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DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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The March lion will know how to roar.

No sign of a meat shortage in the arrivals at the stock yards, but do not cease to conserve on this account.

Senator "Jimmy" Reed is another good democrat ardently devoted to upholding the president in his war mission.

Permission to store coal through the summer is graciously given, not only it remains to locate the coal and dig up the price.

If we must have profiteers, let us be patriotic enough to require that they be home-grown. This may be chauvinism, but it goes.

Brickbats and bouquets are being carefully selected by the most interested parties, and soon will be flying in earnest around Omaha.

Trotzky may well resign, his work being ended; his great trouble will be to get away from Russia and find a place to enjoy his fame.

Omaha stood up well under a week of Shakespeare at the theater and has reason for making application for a seat in the highbrow row.

Hundreds of millions of bushels of corn was too soft to go to market as corn, but it is coming in in the form of meat, which will serve as well.

Well, the German intruders discovered at least one American sentry wide awake on his post and not all of the Huns were able to get back to tell about it.

"Clean-up" raids, grand juries and the like inevitably precede local elections and the impress seldom lasts longer after the votes are counted. What about this time?

Revision of the revenue laws will be the next big war job at Washington and the president has already signed his intention of giving some suggestions along the line. One thing is certain, the law cannot be made more complicated than it is.

Armenia's cause is to have another hearing in Omaha today, but it will take much more than preaching their woes to save the remnant of that unhappy nation from the Turk, who has just been given a new chance to finish his job. It will be well not to forget that all the horrors in Asia Minor were wrought in the name of "kultur."

Bifurcated: What Will Woman Do?

Suspend your judgment for a moment—one of the really important matters connected with the war is about to be determined. Woman has to decide whether she will don the bifurcated nether garment that has distinguished man for centuries or whether she will stick to her own peculiar habiliments. This, of course, is not for ordinary occasions, but when working in the field. For our shortage of farm labor is to be relieved by the formation of the Woman's Land army, on a basis similar to that of England, where the organization has been of immense help. A missionary of the cause is now amongst us and soon will be laying her message before the women. It ought to be easy to decide. When women went into railroad work, in the big shops and elsewhere, she found she could not be safe in skirts. Overall are not becoming, although sentimentally admirable as a badge of honest toil, but they are quite convenient around machinery. Now if woman goes into the field to plow and plant, to cultivate and harvest, shall she be denied the freedom vouchsafed to man under like conditions? In justice, if she is to do man's work and draw man's pay, let her wear man's clothing.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

Mr. and Mrs. George Stebbins have returned from an extensive tour of the eastern states.

A large audience assembled at the Grand opera house to listen to Mr. Fanning, the temperance orator, and

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Edward Rosewater, a trip to Chicago.

J. Alexander Monros and bride returned from an extended wedding tour.

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Senseless Quarrels Jeopardize Safety.

That inexplicable something in man's nature which leads him to haggle over small things, while accepting the great, to stick for the non-essentials, is manifest in many ways in connection with our war work. Just now the president of the great international carpenters' union, with a membership of 300,000, is standing out against all the other unions of the country, as represented in the American Federation of Labor. He wants the personnel of the war labor board changed to meet his views. Failing to receive this, he proposes to renew strikes at shipyards, and also declines to provide skilled workmen needed. On the other hand, the manager of a great electrical apparatus factory at St. Louis, engaged on war work, has precipitated a strike by discharging machinists who had joined their union. Utter disregard for public interest or national safety is shown by both sides here, the carpenters' president and the factory manager alike seeming blind to the greater vision of present crisis and future possibilities. Just now they have a great capacity to delay and vex, but the time will come when men so shortsighted and selfish will not be allowed to put themselves in the way of public needs. Such quarrels at home are not only senseless at this time, but benefit Germany alone.

"Standing Back of the President."

Discussing the outcome of the special election for congressmen in New York City, the New York Times says the result turned on the desire of the voters to support the president in his war policies. In the so-called "silk stocking" district, from which Murray Hulbert resigned, we are told, the republicans, to make sure of upholding the president, abandoned their own candidate and voted for the democrat. The direct implication of this is that the democrats in congress and throughout the nation are the patriotic party. No assumption can be more absurd or unwarranted. To start with, the election in New York made no change whatever in the political aspect of congress. Four democrats had resigned seats in the house and four other democrats were elected to succeed them, so no party lost anything or gained anything.

