

First Shot of War With Germany.
Germany achieves the distinction of firing the first shot in the war with the United States. One of the kaiser's U-boats launched a torpedo, its target being a torpedo boat destroyer of the American fleet, which was missed.
This may be accepted as formally opening active hostilities and need not be looked upon as at all surprising. Last year the Deutschland and the U-53 demonstrated the ease with which vessels of their type could reach our shore, and the presence of enemy submarines in American waters has been expected from the beginning. Whether it is to establish a blockade of our Atlantic ports or to lurk in wait for a designated victim doesn't matter.
Our navy is now to have its chance to guard the home coasts. Elusive and dangerous as the submarine has proven, it can be combated, and the advice of Sir John Jellicoe, based on the experience of the British navy in dealing with the problem, will be of great service to our forces.
The incident will bring home forcibly that the war we have entered upon is not to be confined to land operations, nor to the exchange of messages. It is really in its sternest sense, waged against a foe that uses every means of destruction devised by science. None will falter because of this, however, and the power of the kaiser will be put down in time.

The President's Warning.
President Wilson's recital of the penalties for treason comes in good season. As he explains, these laws are not intended to check free speech, nor to restrict reasonable criticism of the government. None of our many privileges, however, is more abused than that of free speech, for the sovereign citizen dearly loves to scold and even berate those he elects to serve him in office. But the ignorant and irresponsible have flagrantly violated this right on many occasions, at times exceeding all decency in their verbal onslaughts on government in general and the government in particular. They have even gone so far as to burn the flag at a ceremonial demonstration, an act for which the chief instigator was properly sent to prison. Most of this folly has been patiently abided in time of peace, but the situation of the nation is now such that demands a curb on idle tongues. Sober speaking is a good practice for the citizen at all times, but especially now. Law yet reigns in the United States and punishment should surely follow its infraction. Americans can not and will not put up with traitors at home.
Put an End to the Discrimination.
Omaha shippers have won another point in the long fight to do away with the discrimination practices against this city by railroads, this time the Interstate Commerce commission declining to sanction an advance in freight rates on certain building materials. This gain, slight as it is, is gratifying and ought to encourage the Commercial club and its traffic bureau to keep up the fight. Especially is action needed in the glaring discrimination in favor of Kansas City on the passenger tariff out of Chicago. According to distance, the charge should be but 60 cents less to Kansas City than to Omaha, but according to tariff actually charged, the difference is \$2.05. The same lines serve both cities. Just why Omaha should suffer to this extent is not plain, but the \$1.45 differential in favor of our neighbor down the river has stood for some years now and it is almost time the discrimination was being done away with.
Health Hint from Switzerland.
The regulation of the Swiss government which prohibits the use of fresh bread is a health hint rather than a war measure. When the doctor orders you on a diet the first item in his list of forbidden things is fresh bread. The reason for this is plain; the chemical reaction that comes with baking is not complete until time for the evaporation of excess moisture has elapsed, thus making the day-old bread really the more palatable and nutritious; also, the drier the bread, the more thorough the mastication. All of this conduces to better digestion and consequently to better health. Finally, less bread is eaten to achieve the same result in nourishment and a saving in quantity is effected. "Stale" bread is actually the bread of good health, a fact long known to dieticians, but overlooked by Americans, who have pampered their teeth at the expense of their bodies.
Pan-American Unity in Evidence.
The solidarity of the nations of the three Americas is emphatically evinced by the attitude of the various governments in the present crisis. Action of the United States in meeting the German challenge is approved and commended by all, save Mexico, thus assuring us of the moral support desired above even the material in our difficulties. It means, if it means anything, that Americans of all divisions are coming closer together. Their interests and their problems are akin, and their dangers are common. This has been recognized since the original declaration of the Monroe Doctrine. The United States has long stood as a leader in the new world, and while our national growth has overshadowed that of the others, our concern has not lessened, till now we have reached a point where we can be of more service than ever to our smaller neighbors. A third of a century of Pan-American effort is now bearing fruit, and closer sympathy and greater concord of action between the Americas is certain for the future.
American war news censorship is to be a mild institution, tending more to gentle persuasion than hammer swings. In the early days of the Paris censorship persuasion won the admiration of the press. On one occasion an editor was persuaded to omit an objectionable article when in answer to the question, "What if I refuse?" the censor politely replied: "It will be my painful duty to confiscate your very excellent publication." A word to the wise in war time is sufficient.
Each passing week tightens Omaha's grip on the lucky thirteenth place in the nation's record of bank clearings. Minneapolis and New Orleans are taking our financial dust, and Los Angeles, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Denver and Buffalo trail far behind the corn belt pacemaker. Omaha's speed already menaces Cincinnati's hold on twelfth place.
If German emissaries were really trying to stir up a negro revolt in the south, as intimated, they would be making about as bad a mistake as any they have made—to say nothing of being doomed to dismal disappointment. It has been proved time and again that there is no color line in Americanism.

