

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

By Mail: Daily and Sunday, \$4.00 per week, \$20.00 per year.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REMITTANCE

OFFICES

CORRESPONDENCE

SEPTUAGESIM CIRCULATION

59,022 Daily - Sunday, 52,158

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

King Corn continues to be Uncle Sam's most dependable ally.

Not too late to buy a bond. Subscription books are still open.

Persons in this country afflicted with kaiseritis will do well to take something for it.

Well, here's hoping the Lucky Seventh may fare better than the Dandy Sixth.

Chancellor Michaelis and Senator La Follette are kin victims of like troubles. Too many hands rocking their boats.

Every Liberty bond is worth its face or more, besides certifying the owner's name on the roll of honor. Get in before the books close.

Five and a half days more to the close of the second Liberty loan. If you have neglected your duty, go to it; if you have done it, do it again!

The news of sugar taking on a separate charge in eastern hotels shows how quickly profiteers utilize every chance to "pass the buck." Scores work that way.

The Russian government, menaced at Petrograd, prepares to move as the French government did when Paris was threatened. The latter came back. History will repeat itself in Russia.

Business lines coming under federal regulation for the common good get farther and profit more by a policy of cheerful co-operation. Holding off or holding out blights the asset of public favor.

Backing the boys behind the guns with Liberty bonds constitutes the simplest and most profitable task put up to stay-at-homes. Those who, possessing the means, dodge it, tag themselves as unworthy of citizenship.

Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey manifest increasing weariness of the job of pulling junker chestnuts out of the fire. They dread letting go separately and lack confidence in each other to quit collectively. For the present the cohesive power of plunder dulls the cries of advancing hunger.

When organization meets organization the tug of war is worth watching. An organization of consumers at Minneapolis took a fall out of the milk trust in the first round. The latter, somewhat groggy, retired from the ring to meditate on the uncertainty of putting over a projected raise.

Mute, ignominious knocking of Liberty loan subscriptions prompted the hustlers of Oklahoma City to start a card index system of subscribers and those who refuse. Kansas City threatens like methods of tagging Americans and knackers. The system affords many business advantages, besides giving secret service sleuths a live line to work on.

Leather kings gathered at Washington to take counsel together and get a short range hunch on the perils of continued profiteering. Safety suggests that other kings follow the example. These are ominous times for self-made monarchs and the sooner they doff their crowns and lay them at Uncle Sam's feet the better for their health and liberty.

A cable message to the governor of Connecticut announcing the arrival somewhere in France of state guard units in the federal service caused much indignation among the censors at Washington. The message carries information of less value than may be obtained around the docks of sailing ports, and the potheer about its publication served no other purpose than draw attention to it.

Urgent Need of Saving Food.

Food administration officers still insistently press the point of food saving. Their advice is good, for saving is just as essential as producing. During the spring and summer Americans gave themselves heartily to the most intensive and extensive, as well, productive campaign they ever engaged in. Never was the work of raising things to eat prosecuted with such vigor and success as in the United States this year. Now it is our business to give just as much attention to the preservation of that food against waste anywhere or in any form. None of us need go hungry, but all of us can be more careful, and the sum of all the small contributions effected through reasonable economy will amount to an enormous total for the use of those who will go hungry unless we do so. Our big job of feeding the world was only begun when the crops were raised. It remains yet for us to get food to people who are without supplies and who will starve if we do not rescue them. It is no privation to be careful of all forms of food and to see that none is wasted, but the possibilities of such a course are limitless. Substitution of food that is plentiful instead of that which is scarce helps not only to extend the supply, but to lower the price by reducing demand. A double benefit flows from this. Continual urging by the authorities is bringing results and Americans are rapidly readjusting their domestic practices to meet the needs of the world.

Forget It. The fall down of the so-called Chadron black-mail case, with its tentacles reaching into Omaha's police department, is accompanied by intimation that the exorated detectives will seek a more complete vindication by demanding reinstatement to their former places. The advice we offer is to forget it and give the police department a chance to regain its equilibrium and efficiency. It would be, in our opinion, just as subservient of the good of the service to restore the chief of detectives, even though in this instance he may have been the victim of a "frame-up," as to take in the former morals squad head who admittedly did the "framing." There is no good reason that we can see why the police department should again invite internal dissension sure to follow a reopening of this feud, but many good reasons to the contrary.

This situation, however, has nothing to do with the other public officials involved or besmirched in this intrigue of scandal and graft. The clean-up process should go on to its finish—till the public payrolls are cleared of plotters, incompetents, dummies, and disreputables.

