

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. By mail per month. Daily without Sunday. Evening and Sunday.

REMITTANCE. Remit by draft, express or postal order. Only two-cent stamps received in payment of small accounts.

OFFICERS. Omaha—The Bee Building. South Omaha—213 N. street. Council Bluffs—14 North Main street.

CORRESPONDENCE. Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

NOVEMBER CIRCULATION. 52,531

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the average daily circulation for the month of November, 1914, was 52,531.

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

All aboard! New Year's the next stop!

Well, we trust your Christmas fully met all expectations.

It is the wrong system, though, when the only way to avoid the strap-hanging habit is to foot it.

Owing to time and distance, Senor Huerta probably made no effort to get a Christmas present to President Wilson.

Prohibition might make Nebraska dry but it could not take the effervescence out of a state so interesting and resourceful.

Paraphrasing a Burnsian, let us be charitable and constant enough to say that a friend's a friend for a' that and a' that.

Mr. Bryan is opposed to dancing and yet he has kept a lot of hungry home folks pirouetting on their toes for nearly two years.

In attempting to say that "Shell fire plays many pranks," the headline lost the initial "S" and yet lost none of the real meaning.

Poultney Bigelow warns Americans to get ready for "a German invasion." Let's see, what other similar warning was it that Poultney once sounded?

"Are we defenseless?" cries the esteemed New York Commercial. No, brother, not with 7.4 inches of snow covering the surface of the winter wheat belt.

Speaking of relief for European war victims and a few peaceful mendicants in our homeland, a St. Louis millionaire recently spent \$20,000 on his fair young daughter's debut party.

Tammany is the backbone of the fight the senate is making on President Wilson—Kansas City Star. If that be true, then some of our good democratic senators have been misleading us.

The reinforced concrete manufacturers may be depended on to work into their next batch of advertising the fact that their material is being used to make the war trenches impregnable.

Yet it was hardly necessary for Congressman Vollmer to go to the extent of calling Washington a brewer, Jefferson a distiller and Lincoln a barkeeper to defeat the Hobson resolution.

On the showing made of Dundee's success in tapping Omaha's treasury for public improvements without contributing, our other suburbs must either wake up or admit their inferiority.

The last time Nebraska discontinued the supreme court commissioner system we all thought we had done it for good, and joyfully exclaimed, "Good riddance to bad rubbish." Why try to revive it now?

In making up his list for state-wide federal appointments, our democratic United States senator does not give Omaha a smell. Evidently, the senator thinks that by holding his own job, Omaha is fully taken care of.

And yet back of all the reasons given in the various blue, white, yellow and scarlet papers and books why this nation and that went to war, one may guess that each set about it to knock the everlasting daylight out of the other.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha. The cold wave seems to be slightly abating. Complaints are made of the condition of the street cars with reference to other cities, where the companies have enterprises enough and are liberal-hearted enough to heat their cars. Complaints are also made of the freerzing of gas pipes, charged to the fact that the gas is so-called water gas.

N. B. Falconer, the popular dry goods man, was remembered for Christmas by his employees with a beautiful leather upholstered easy chair.

C. W. Higgins of the Nebraska National bank reports a number of counterfeit bills in circulation.

J. B. Piper of this city and Miss Emma Knapp of Greenwell, Conn., were married at the residence of the bride's sister, Mrs. Reynolds, on Twentieth and Leavenworth streets.

Mrs. May Clark, who has been attending school at Detroit, is spending the holidays with her mother.

Irving S. Smith, a prominent railroad man from Chicago, spent Christmas with his sister, Mrs. Weston.

Miss Nellie Lynch of Fremont, O., has come to Omaha to reside with her sister, Mrs. Jacobs, on Clark street.

Not Forward, but Backward.

The resolution of the local bar association favoring a return to the supreme court commission system strikes us as a step backward, when we should go forward.

True, there is a severe congestion of cases on the supreme docket, but our experience with a supreme court commission on two former occasions was not such as to encourage us to resort to the same makeshift again. The first commission, as we recall it, was made up by appointment of the governor, and the appointments were naturally prompted by political considerations, while the second commission, with membership chosen by the supreme court, resulted in a distribution of the places so that each judge named one commissioner in rotation by the same plan that they would have selected three special masters or referees. The composition of the commission, however, was open to less objection than the character of their work, nothing they did being accepted as final, and nearly every case of importance going to a rehearing, either before another branch of the commission or before the judges themselves. The hodgepodge of reversals, contradictions and unreconcilable opinions that put the Nebraska supreme court reports further below par than ever, covers the supreme court commission.