The Department of Agriculture Forests in Wartime.
By Frederic J. Haskin
Washington, D. C., April 15.—One of the unexpected little shortages that developed under the enormous demands for war material of the last three years was a lack of wood for gun-stocks. You cannot make a good rifle-stock out of any kind of wood; there are only a few woods that will do, and the very best of all is American walnut.
There was not enough seasoned American walnut to meet the demand. A rifle only lasts a month on the war-front, and the modern rifle has the stock running the full length of the barrel. There was a great cry from all the rifle factories for walnut. Plenty of green walnut was to be had, but very little seasoned. What was needed was a man who could devise a process for seasoning walnut in a few days or weeks, instead of waiting on nature to do it in long months. The man was found in the United States forest service.
He was loaned to the biggest rifle manufacturer in the country and he worked out a process for air-drying walnut that produced as fine a wood as any that could be seasoned. This man is said to know more about wood for rifle-stocks than any other expert in the world.
This is only an incident, a detail of one branch of the munition problem, but it is an important detail and a significant incident. It points to preparedness in the forest service, and the forest service has important work to do in war. Our forest resources will be a great asset to ourselves and our allies in this emergency.
Take the matter of so-called "naval stores," for instance. Naval stores is a term that covers the pine products which are needed in naval work—tar, pitch, turpentine and rosin. These products are essential to every navy. In 1799 the American congress appropriated \$200,000 to buy up a timber reserve in the south for purposes of naval construction. The timber bought was live oak, which was then the most valuable material for ship-building. In 1916 Henry S. Graves, chief forester of the United States, remarked that the congress would have done better to locate its timber reserves in the yellow pine forests instead of the live oak, since the naval stores yielded by yellow pine have become of far greater importance in the navy than timber itself.
Today the southern pine forests furnish 90 per cent of the naval stores used in the world. With infinite labor the French government has built up a smaller industry of the same sort on the barren sand dunes of southern France. Today such land with mature trees on it sells for \$160 an acre in France.
Since the French have had to plan and labor for the resources that nature gave to America gratis, they have developed the most efficient methods possible for utilizing what they have built up. The forest service laboratories have studied the French methods, and are introducing into our own south a system of tapping the trees for turpentine which will increase the total yield of a tree four-fold.
Another interesting thing in connection with the naval stores industry in war-time is the use of rosin in shrapnel. The space between the bullets in a shrapnel shell is filled with rosin. The powder used in such shells is also a wood product—black powder, made from charcoal. In spite of the universal use of smokeless powder, black powder is still used for the explosive charge in shrapnel. No great explosive force is needed for the purpose, and the cloud of smoke given off by black powder is just what the gunners need to mark the bursting point of their shells to correct their range.
The forest service is one of the most important divisions of the Department of Agriculture. Numberless wood products are needed in modern warfare, and the forest products laboratory is in a position to work out the best methods for producing and testing them, as well as to furnish the government with the necessary inspectors to pass on the materials offered. On the other hand, the actual forest administration work of the forest service is of vital importance to the nation's meat supply, through its regulation and conservation of the grazing.
Since the grazing on national forests has been under departmental supervision, the number of animals that the range supports has increased over 50 per cent, and the grazing is in better condition than it was when the service took charge. There are still 280,000,000 acres of public land, used largely for grazing, which lie outside the national forests, not under government supervision. These enormous areas are not supporting nearly as many meat animals as they might under a better system. A wise emergency war measure, and one which would benefit the country greatly, would be the placing of the grazing on these public lands under the supervision of the experts of the forest service.
Many minor uses are found for wood products in war. Finely ground fresh wood flour is said to make a fine dressing for wounds. On the Russian front many of the soldiers are wearing paper shirts, made from wood pulp. They borrow this custom from the Japanese. The shirts have many advantages for war work, notably because they are so cheap that they solve the problem of cleanliness, and thus do much to prevent wound infection. A dirty paper shirt can be burned and replaced with a fresh one. The garments are said to be warm and comfortable.
In the matter of timber resources, as a source of wood and its numerous products, the United States has an inexhaustible supply. More important even than the raw material is the knowledge and the methods necessary to make use of it. The time has come when the years of patient work by the scientists of the Department will bear its fruit.