New Deal for Registered Men. Congress having declined to make appropriation to meet expenses of calling up and examining all the registered men yet eligible for draft, Provost Marshal General Crowder has worked out a plan that is expected to simplify proceedings. Each of the remaining millions of men will be requested to furnish such data concerning himself as will permit the division into classes of the entire group, these classes to be called up in turn. A card containing questions will be mailed to each and on the sorting and classification of the information gathered from these cards will be determined the order in which the men are to be called to the colors. From the questionnaire it is intended to make up the lists in such form as to show each man's special capacity, his relation to industry, and his social status. Five general groups will be formed, and drawn in order, the men who can better be spared for service with the colors being called up first. Under the plan it is believed the work of the exemption boards will be minimized, and consist largely of decisions based on physical examination of the recruits called.

In adopting this plan consideration has been given to the fact that the exemption boards have faced an extraordinarily arduous duty. Men who have served have given of their time and ability, and have discharged one of the most onerous tasks ever set for citizens of our country. That it has been well done is shown by results. Six hundred and eighty-seven thousand men have been selected from something more than a million summoned, and with such fairness and justice that only in a very few instances has the decision of the first board been modified after review by the higher authorities.

The practical working of the selective draft law has been one of the most satisfactory features of our preparation for the war so far, and if General Crowder's new plan produces results to compare with those already had, it will be good for the country.

Premature. The National Association of Railway and Public Utility Commissioners, it we think, looking a long way ahead, when it asks that a survey be made to determine the value of the railroads of the United States, in anticipation of government ownership. Action of the association is predicted on war conditions, which are abnormal, only remotely indicative of what may obtain when peace comes, and not the best guide for a course that would bind the government to a settled policy concerning the railroads. This will apply equally to the clamor from the railroads themselves for assistance in the way of higher rates. Use of the nation's transportation facilities for national purpose must not be mistaken as a step in direction of government ownership of the means of transportation, any more than similar governmental adjustment of other private business indicates a purpose to engage in that business. It is undoubtedly true that a general readjustment of economic relations and practices will come with the new era, but it is too early to reach positive conclusions as to what will be included. Government ownership of transportation lines may be a part of the new program, but it will be widely discussed before decision is reached.

Lesson in Sugar Shortage. To regulate the sugar shortage, the food administrator is now urging everybody to eat less of it. That his admonition will be heeded may be taken for granted, because of the fact that less will be available. Back of this situation, however, will be found a state of affairs that must be attended to later. When the Underwood tariff bill was going through congress the light protective duty established by the republicans in favor of an American sugar industry was wiped out. This was solely for the benefit of the sugar trust, said the democrats, and did no good, because we bought most of our sugar from the Dutch of Java and the Cubans, and they were our very good friends. It was also stated as a reason for free sugar that most of the Cuban plantations were owned by American capital, and that investment ought to be protected. Now we find that while the Dutch and the Cubans are our very good friends, they are not in any rush to sell us their sugar. Java may be inaccessible for the moment, but Cuba is not any farther away, and the sugar crop of the island this year is the biggest ever raised. The American sugar refiners have submitted to the price-control of the food administrator, but the owners of the Cuban sugar plantations seemingly do not see their way clear to follow the same course. Therefore, a sugar famine impends. Shortening of consumption will help solve the question, but something more effective will have to be adopted later if a permanent remedy is to be applied.

Judge Sedgwick opens up a new and entrancing trail for Red Cross scouts seeking the whereabouts. Turning his marriage fee into the Red Cross treasury readily solves the problem of what to do with the easy money which perplexes knot-tiers, both legal and ministerial. By following the judge's example mental anxiety gives way to the pulsing glow of good deeds doubly done.

Banks and savings and loan associations place Liberty bonds within the reach of wage workers or people of limited means. Subscriptions on the installment plan as low as \$1 a week leave little excuse for evading a duty which every man and woman owes to the best government on earth.

Looks as if the next job of the Nebraska Council of Defense would be to provide a way to settle the board bills of its secretary, Henry Clay Richmond, without resort to violence.

The Infant Ostrich Industry

By Frederic J. Hoskin

Washington, Oct. 19.—According to reports from the Pacific coast, the ostriches which constituted America's hope of building up a great new industry, are being slaughtered, sold for a pittance and even given away.