Co-ordinating Creeds in Camp

When and where thousands or hundreds of thousands of men come together under arms, living as brothers under a uniform regime that regulates even the minor details of conduct, differences of creed come to be held in suspense. The Jew, the Protestant, the Roman Catholic, the Free Thinker, each faithful to his own belief, thinks first of the one God they all worship. The chaplains participate in the credentials, or modus vivendi. Such has been the experience of the allies' armies, in camp and on the battlefield.

War and the Metallurgist.

One of the so far unsung heroes of the war is the metallurgist. The chemist and the engineer, the inventor and the designer, have all had their moment in the spotlight, but this man has been too busy in his research work to allow himself a bow to the public. He has had to discover substitutes for several rare minerals, the supply of which was shut off, and new sources for some that were brought into more general use. For example, when Turkey closed its doors to us, the glass makers could no longer get the manganese dioxide needed to neutralize the greenish tint in glass. The article could be produced at home, but at a price that set manufacturing cost too high. Here the metallurgist stepped in and introduced the glass makers to selenium, which works just as well and comes quite a bit cheaper than manganese dioxide.

People and Events

The National Dry Federation, just launched in New York, takes under its wings the combined resources and energies of 28 lesser temperance organizations. Two of the big ones—the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon league—refused to come in out of the wet, preferring to go it separately in the usual way.

Here and There

An electric elevator has been installed in the stairway which leads to the cupola of St. Peter's cathedral in Rome.

Thousands of cords of wood, useful for fuel, are rotting in the forest reservations of New York because the constitution forbids their sale or removal.

The death rate in the 96 great towns of England and Wales in one week recently was 18 a thousand of the population.

Secret service men guarded two tons of coal recently delivered to President Wilson at the White House.

Wisconsin is near the head of the large universities in student enrollment. Wisconsin has sent 200 to Minnesota, 850 to Yale, 500 to Michigan, 700 to Cornell.

Of 411,587 motor cars in New York state, New York City has considerably more than a quarter. But the real trouble is that sometimes the city portion seems to be all in one block at once.

According to official calculations, the average value of farm lands in Holland has increased 22 per cent since 1913. The average value was then placed at 1,547 florins per hectare (251 per acre); now it is placed at 1,888 florins per hectare (\$307 per acre).

One of the most modern paper mills in the United States is in operation at Bogalusa, La. The new plant represents an expenditure of more than \$1,500,000. It employs 500 men, and is operated with electricity. It will have a daily output of 125 tons of container board and 175 tons of pulp.

Views, Reviews and Interviews

Personal Comment of the Editor on a Variety of Passing Topics

The rendition of "Richelieu" by Mantell made a performance which I enjoyed very much and the good attendance on this occasion, as well as throughout his engagement here, affords gratifying assurance that a goodly number of theatergoers still look with favor upon the time-tried standard dramas. The first time I saw "Richelieu" staged was at the old Boyd opera house, with Lawrence Barrett cast for the great cardinal supported by Louis James and Marie Wainright, and since then I have witnessed it several times by other notable actors. It seemed to me that Mantell, in his conception, made Richelieu appear more aged and more feeble than did the others, but he brought out the well-known lines with vigor and distinctness. It was inspiring to hear the applause following the admission that in the bright lexicon of youth "there's no such word as fail" and the responsive acclaim to the suggestive epigram that in the hands of men truly great "the pen is mightier than the sword"—peculiarly suggestive, right now, when the greatest war of all history is being waged on the field of battle and waiting for the statesman able to formulate a settlement that will afford the firm foundation for lasting peace. I might recall that Mantell himself won recognition for his talents originally in the dual impersonation of "The Corsican Brothers," in which he had a popular run for many years, and that this play I also saw acted once in the Covent Garden theater in London, with Henry Irving in the title role, although it is a character with which few would associate Irving.