Proverb for the Day.
A new broom sweeps clean.
One Year Ago Today in the War.
French Chamber of Deputies ordered the clock set forward an hour.
Trebond, an important town on the Black Sea, captured by Russians in combined land and sea attack.
United States warned Germany that unless submarine attacks on merchant ships were abandoned diplomatic relations would be severed.
In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.
Detective Neigh has four men and a wildcat guarding the Erick building on North Sixteenth street, over which serious trouble has arisen between Erick and Larbin.
Dr. Peabody, Galbraith and Henry Homan have returned from a two days' trip to Clark, where they enjoyed a most successful hunt, coming in loaded down with Mexican ducks, which they distributed with their compliments among a large circle of acquaintances.
The county commissioners are considering how they can make room in the county building for another court room by removing the law library to one of the rooms now occupied by County Superintendent Brunet.
Articles of incorporation were filed in the county clerk's office of the Lowe Avenue Building association. The capital stock of the association is placed at \$112,000 and the incorporators are W. S. Rowley, Charles K. Collins, Nat. M. Brigham and H. B. Irey.
At a meeting of the republicans at the Sixth ward, at the corner of Sanders and Clark the following delegates to the state convention were appointed: L. S. Lockwood, C. A. Gillette, B. C. Smith, J. F. Page, Charles Rowley and Joseph P. Foshee. The election judges appointed were Carl Axford and Louis Littlefield, and the clerks Edward Anderson and W. R. Matthias.
This Day in History.
1689—People of Boston and vicinity overthrow the government and arrested Governor Andros and his adherents.
1775—Paul Revere rode from Charleston, S. C., with 3,000 fresh patriots.
1780—Lord Cornwallis arrived at Charleston, S. C., with 3,000 fresh British troops.
1781—The British evacuated Charleston, S. C., after firing buildings and left their badly wounded behind them.
1814—Congress authorized the collection and preservation of flags, standards and colors captured by the land or naval forces of the United States.
1847—American army of 8,000, under General Scott, routed 12,000 Mexicans under Santa Ana, at battle of Cerro Gordo.
1882—The "first defenders" of Washington in 1861 held a reunion at Reading, Pa.
The Day We Celebrate.
C. B. Liver, president of the C. B. Liver company, dealing in butcher and bar supplies, was born April 13, 1851, at Same, Switzerland. He came to this country in 1873 and has been in his present business here in Omaha since 1892.
H. N. Wood, the insurance man, is just 53 years old today. He is a graduate of Tabor college and has spent thirty-two years in the service of the company he is now with. He also served on the school board.
Samuel Burns, jr., of Burns, Brinker & Co., brokers, was born April 13, 1878, right here in Omaha. He studied at Dartmouth college and has been dealing in commercial paper, stocks and bonds since 1902.
John Meen arrived in London, England, by the "Stork Route" just fifty-five years ago today. Omaha now points him out as general agent of the Northwestern route.
Charles M. Schwab, who has offered his mammoth steel plants for the service of the government, born at Williamsburg, Pa., fifty-five years ago today.
John E. Hegeman, an eminent leader in New York insurance and financial circles, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., seventy-three years ago today.
Clarence S. Darrow, Chicago attorney, prominent for his participation in cases involving the organized labor, born at Kinsman, O., sixty years ago today.
Johnny Kilbane, champion feather-weight pugilist, born at Cleveland, O., twenty-eight years ago today.
Fred Fulton, well-known heavy-weight pugilist, born at Blue Rapids, Kan., twenty-five years ago today.
George E. (Duffy) Lewis, outfielder of the Boston American league baseball team, born in San Francisco twenty-nine years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.
Mayors of leading cities throughout the country have responded to the invitations extended by the war-making committee on national defense to set apart today and tomorrow as national recruiting days.
The National Academy of Sciences, in annual session at Washington, has decided to devote today to a discussion of the work of the national research council in relation to the national defense.
James W. Gerard, American ambassador to Germany before the severance of diplomatic relations, is to tell of some of his experiences in Berlin at a banquet to be given in his honor in Boston tonight.
Story of the Day.
One of Yale's best foot ball men, who is as generous in praise of the work of his fellow-athletes as he is modest concerning his own, was showing a girl he had known some time about the practice field.
"See Harkins, over there?" he asked pointing to one of the substitutes. "In a year he'll be our best man."
"Oh, Charles!" exclaimed the girl, blushing. "This is so sudden!"—New York Times.
THE BRAVE AT HOME.
Philadelphia Ledger.
The maid who binds her warrior's sash
With smile that will her pain diminish,
The while beneath her drooping lash
One stormy teardrop hangs and trembles,
Though heaven alone regards the tear,
And fame shall never name her story,
Her heart has shed a drop as dear
As e'er bedewed the field of glory.
The wife who aids her husband's sword
Mid little ones who weep and wonder,
And bravely speaks her cheering words,
What though her heart be rent asunder,
Doomed nightly in her dreams to hear
The wail of death around him rattle,
Has shed as sacred blood his battle,
Was poured upon the field of strife.
The mother who conceals her grief
While to her breast her son she presses,
Then breathes a few brave words and brief,
Kissing the nation's heroes,
With no one but her secret God,
To know the pain that weighs upon her,
Sheds her blood as e'er the soldier
Received on freedom's field of honor.