Ostrich feathers are not especially fashionable at present, and the war has made it difficult to secure some of the markets, and destroyed others. At the same time alfalfa hay, which is the staple ostrich food, is worth \$21 a ton, whereas it used to cost but \$10 or \$12 and has gone as low as \$6. The grain and other food which the birds require are correspondingly high. The men who have invested in ostriches are not financially able to go on supporting the birds until the market comes back. Thus an industry that is especially interesting, and has great possibilities, is in danger of complete collapse.

Experts of the Biological Survey here, who are interested in our budding ostrich industry, say that it has been suffering ever since the European war began, and that it has always been unfortunate in a financial way. The tendency to exploit rather than develop, which is seen in many American industrial projects, seems to have been the bane of ostrich farming. It started in 1882 with the importation of a few birds. These attracted attention, and before the business was fairly on its feet, an attempt was made to convert it into a show proposition. Various ostrich farms were converted into menageries, where the selling of post cards, little feathers, and other souvenirs became more important than the production of feathers, and the development of the industry along substantial lines. Visitors fed and scared the birds, and the practice was bad in other ways.

In 1910 the ostrich industry had reached such proportions that the Department of Agriculture considered it worth an investigation, and the expert who made this study, A. R. Meyer, of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry, reported that ostrich farms could be operated at a fair profit, and indicated that he believed the industry had considerable possibilities. At that time there were about 6,000 breeding or feather-producing ostriches in this country. Most of them were in Arizona, California and Arkansas, with a few in Florida and Texas. Breeding birds were selling for \$800 a pair and chicks at \$100 apiece. Some money was being made, although the industry was emphatically in the experimental stages, and indeed, can scarcely be said to have ever gotten beyond them in this country. In addition to the value of its feathers, the ostrich has great possibilities as an egg producer, provided only a market for the eggs could be developed in this country. They are considered excellent food and are eaten in Africa.

If the eggs are removed from the nest, the female ostrich will go on laying far beyond the number of 100 eggs in a year has been made, and the average, which could probably be improved, is about 55 eggs a year. An ostrich egg weighs three and one half pounds and contains as much food value as about two and a quarter dozen hen's eggs of average size. An ostrich is therefore capable of producing about as much egg food yearly as eight to a dozen hens. Ostriches in summer will live almost entirely on green alfalfa, and in winter consume each about a pound of grain and three pounds of alfalfa hay per day. It was seen therefore that in times when the feather market is off, and there is no great demand for chicks, the sale of ostrich eggs might be a long way toward paying for the upkeep of the flocks. Of course the industry would have to be of sufficient size to create a market for its products, and to give the market a continuous and adequate supply of the eggs.

The average yearly yield of feathers from an ostrich is a little over a pound, and their value, in 1910, was from \$20 to \$30. When the industry was first started, the demand for breeding birds and chicks was so great that no thought was given to the food value either of the bird or of its eggs. Every egg possible was hatched in an incubator, and money was made by selling young stock. Naturally, as soon as the feather market dropped, the demand for breeding stock also disappeared, and the industry was left without an income, while it had not the financial vitality to wait for better years. It will probably revive after the war, but unless managed differently, the results will be the same.

There is a lesson for American business in the fortunes of our infant ostrich industry. There were men in it who strove honestly for development along sound lines, but there was also a gross imitation of the success of other American figures, the "promoter." The promoter commonly knows little or nothing about the business in which he is engaged, and his own fortunes are the only thing he is really bent upon promoting. One American economist (Veblen) who shows himself a keen observer, sees in this American method the whole reason why the United States, with its tremendous wealth, has lagged in industrial development behind other countries much less wealthy. The promoter, he says, is "an expert in ambush, the looter change of the community," but he is not a competent developer of natural resources. The ostrich industry has been used as one more ambush for loose change, and has been shot to pieces in the encounter.

People and Events

Much depends on knowing how to hit the high cost of living in a vital spot. Chefs and waiters of a Pittsburgh hotel, out on a strike, are dishing up wholesome meals for themselves at from 10 to 15 cents each. The menus include beefsteak, potatoes, bread, butter and even sauerkraut and pork. Like menus at the boycotted hotels cost from 75 cents up, but that's different.

Women workers who may enter American munition factories in the near future will save much trouble by taking note of warnings of British doctors to women in that class of work. Some of the thoughtless used powder at hand to impart a Britian red color to their cheeks. In many cases the result was facial jaundice and other diseases. Eagerness to improve on nature with dangerous tools usually defeats the object.

The selective draft law in operation reveals some kinks for official ironing. A case in New Jersey provoked much adverse comment. Four of five sons of a widowed mother entered various branches of the service as volunteers. The fifth son was drafted and denied exemption. The governor of the state has interceded in this and similar cases, pleading not only dependency, but the equally strong reason of the families doing more than their bit through volunteering.

