

THE OMAHA BEE
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Happy New Year to one and all!
What an opportunity the 1918 chronicler has to immortalize himself by writing "peace" across the page.

Look over Omaha's record for the last year very closely and you will find many reasons for local pride.
Wall street finds a happy New Year ahead, with Uncle Sam at the throttle and dividends guaranteed.

No complaint is heard from the ice man as to a shortage in crop. His kick is reserved for next summer.
Following the experience of other unions in war times, Nebraska lawyers are adopting a new scale of wages.

New York shows up with an unofficial record of 69 degrees below, a mark that will make sunny Calgary shiver with envy.
"I am a democrat," says Mr. Hitchbranch, elucidating his many otherwise inexplicable changes of mind. Explanation accepted.

Guatemala has had another terrific shaking up, but it is only a slight jar compared to what the world has sustained during the last three years.
Stubborn juries may find a little justification in the fact that the lawyers themselves could not agree on a course of action concerning the selection of candidates for the Nebraska supreme bench.

Pooling rolling stock, road bed and terminals will accomplish much, but the pooling of man power will be needed to produce the full benefits of railroad consolidation under government control.
German subjects domiciled in America are to be held to stricter rules in the future. Subjects of Emperor Kari will do well to note the steps Uncle Sam is taking to safeguard his own citizens at home.

Peter of Serbia addresses his people with words of encouragement and thanksgiving, aroused by the presence of the United States on the battle front. He sees a hope in this that can be found nowhere else.
South American neutrals are to hold a war council, the outcome of which ought to help President Irogyoen to make up his mind, unless Von Luxburg was right in his estimate of the Argentinian statesman.

Colonel George Harvey calls for a real war council made up of the biggest men in the country, regardless of politics, instead of just a so-called meeting of bureau heads wearing a new label. It will come in time.
Cuban sugar is coming in, so the food administrator takes off some of the restriction. However, the lesson of the last few weeks ought to be applied in some way other than indulgence, now that plenty is at hand.

Former Premier Goremykin is the latest victim of the Bolshevik revenge, although his death will be charged as the work of robbers. Former leaders in Russia are not safe under the rule of "liberty" as interpreted by the mob.
The "pitiless publicity" which President Wilson prescribed for big business malefactors is just as good for profiteering food speculators, crooked army contractors and negligent and inefficient public servants. "Pitiless publicity" works faster than red tape or the slow machinery of prosecution in the courts.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
Messrs. Murray and Monford, delegates from the Omaha Bricklayers' union, started for the national convention of bricklayers, which convenes at Boston, Mass.

Twice Told Tales
Having come down to see her soldier brother, who was killed at that time, she was being taken around by a chum.

Aimed at Omaha
York News-Times: The school teachers of the western part of the state threaten to break with their old friend, Omaha, and have a state teachers' association for the western and central parts of the state and propose to meet in Hastings for the first convention. This secession movement must be a great shock to the Omahans.

Electrical Don'ts
Don't fall to replace cracked insulators, broken switches and worn lamp sockets.

THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU
Washington, D. C.
Enclosed find a 2-cent stamp, for which you will please send me, entirely free, "The Navy Calendar."

The New Year and the Old.
Omaha folks will look carefully over the record of the year just closed and then turn their attention to the tasks ahead of them. Close inspection of the balance sheet for 1917 will convince any that great progress has been made in all ways.

In a material way the showing is gratifying; commerce and industry show such increases in totals as indicate how busy our merchants and manufacturers have been; bank clearings have risen to a height that keeps Omaha among the leading cities of the land; the building record is ahead of any former year, while the live stock and grain markets show satisfactory totals as a result of 12 months' operation.

Spiritually and intellectually, the community shows similar progress. No community in the land has shown a more spontaneous or generous response to the unusual demands made by the war; contributions of money and service have been promptly forthcoming, and citizens generally have lived in service to the government and humanity.

The new year has in it quite as much of promise and encouragement as any ever held. All business will be subject to war demands, but this will not prevent growth. Omaha will keep abreast of the great forward movement, and when 1918 is a closed incident, the local record will be one for which no apologies will be required.

Bolshevik Peace and Its Effects.
The tentative peace terms between the Bolsheviks and the Germans, just made public, will be carefully studied by the Entente Allies, because of their possible effect on the course of the war.

The Bolshevik agreement to withdraw Russian armies now co-operating with the Entente Allies against Turkey also presents an interesting phase of the problem. Affairs are going against Turkey and the military situation in the near east is decidedly in our favor at this time.

Lloyd George announces his intention to consult at once with Clemenceau prior to replying to the Czernin proposals, made last week. The United States will doubtless have its word in this conversation. Every approach to peace from whatever source is significant and the Czernin program is interpreted by some as indicating a weakening of the junker sentiment in Germany.

