMBITION.

Boston Globe: When he made just three plunks a week He thought it his happiest Young business man alive.

He finally got five a week, But wasn't happy then; He never would be satisfied 'Till he pulled down ten.

When he got ten he thought His compensation mean; He knew he'd reach his heart's desire If he could get fifteen.

He got his fifteen, then he knew A person could not thrive In this expensive day and age On less than twenty-five.

He finally got twenty-five, The sum he thought so nifty, But found he couldn't be content And live on less than fifty.

He got his fifty one fine day, And then he found out that He never could be happy quite Without one hundred flat.

He made some wise deals after that And gathered in a million, But was he happy? No, indeed— He had to have a billion.

And it is safe to say that if He really got his billion, Old age would find him fighting to Accumulate a trillion.

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