Some years ago, one Frederic R. Searing disappeared from the beach at Atlantic City, leaving his clothes as evidence of death in the surf. Under an arch of flags and banners, the Stars and Stripes monopolize most of the ceremonial flanked by the yellow of Belgium, the tri-color of France, the fiery rising sun of Japan, and a medley of British colors—big flags, little flags, hung high, hung low—a mosaic of flags stretching from end to end. The great white way is a sideshow to the avenue dolled up.

CLAY

Right in the Spotlight.

Henry P. Davison, who is to begin a tour of the middle west today to interest the people in the work and needs of the Red Cross, is a famous New York banker who has virtually retired from business for the time being to devote himself to his duties as chairman of the war council of the American Red Cross. Mr. Davison is 50 years old and a native of Pennsylvania. When he was 20 he arrived in New York with \$40 and an enormous portion of the finest brand of determination. Wall Street did not receive him with loud acclaim. When his little capital was exhausted he went to Bridgeport, Conn., where he worked for a short time. Then he returned to New York and found an opening in the Liberty National bank. From that institution he went to the First National bank. His ability was quickly recognized by the late J. P. Morgan as soon as that astute financier came into contact with him, and in 1903 he was taken into the Morgan firm.

One Year Ago Today in the War. German aeroplane dropped bombs on Sheerness, a fortified seaport at the mouth of the Thames.

Roumanians and Russians continued retreat in the Dobruja, from Danube to Black Sea, before von Mackensen's forces.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago. H. E. Teschemacher, one of the wealthiest and best known cattlemen of Cheyenne, passed through Omaha en route to Chicago.

An informal banquet a number of Elks presented C. C. Hulett with a handsome watch chain, emblematic of the order.

The writers for the city press will hold a meeting at the Barker house, in which the subject of organizing a local Press club will be discussed. A party of eight gentlemen have about completed negotiations for the purchase of the Boyd Packing house property, with the intention of converting same into a gas factory. The purchasers intend to manufacture gas for heating, as well as for illumination, at the price of 50 cents for 1,000 feet.

Fifteen bricklayers are employed on Armour's packing house, and to complete the contract, Mr. Riley has sent a requisition to Kansas City for 20 more men.

One of the pleasantest inaugural parties of the season was given in the new home of Mrs. B. Mullen, Twenty-eighth and Poppleton avenue. About 30 couples responded to the invitations and an enjoyable supper was served.

A progressive euchre party was given by Mr. and Mrs. George C. Bassett at their home on North Nineteenth street.

Ray, and Mrs. J. M. Wilson of the Castellor Street Presbyterian church celebrated the anniversary of their marriage.

This Day in History. 1175—Peyton Randolph, the first president of the Continental Congress, died in Philadelphia. Born in Williamsburg, Va., in 1721.

1779—William Tryon attained by act of congress because of his cruelty in the revolution.

1817—William H. Crawford of Georgia was appointed secretary of the treasury.

1842—Charles A. S. Vivian, founder of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, born in England. Died at Leadville, Colo., March 20, 1890.

1853—English and French fleets entered the Bosphorus to aid the Turks in their war with Russia.

1862—Louisville was threatened by the confederates under General Morgan.

1893—After a flattering reception by the senate, the German emperor, and empress and their suite left Constantinople for Jerusalem.

1914—Emergency stamp tax law, or special war tax measure, approved by President Wilson.

The Day We Celebrate. E. H. Ward of the Midland Glass and Paint company was born in Mount Vernon, Ill., October 23, 1879.

Augusta Victoria, German empress, born at Schloss, Dolsig, 59 years ago today.

General James A. Gary, former postmaster-general of the United States, born at Unadilla, Conn., 34 years ago today.

Dr. Karl Muck, leader of the Boston Symphony orchestra, born at Darmstadt, Germany, 53 years ago today.

Raymond Hitchcock, well known musical composer, born at Auburn, N. Y., 47 years ago today.

Charley Welner, well known heavy-weight pugilist, born at Budapest, Hungary, 22 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders. Princeton university today celebrates the 171st anniversary of its founding.

The supreme court of the United States will take two weeks recess today to prepare opinions in cases which have been argued since the opening of the term.

The southwestern conference of the National association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis will meet in annual session today at the Grand Canyon of Arizona.

Four great war clinics dealing with modern war surgery will be one of the main features of the Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America, opening today in Chicago.