The law's delays, due to accumulation of supreme court cases, is a serious and intolerable evil that calls for remedy. But we cannot persuade ourselves that the re-establishment of the supreme court commission is the only remedy, or the best remedy, or that it would be a permanent remedy, especially when there are other ways to deal with this situation—ways that have proved eminently successful in other states that have no larger supreme court than ours.

Consistent in One Place.

President Wilson may not act consistently with all that Woodrow Wilson, the author, or Dr. Wilson, the university executive, taught concerning government, but in the matter of the president's power of appointment there seems to be perfect harmony. Said Mr. Wilson in "The State," written in 1889:

"The constitution vests in the president the power of appointment, subject to no limitation except the possible advice and consent of the senate. Any act which assumes to prescribe the manner in which the president shall make his choice of public servants must, therefore, be merely advisory; the president may accept its directions or not as he pleases. The only force that can hold him to the observance of its principle is the force of public opinion."

Certain senators, among them Reed and Stone of Missouri, O'Gorman of New York, even Martine of New Jersey, if not our own democratic senator from Nebraska, are doubtless ready to agree that here is one place in which President Wilson is keeping the faith of Author Wilson to the very dot. It may be one of the fortuitous circumstances in the course of democratic administrations for the president to fall out with the senate over patronage, but even so, the fact remains that President Wilson is consistent on this point, at least, with the stern literalism of a good Scotch-Irish Presbyterian.

A Vanishing Bribe.

President Ripley of the Santa Fe railroad has forbidden employes of his road receiving Christmas presents from equipment supply houses, issuing the ultimatum in the following letter:

"Most individuals and companies dealing in railroad supplies have given up the practice of sending Christmas presents to railroad employes and officials. However, to a certain extent the practice was in evidence last year. I have always been opposed to this practice, have discouraged it, and am glad that it is decreasing. I want Santa Fe men to take such action as seems proper to eliminate it entirely. I appreciate that many of the presents given are tokens of friendship extending over many years; nevertheless, the practice is bad, and certainly so where the presents have any value. The high standing enjoyed by Santa Fe men makes it all the more desirable that the practice cease."

As President Ripley says, this graft-breeding custom is gradually disappearing. It is one of the many vanishing forms of polite bribery that once figured largely in the "old order" of railroad management. Of course, it seems quite harmless for a friend who happens to be the purchasing agent of a railroad to receive and accept a nice Christmas present from a friend who is connected with an equipment supply house. It is just a friendly token, and yet how natural its pressure on the purchasing agent to stretch a point in favor of this present-giving friend when the time comes to reciprocate.

President Ripley puts it very tactfully when he says that the high-standing of the railroad men makes it all the more desirable that the questionable practice cease. Surely, the old order changeth, and as our humorist friend puts it, "Tempus does fugit."

Nepotism.

Although it failed of enactment, a bill suggested by The Bee, and sponsored by Representative Smith, in the last session of our Nebraska legislature, aiming to do away with nepotism in public office, struck a popular chord by striking a flagrant abuse. Because a man is elected to office, it does not follow that the people commissioned him to saddle upon the payroll his brother, sister, wife, son or daughter, although that seems to be the way many public officers have construed it. The fact that a man or woman has a relationship connection with some one in the public service, should not be a bar to competitive positions awarded for merit, but neither should it be an assurance of special favor in preferment and promotion. For obvious reasons, "public office is a family snap" is just as odious as "public office is a private snap." The anti-nepotism bill should be brought out again in the coming legislature, and written on the statute books.

Assuming control of the Fifth district patronage as congressman-elect, ex-Governor Shallenberger finds himself in the awkward predicament of having endorsed certain post-office applications still pending. Writing letters asking some one else to appoint a man, however, is decidedly different from taking the responsibility of appointing him yourself.

While it takes the severest tests of the elements to produce the old oak, king of the forests, it also requires a continuation of vigorous winds and storms to maintain its monarchy. Strong characters are kept strong very often only by the severest trials and tests of life.

The Mysterious Dum Dum

The national arsenals do not make dum dum bullets. They do not have to. Any soldier can "dum-dum" his own bullets, and many of them do so. Hence very largely, the charges and countercharges that we have heard during the present war. This statement is quoted by the Literary Digest from an article contributed to the Technical World Magazine by a writer signing himself "A. L.," who hides behind these initials, we are told in an editorial note, the personality of "an American who has devoted many years to the study of ballistics and military organization." His conclusions are that many wounds attributed to dum dums are due to ordinary bullets striking sidewise or "keyholing," and that such real dum dums as there are made by the combatants themselves, on both sides.