In the death of George E. Haverstick Omaha lost a really useful man we can ill afford to spare. Primarily a banker, he found time to interest himself in all the big things of city life outside of the counting room. His keen perceptions and his earnest sympathy made him valuable in ways little known to the general public.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
About a dozen of the stock yards employees received cards of dismissal as a New Year's gift.

Twice Told Tales
The other Monday afternoon a woman rushed excitedly down an alley in a poor quarter of Manchester, and, stopping at a house, knocked loudly.

Aimed at Omaha
Beatrice Express: Omaha police methods are in for another probe due to a report made by the special prosecutor who alleges that the police department of the Nebraska metropolis has been guilty of winking at violations of the state's prohibition law.

Electrical Don'ts
Don't run electric motors and fans without proper oiling.
Don't attempt to adjust electric lamps with the current on.

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When the Kaiser Visited Jerusalem
Reminiscences of the Event by an Eye-Witness
By Spencer Leigh Hughes, M. P., in London Times.

More than 19 years have passed since I had the experience of seeing the kaiser enter Jerusalem, heralded, appropriately enough, by blarney and brazen music and surrounded by what is sometimes called by descriptive reporters "a plentiful display of bunting."

It was at about 3:15 on the afternoon of Saturday, October 29, 1898, that this curious specimen of a pilgrim entered the Holy City, armed to the teeth, escorted by troops, with Turkish mounted police thrashing out of the way such natives as had drawn near.

What struck me about the kaiser in Jerusalem more than anything else was his complete lack of a sense of humor—a lack so complete as to be hardly consistent with entire sanity. The entry ceremony which I have mentioned showed the truth of the saying that there is but one step between the sublime and the ridiculous.

As I came away I talked to a German officer who knew our language and our country well. He said, "I know you make fun of our emperor in your country."

That Wonderful Living Flag
How It Was Made and Photographed

Many of our readers have doubtless seen the picture of the wonderful living flag at the Great Lakes naval training station. This flag was laid out by Conductor John D. Thomas, who is chairman of Zion City, and photographed by Arthur S. Mole, Zion's official photographer.

The photograph of a flag waving in the breeze, taken on the mammoth parade grounds of the Great Lakes naval training station, shows nearly 10,000 bluejackets (9,650 to be exact). It is the first living flag ever photographed with complete success.

The actual dimensions of the flag as laid out on the ground were almost incredible. Just stop and fancy, if you can, that the right end of the canton, or star field, measured 184 feet, while the right end of the entire flag itself measured but 128 feet; in other words, the end of the flag was narrower than the end of the star field.

Here are other dimensions equally as surprising: The ball at the top of the flagpole as actually laid out measured 237 feet in length and only 20 feet in width, yet in the photograph it appears perfectly round. Why is this? For the reason that the men composing the ball, because of the distance, appeared as a round, elliptical figure, but if the ball had been laid out round it would have appeared flat in the picture.

Around the Cities

Two policemen of St. Paul mixed up in the syndicated activities of automobile thieves, pleaded guilty to the charge and won an indeterminate sentence not to exceed five years in the state penitentiary.

State and federal authorities are steadily driving against profiteering in war charities in New York City. Where one force falls down in an attack the other strikes at the flanks and scores. The federal forces at present center their attack on a group of Italians who staged a war relief bazaar which netted \$60,000. So far only \$13,000 of the sum has been traced to the destitute families of Italian soldiers.

People and Events
A Missouri author of Bible stories has started suit for \$100,000 against Rev. "Billy" Sunday for alleged plagiarism. Sunday is charged with borrowing sentences from the Missouri author's works to enrich his book of "Love Stories of the Bible." The case will interest vendors of slang the world over. Should the Missouri win a verdict, Sunday will be kept busy defending his borrowings from other quarters.

State and federal grand juries are steadily grinding out indictments against alleged citizens of Minnesota for talking against the government and laws. Kaiserite loyalty has been particularly blatant among cheap politicians and hangers in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and several will presently stand trial for disloyalty. The mills of the government grind slowly, but they are getting there just the same.

The Bee's Letter Box
In Lincoln's Cabinet.
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice a statement written by Mr. L. J. Quinby, in your letter box in today's issue, viz: That President Lincoln never thought of taking men of the opposite party into his cabinet.

Running the Railroads.
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: The appointment of McAdoo to manage the railways of the country is in line with many other acts now being performed by the present administration.

LAUGHING GAS.
Black—It's a young lawyer and desperately in love!
White—Yes; he enters an appearance at the girl's home three nights a week, pleads his case, receives an adverse decision, and then appeals again!—Puck.

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