Men and women from all parts of the United States engaged in civic activities will gather in St. Louis today for the 13th annual convention of the American Civic association.

The 46th annual convention of the American Association of Traveling Passenger Agents is to open at New Orleans today and will continue in session over tomorrow.

The United States Department of Agriculture has argued the observance of Potato Week during the week beginning today. The objects are to conserve the wheat supply and to acquaint the people with the many different ways in which potatoes may be used on the table.

Storyteller of the Day. A Chinaman was asked if there were good doctors in China.

"Good, doctor," he exclaimed. "China have best doctors in world. Hang Chang one good doctor; he great save life to me."

"You don't say so? How was that?" "I velly bad," he said. "Me callee Dr. Han Kon. Give some medicine. Get velly velly ill. Me callee Dr. San Sing. Give more medicine. Me glow better—go the doctor calle Dr. Hang Chang. He got no time; no come. Save life."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Consul H. D. Van Sant, at Dunfermline, Scotland, reports that according to the latest agricultural returns for Scotland the area under potato cultivation this year is greater than in any year since 1878, while the area for hay has been increased by 4,212 acres. The number of horses has increased by 2,440, but cattle, sheep and pigs show a decrease of 18,722.

The Bee's Letter Box

Bonds for Old Soldiers.

Milford, Neb., Oct. 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have been thinking of buying a government bond, but I am an old Grand Army of the Republic man and am past 79 years and my pension is all the income I have, \$360 a year, so I have to live in the Soldiers' Home at Milford. Can an old soldier invest in a bond, and if so, how to proceed? There are others I presume that would like to invest. If you will answer this in The Bee, will consider it a great favor to me and others. I can't get out to hear the speakers.

G. W. SMITH, Commandant of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.—Editor.

Dr. Holovitchner Favors School Bonds. Omaha, Oct. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have often measured pens, not swords, with my friend James B. Hayes on the field of educational matters. Who got the best of the worst of the combat is immaterial. As a matter of fact, we are both alive and kicking.

And now my friend Hayes is "kicking" against the proposed bond issue for the erection of new school buildings for the education of our children. He gives five reasons why the bonds should be defeated. He really gives only one reason divided into five parts, and the reasons are as follows:

First—Because it would cost money. Second—It means expenditure of money.

Third—You will have to go into your pockets to get money.

Fourth—On account of money.

Fifth—Because we will have to part with our money.

President Wilson in his declaration of war gave the reason for our participation in it "to make democracy safe." You can make democracy safe for all the time to come only by instilling the principles of patriotism and citizenship in our youth, the future citizens of America, in the public schools. That is the place where true democracy should be taught and true patriotism cultivated. It is for the billions of money and millions of lives to keep our present democracy safe, we certainly should not object to spend a few millions for a place where democracy is taught to be made safe in perpetuity.

By all means, let's vote for the school bonds and give our young America a chance.

DR. E. HOLOVITCHNER.

Call for Photographic Lenses. Boston, Mass., Oct. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: The aviation service is the eye of the modern army. It must record what it sees. It must have lenses. Lenses are made of optical glass. The United States produces in the United States in sufficient quantities to make all the lenses that are now needed. The United States army needs every lens in the United States which is suited for aviation cameras. It especially and most urgently needs Tessare and Heliare, f:3.4 or f:4.5, of focal lengths from eight and one-quarter to 20 inches. It needs these lenses at once, and it needs all of them. If they are not furnished voluntarily they will be taken at a fixed price, as has been done in England. Therefore let every photographer who owns lenses of this type notify the government at the photographic division of the signal corps, United States army, Mills building annex, Washington, D. C., of the price at which he will sell to the United States army every lens he has of this description.

The army also needs 12 and 14-inch condensers. Every camera club which has these in its enlarging apparatus should let the government have them. Notify the same address.

Sell your lenses to the government at less than you paid for them, as little as you can afford to take, and when you get the money, buy a Liberty bond with it. Very truly yours,

FRANK R. FRAPRIE, Editor of American Photography.

Purchases of Bonds not "Donations." Omaha, Ia., Oct. 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have been thinking of buying a Liberty bond, but I am an old Grand Army of the Republic man and am past 79 years and my pension is all the income I have, \$360 a year, so I have to live in the Soldiers' Home at Milford. Can an old soldier invest in a bond, and if so, how to proceed? There are others I presume that would like to invest. If you will answer this in The Bee, will consider it a great favor to me and others. I can't get out to hear the speakers.

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