"Every jacketed rifle-bullet," he writes, "ever designed is potentially a dum dum bullet. Every jacketed bullet may become one of the dum dum variety either by reason of nature's forces working on it or by the design of the man who dispatched it."

"And this much more is true: There never has been any armor—German, French, Belgian, English, Austrian, Russian, Serbian, Japanese, Boer or American—that has not used jacketed bullets that deliberately were made to dum dum."

"Permit me to make a momentary digression. I want to speak of the arrant nonsense so often printed in newspapers and magazines about 'steel-jacketed' bullets. There is no such thing. The modern small arms bullet consists of a core of lead and tin composition, surrounded by a jacket of cupronickel or cupro-nickel alloy. Were pure steel jacketing to be used they would rip the lungs right out of a rifle barrel."

"The cupronickel or cupro-nickel alloy jacket is just soft enough to take the rifling. And yet it is so hard—it has to be made so for almost obvious reasons—that after a hundred or so rounds have been fired there is barrel erosion not attributable only to the high-pressure, slow-burning powder used. This erosion increases in battle, because the firing line soldier has few opportunities to clean his rifle often enough."

"The modern jacketed bullet, whether it is of the round-nose or pointed-nose type, swings beautifully true through its trajectory—up to a certain (perhaps, I should say uncertain) point. After that it begins to keyhole."

"Instead of continuing on its long axis alone through rotary motion given it by rifling—it is the rotation which keeps the bullet on its course—the base of the bullet swings in a circle larger than its own circumference. When it does this the missile goes through the air with much the movement of a spinning top after it has been free a minute or two of the rotation-giving cord. This exaggerated rotation of the base is called keyholing."

"Keyholing may be due to one of many causes; it may result from an imperfection in the bullet itself (i. e., in shape, balance, weight in ratio to the powder charge, etc.), from erosion or rust in the rifle barrel, from atmospheric conditions, from decreasing velocity, etc. There is no way to gauge it. But the very fact that it is keyholing makes a bullet a splendid instrument to stop, abruptly and permanently, any living thing it hits."

"And if a pointed bullet is not keyholing from the causes enumerated above it is very likely to keyhole the minute it hits anything that provides real resistance to its easy penetration and continued flight, such as a belt buckle or a bone. There are instances, even, where the bullet commenced to keyhole when it entered the soft flesh, but in the main such instances occurred after the bullet had lost much of its velocity."

"The keyholing of a bullet upon contact occurs because the point is checked, albeit for only an infinitesimal fraction of a second, before the base of the bullet is checked. For, with the point engaged and checked the base starts to catch up with the point."

"What happens next depends upon how fast the bullet was traveling when it hit. If it still retains considerable velocity (or rather, energy), the bullet will spiral its way in fairly clean fashion through the object hit. But if it is moving with greatly impaired velocity—due to head wind or long flight or some similar cause—the keyholing bullet is very likely to imbed its point in a bone and then, unable cleanly to penetrate the bone, use its remaining energy to push the whole bone ahead of it."

"In other words, enough energy has been lost to prevent clean penetration, but sufficient has been retained to push impediments to its continued flight out of its path. The sharper the point of the bullet, the more likely it is to keyhole upon impact. This is 'stopping power' with a vengeance. The German bullet is sharp pointed. The United States bullet is the sharpest pointed of all."

"This keyholing naturally causes terrible wounds, which, in turn, bring forth the charge that dum dum (or explosive) bullets have been used."

"That much of the talk about dum dum bullets is the result of this 'keyholing' action of the ordinary projectile is the writer's belief. The writer, however, tells us, another side of the picture: the deliberate dum duming of the bullets by the men in the ranks. The arsenals, he assures us, do not have to turn out dum dum bullets. Any soldier desiring to accomplish the result can make the most 'civilized' bullet a dum dum by using his knife or bayonet to cut the jacket at the point, so that when the missile strikes the lead core will pour through. And Americans who are horrified at the reports of such 'uncivilized' doings in Europe may pause when they read that our own army has not been entirely stainless in this particular. Says this military expert:

"As a matter of fact this was done so often in the Philippines that the commanding officer of every company examined every individual cartridge on every individual soldier at morning inspection, to see that none had been tampered with. And a few hours later you could see many an enlisted man patiently 'sandpapering' his cartridges so that the jacket point would be worn to such thinness as would effect 'mushrooming' upon impact."