The subject of funerals was up and I asked the undertaker a few pertinent questions. "What has the automobile done to your business?" "It has changed it completely," was the answer. "Why, only a few years ago a funeral was practically an all-day engagement, while now it takes two or at most three hours. Not long ago I had four funerals in one day without being overcrowded or being compelled to divide them with my assistant. The automobile has also worked a tremendous advantage in overcoming bad weather conditions, especially the winter cold. It makes it possible to brave the elements. It used to be a not uncommon thing to have to postpone a funeral because of below-zero temperature or stormy weather or impassable roads and people would get chilled through and through and almost catch their death of cold on the long drive to and from the cemetery in the old hacks that could not be kept comfortable even with the warming pans. I had a funeral this month set for about the coldest day of the season and I asked the people what they wanted to do. When they said to go on we did so and it was all over in a little more than an hour and no inconvenience or needless exposure."

"I notice most of the undertakers now have chapels in connection with their establishments. Do you have enough use of your chapels to justify them?" "We conduct funerals from our chapels right along—not every day, but every few days and sometimes oftener. I can say this, that their use is more frequent now than formerly and you can readily see the reason why. The proportion of our people living in apartments and hotels or boarding houses is greater than heretofore and it is practically impossible for this class to have a home funeral. That is where the undertaker's chapel is a wonderful accommodation, for the only alternative is a church funeral, and, as you know, a lot of people are not affiliated with church. I think the chapel funerals are bound to increase steadily in number as the city grows."

Have other cities that have gone to the commission form of government been undergoing the same experience as Omaha? In other words, has the commission plan worked out better or worse elsewhere than here? We may soon have some enlightenment on this question, for Meredith Nicholson has been making inquiry as to operation of the commission plan in Omaha, presumably with a view to instituting comparisons with replies from other cities and embodying his findings in the series of articles he is contributing to one of the current magazines. Responding to the request for my size-up of the situation, I sent Mr. Nicholson this letter:

"In answer to your question as to how the commission form of city government has worked in Omaha, you doubtless will receive widely varying opinions, because it all depends upon the point of view. Making the comparison dispassionately, I would say that the commission plan has given us some improvement, but still has been a great disappointment, measured by what was expected. It has been marked with a very large increase in the cost of government. True, our city has been rapidly growing and the demands made upon the municipal government have been largely increasing, but still it seems to me we have had no sufficient effort along the line of economy and efficiency and that the idea of placing one well-paid commissioner in charge of each department and holding him responsible has not led to any noticeable reduction or holding down of cost.

"Our old city councilmen were paid \$1,800 a year, our new commissioners \$4,500 a year, with an additional \$500 for the one chosen mayor, and in theory we were to secure a much higher grade of public servants—in fact, we merely re-elected the men content to work for the lower salary and doubled and tripled their pay. Two or three have broadened out to meet the wider opportunities, but the others are still the \$1,800 men in \$4,500 coats."

"It resolves itself then, as you can see, with the commission form as with any other form of government into a question of the personality of the officers chosen to administer the city's affairs. On the whole, we have a slight improvement, but not yet what it should be."

Another inquiry which I have just answered may carry some interest to the public. "The Editor and Publisher" is asking the leading newspapers of the country for a frank estimate of the government's publicity service in connection with the war activities for the purpose of constructive criticism in furtherance of the common purpose of winning the war. Every department, bureau, board, division, and committee in Washington, as we know, has a press agent and between them they are swamping newspapers with publicity matter. To what extent, I am asked, do you use this copy? Here is the answer and the explanation:

"Very little of the government publicity matter gets into print. No one outside of the editorial rooms realizes the tremendous volume of press bureau and promotion copy constantly pouring in and the utter impossibility of acceding it space. Even for the movements connected with the war, with which every newspaper is to co-operate, it is necessary to logalize the publicity matter, so that what comes from Washington does not claim first consideration. This is wholly aside from the indifferent character of much of the matter which is sent or its needless duplication."

Reference was recently made in this column to the accounts in John Sherman's autobiography of two trips he had made to Omaha and Nebraska in the very early days. I find mention in another place of a third visit to the state made by Mr. Sherman in company with General Nelson A. Miles on an inspection tour of western army posts, with a stop for a few days' game hunting near Wood Lake, Neb. Mr. Sherman notes how the place belied its name, having neither a wood nor a lake in the vicinity, but making up for it by its invigorating atmosphere and bountiful supply of wild fowl.

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