People and Events
Princeton, N. J., policemen take no chance with a crowd of students pulling off a regular hazing stunt. Instead of trying to haul a ring-leader to jail they take him aside, administer punishment of the paddle style and leave him free to go and commune with his injured feelings.
Similarity of names accounts for Cheboygan, Mich., being included in the anti-war straw votes cast at municipal elections in Wisconsin last week. Sheboygan, Wis., on revised returns, cast 10 votes to 1 against putting up a fight. The Michigan town naturally resents being included in the molycodde class.
William Falconer, when quite a kiddie in Scotch kilts, blew into Chicago and in 1842 settled on a patch of land outside town, when Indians roamed thereabouts. Last week he celebrated his 100th birthday and showed a ritified check for \$400,000 for the last homestead. The centenarian has one son. He calls him "Willie." Willie is 62.
San Francisco is about to stretch its cramped municipal legs through the southern bluffs and into San Mateo county. A tunnel through Twin peaks nears completion, which will afford easy access to an attractive residence section. Besides, none of the county experienced the last shake-down and its comparative immunity from tremors makes it an ideal home section.
Postmaster General Burleson advises his happy family that the "Virgin Islands," just transferred from Denmark, are "in the United States" officially and get the standard rates and uncertainties of the postal system. For the information of Nashys on the job the p. m. g. imparts the news that Guam in the Pacific, Gum in the Panama canal zone and Tutuila Islands stand in at regular rates.
The town of Monroe, Wis., which piled up a prize stack of 4000 votes against going to war, lets the outside world into the secret of its greasy pacifist activities. Eastern pacifist money put steam into the campaign and the voters cheerily helped the donors put the wherewith in circulation. Advertisements for votes against war were paid for by Detroit and New York organizations.

The Bee's Letter Box
Hostess—Willie, your mamma tells me you always mind her.
Youthful Guest—Yes, ma'am, I do. She told me when I came to dinner here today not to ask for another piece of pie, and I ain't never seen it, though I want one awful bad.—Baltimore American.
"Are you in favor of this daylight saving scheme?"
"Well, yes, you might say so," said the cabaret host. "You see, I don't use much of it."—Buffalo Express.
"There are just as good fish in the sea as ever were caught."
"So everybody says. I often think that one might be able to sell a lot of stock in a fish 'trust' on that hypothesis."—Louisville Courier-Journal.
"I think our new bookkeeper must have been a circus performer at one time."
"Why so?"
"He makes every entry with a flourish."—Judge.
DEAR MR. KABBRE:
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"Your thesis strikes me as being a trifle inconsistent."
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"In one paragraph you speak of our forebears. In the next you try to show that we are descended from monkeys."—Indianapolis News.
"I was rather embarrassed," remarked Senator Sargent, "when I forgot my speech and had to make an abrupt finish."
"What happened?"
"I made the hit of my life. They printed articles about me as one great statesman who could be depended on not to filibuster."—Washington Star.
"Jack, dear, which would you rather love, me or my money?"
"You, dearest."
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"But I would. Because, you see, dear, if I lost you I would have the money to offer a large reward and get you back again."
"You darling boy!"—Boston Transcript.