"Prof. Meisner, a German who has not lost his head and who thinks that the soldiers of the countries at war with his own are ethically the equals of his countrymen, said: 'The enforcement in war of international law or Hague covenants depends, in the last resort, upon the moral sense of the individual soldier.'"

"When we have reached this point in the exposition, observe the Literary Digest, it is not difficult to see that a soldier in the trenches who sees an enemy rushing at him and who knows from experience that a clean bullet hole will not stop him, is very apt to attach more importance to saving his own skin than to obeying the behests of The Hague convention."

People and Events

An order from abroad for 3,800 steds puts an Indiana factory in the double-shift class. From staying to sleighing is a matter of a few letters.

Measured by the money making possibilities of fortune telling as revealed in Chicago, Barnum's trisyllabic percentage of easy marks is entitled to a raise.

California sends out a warning that nobody should go to the coast looking for work. There isn't enough work to go around. But if you bring a bunch of money glad hands will welcome you at every station.

After a joy ride and a dinner, three Boston women, "just for fun," went on a shopping expedition and wound up in jail with \$40 worth of stolen goods in their possession. There was precious little fun in the finish.

George V. Laneressen of Reading, Pa., won the highest scholarship standing ever made by any student in the Pennsylvania State college. He is a member of the class of 1915 and holds the exceptional record of obtaining an average of 93.3 for his three years' work.

A divorced wife in Brooklyn, whose avocations has increased to 225 pounds, has good reasons for asking for an increase in her alimony allowance. The strain on shoelaces alone deserves an extra tip.

One thousand and ten Harvard students working their way through college took in \$11,229 in the last college year. In the most effective way these students are learning the real value of money.

The Bee's Letter Box

No German-Eater Here.

OMAHA, Dec. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: In answer to the British sympathizer and German-eater J. F. Weybright from Scott's Bluff, I must say he is very reasonable, for asking only \$100,000,000 from the United States for the relief of the Belgians. If the gentleman would look he could see who brought them into that mess and for that reason he should ask our secretary, Mr. W. J. Bryan, for the loan of the United States army and navy to help poor England to crush Germany. The Belgians, Japs, Sikhs and negroes will not help it very much. They are like the poor cruiser Cressy, that says: "Ich freude ste"—siber night. F. C. B.

A Chapter on the War.

BEAULIEU, Neb., Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: To write of a subject where the scene is laid thousands of miles away requires one to use his imaginative powers as resources to draw from. The actual results of the war picture as portrayed in the daily papers furnish the text about the war in the far east and its magnitude.

"That the results in awful destruction and destitution left in its wake has struck a responsive chord in the hearts of 'our own free America' is also evident. All over the land do we find shipments of tons of food, breadstuffs and clothing for those whose homes have been devastated by the cold and cruel hand of a 'causeless war' by what was once recognized as civilized nations."

"Commandable indeed is this spirit of our folks to thus remember the poor and needy ones in darkest hours. The Christmas spirit was indeed a happy thought. But let us stop and consider what we are contributing to. One of the requirements of war is that the best young men must be sent to the front in battle array with instructions to die for the country, if need be. To by the odor of the best blood of the land, the foreign countries stinks to heaven, and why? In the United States we find hearts bleeding in sympathy for the conditions set forth above. Where social conditions and sharp competition is imposing a new tax on the people. There is an army of unemployed men with families that need assistance. We have our giants of finance with multiplied millions, while others with less power in earning capacity in a struggle for existence in a reasonable degree."

"Are not we as a nation contributing to the delinquencies of nations whose spirit is out of harmony with the teachings of Him who once came into the world and said, 'Peace on earth and good will toward men?' Let us ever remember and never forget charity should begin at home, and let warring nations wash their hands of their own blood and beat their swords into plowshares and learn to war no more. T. J. HILDEBRAND."

To Help Filipino Juvenile Delinquents.

MANILA, P. I., Nov. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: The Juvenile Protective association of the Philippine islands was organized recently in the city of Manila for the purpose of bettering the human conditions of Filipino juvenile delinquents and establishing a model, up-to-date reformatory along the lines of the cottage-system.

Many distinguished and representative American and Filipino residents in the islands have joined the movement. Governor General Francis Burton Harrison and Vice-Governor Henderson E. Martin are in sympathy with the movement. The Juvenile Protective association stands for the following activities in child welfare:

- 1. Visiting nurses to the home of juvenile delinquents.
2. Children's libraries.
3. A juvenile court.
4. Probation officers.
5. Medical inspection and medical aid for juveniles.
6. An insular reformatory.
7. Vocational training of juveniles.
8. The placing out system for juveniles.

The association is now in need of funds to carry out this constructive program. Funds are needed immediately for the following activities:

- 1. For supplies, equipment and for building for children's library, \$8,000.
2. For building and equipment of insular juvenile reformatory, \$100,000.

I might say that there is no juvenile court, insular reformatory or children's library in the Philippine islands. All these activities are new features in Philippine life.

All persons desiring to help along such a worthy cause, should send their subscriptions to the undersigned. W. F. LA POINTE, President of the Juvenile Protective association of the Philippine Islands, Manila, P. I.

Belgium, Germany and the U. S.

LITCHFIELD, Neb., Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: Will you kindly let me answer Mr. Weybright's question, that instead of the Belgium relief fund why not ask Germany to feed the people that they have robbed? The sympathies of the American people are gradually turning to the German cause.

Why American abolitionists friendly toward England is beyond my comprehension. The menace to American interests lies in England's alliance with Japan and now that Japan demands to be taken into the "triple entente" the menace assumes gigantic proportions. Would England hesitate to join with Japan to crush us should we build up a competitive merchant marine? Does England stop at anything to gain its greed desires? Has England not allied itself with Japs, Hindus, Indians and the scum of the earth in order to destroy one of the most wonderful nations in the world. Germany? England's policy is one of oppression. Remember the winter of Valley Forge if you will. Recall the Boer struggle for freedom. Recall England's atrocities in Peru. Recall its history in India. England's cry to beware of German "militarism" is like the purse snatcher's cry of "stop thief" in order to distract attention from himself. England's navyism is the real menace to liberty and must be destroyed before we can have universal peace. What has America to fear from German militarism, if there be such a thing. The few English sympathizers in America are mostly British subjects. They tire you out talking about "Hold Hingham!" and apeing the monied lords. They would rather be a British subject than a citizen of America, "where every man is a sovereign, but where no one dares to wear a crown." Once an Englishman, always an Englishman. The German, Russian, Swede, Austrian and Dane become good American citizens. The Stars and Stripes are good enough for them to fight for and they are ready to die for the country of their adoption as proved at Vera Cruz. Poor bleeding and starving Belgium, its brave householders with rifle and drenched in blood. And yet it is but fair to remember how Belgium maimed Congo,

cut off arms and limbs, hands and fingers because the poor natives failed to produce the required amount of rubber to satisfy their Belgian masters. "He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword." And while we are helping the starving Belgians we must remember that to help Belgium is to help England. Belgium is England's goat. It was its alliance with England that forced it to stand up and be annihilated and as long as there is a loaf of bread or a dollar to buy one with in England, Belgium is entitled to eat.

In view of these facts I am at a loss to understand how Mr. Weybright figures that Germany should be forced to reimburse any nation now helping the Belgians. In fact, he doesn't seem to realize that the present outrageous slaughter in Europe is England's own making instead of Germany, and that its ambition to become mistress of the seas and to ally itself with Japs, Hindus, etc., to accomplish this end and thus make it master of the whole world should prove its own downfall. GEORGE GOWIN.

Expecting the Impossible. KANSAS CITY, Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: Why, how could any one expect the democratic party to run this great government when it was all the grand old republican party could do to run it? C. S. HAMMOND.

Information Wanted. St. Louis Republic. In order to give the public a fair start in thinking about the propaganda for a big army, will the big army men announce just who they expect the United States will have to whip and how big an army will be needed to do the job?

ARITHMETIC. Grip Alexander in Pittsburgh Dispatch. The ashman worked away with vim. His terms are far from small. Before a man can talk to him He's got to hire a haul.

Said J. "Well, here's a great to-do! I've asked fine to sell. And I must give them all to you. And give you cash as well!"

He showed me all his teeth and laughed. A laugh to raise the roof; And flashed an answer free from craft: "I've asked fine to sell."

"At fifteen cents a barrel flat. Ten barrels to the load. Each night 'tis mighty fishes that You tote to your abode."

Said he, "Well, sah, it's dish yere way! All business am a risk. Ah, mostly makes one load a day—Excusin' when trade's brisk."

"Ah, pays a quartah at de dump. An' dat don't make me holle. But when dem prices takes a jump It done cost half a dollar."

"An' dat 'ot' ornery boss o' mine Is needin' oats an' hay. Ah, guess his livin' ain't, too fine At sixty cents a day."

"Dump charges, standing, feed," I said. "Will eat up cash like ah. And wear and tear! Say, Uncle Ned, Just where do you come in?"

The look he flashed was bright and quick; His voice was soft, careassin'; "Ah's right smart at arithmetick, But dat sho has me guessin'!"



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