Why Mails Are Delayed.
Omaha, April 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: Much has been said recently in regard to the so-called reorganization of the railway mail service; I would like to add a few lines of truth. I am a postal clerk in the railway mail service with many years' experience. I entered the railway mail service over twenty years ago. During those years, on the Union Pacific railway, known in the service as Omaha-Ogden R. P. O. train No. 5, an exclusive mail train, with three 60-foot mail cars and three or more storage cars to carry the go-ahead mail, we found from sixteen to eighteen clerks assigned to this particular train. This number of clerks was able to complete the distribution of the mail on the train between Omaha and Cheyenne, so that when the train arrived at Cheyenne all mail was worked up for all the connecting lines in the entire west and northwest. In those days the service was such that the paper and package mail made the same time as the first class mail did.
Today we find only eleven clerks on this same train; there has been no decrease in the volume of the mail; on the other hand, there has been an actual increase. This number of clerks is sufficient to work only the first class mail. Papers and parcels mailed, for example, in Omaha, are sent to the terminal where they are held up until such time as the force there is able to work them over, then they are dispatched on this train, in a pouch which is thrown in at that terminal again, and the same process repeated until they finally reach their destination, from three days to a week later than they formerly did. Men trained to the highest type of efficiency in the distribution of the mail have been taken from this train and placed in the terminals to do this work, the department thereby being able to cut their salary from \$1,400 per year to \$1,200, but it also cuts the efficiency of the service about 50 per cent.
RAILWAY POSTAL CLERK.
W. E. Dutton of Colfax, Ia., has bought the Merna Postal Card of C. J. Hall, who has published the paper for a number of years.

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THE HEART OF THINGS
400 Baths
600 Rooms

SUNNY GEMS.
Hostess—Willie, your mamma tells me you always mind her.
Youthful Guest—Yes, ma'am, I do. She told me when I came to dinner here today not to ask for another piece of pie, and I ain't never seen it, though I want one awful bad.—Baltimore American.
"Are you in favor of this daylight saving scheme?"
"Well, yes, you might say so," said the cabaret host. "You see, I don't use much of it."—Buffalo Express.
"There are just as good fish in the sea as ever were caught."
"So everybody says. I often think that one might be able to sell a lot of stock in a fish 'trust' on that hypothesis."—Louisville Courier-Journal.
"I think our new bookkeeper must have been a circus performer at one time."
"Why so?"
"He makes every entry with a flourish."—Judge.
DEAR MR. KABBRE:
MY FRANCE IS A FORGER AND MY HAVE TO GO TO JAIL—DO YOU THINK HE WILL MARRY SOME ONE ELSE WHEN HE GETS OUT?
—MISS PANNONEN
SEPP.
NOT IF THE JUDGE GIVES HIM NINETY YEARS!
"Your thesis strikes me as being a trifle inconsistent."
"As to how?"
"In one paragraph you speak of our forebears. In the next you try to show that we are descended from monkeys."—Indianapolis News.
"I was rather embarrassed," remarked Senator Sargent, "when I forgot my speech and had to make an abrupt finish."
"What happened?"
"I made the hit of my life. They printed articles about me as one great statesman who could be depended on not to filibuster."—Washington Star.
"Jack, dear, which would you rather love, me or my money?"
"You, dearest."
"Oh, Jack!"
"But I would. Because, you see, dear, if I lost you I would have the money to offer a large reward and get you back again."
"You darling boy!"—Boston Transcript.

Why Mails Are Delayed.
Omaha, April 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: Much has been said recently in regard to the so-called reorganization of the railway mail service; I would like to add a few lines of truth. I am a postal clerk in the railway mail service with many years' experience. I entered the railway mail service over twenty years ago. During those years, on the Union Pacific railway, known in the service as Omaha-Ogden R. P. O. train No. 5, an exclusive mail train, with three 60-foot mail cars and three or more storage cars to carry the go-ahead mail, we found from sixteen to eighteen clerks assigned to this particular train. This number of clerks was able to complete the distribution of the mail on the train between Omaha and Cheyenne, so that when the train arrived at Cheyenne all mail was worked up for all the connecting lines in the entire west and northwest. In those days the service was such that the paper and package mail made the same time as the first class mail did.
Today we find only eleven clerks on this same train; there has been no decrease in the volume of the mail; on the other hand, there has been an actual increase. This number of clerks is sufficient to work only the first class mail. Papers and parcels mailed, for example, in Omaha, are sent to the terminal where they are held up until such time as the force there is able to work them over, then they are dispatched on this train, in a pouch which is thrown in at that terminal again, and the same process repeated until they finally reach their destination, from three days to a week later than they formerly did. Men trained to the highest type of efficiency in the distribution of the mail have been taken from this train and placed in the terminals to do this work, the department thereby being able to cut their salary from \$1,400 per year to \$1,200, but it also cuts the efficiency of the service about 50 per cent.
RAILWAY POSTAL CLERK.
W. E. Dutton of Colfax, Ia., has bought the Merna Postal Card of C. J. Hall, who has published the paper for a number of years.

Preparedness
Your prescription department is always in a state of preparedness. We carry a full stock of all rare drugs as well as the staples and are prepared at any time to fill any prescription. Because of this state of preparedness, you are assured of correctly compounded prescriptions without delay. We never use substitutes—you get the prescription just as the doctor orders.
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