

THE OMAHA BEE

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS

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Be a bell ringer.

The mob at Collinsville is learning that ours is a government by law.

Mr. Weatherman, isn't it time for you to do your share to speed up our backyard gardens?

Mr. Wilson is doing his best to keep the country on an even keel, but some of his subordinates persist in rocking the boat.

Uncle Sam's airplane department is all up in the air, paradoxically, because there are no airplanes ready to go up in the air.

Soldiers at Camp Funston prepared for General Wood a welcome that echoes the sentiments of the American people for that gallant soldier.

Someone asks what would happen if one or more of the 14 city commissioner nominees should now quit. Why ask such a foolish question?

Matters along the Mexican border are reaching a stage that may force a renewal of "watchful waiting." Carranza seems to be looking for real trouble this time.

Let us direct your attention to the fact that Representative Shallenberger, who is making such a noisy fight on the selective draft law at Washington, is not a republican.

The Berlin editors had occasion to print another extra edition. A shell from the "terror gun" hit a founding asylum in Paris and killed several new born babes, a species of murder in which kultur delights.

Count Czernin says Austria is true to Germany, but Emperor Karl says the kaiser should let go of Alsace and Lorraine, and there you have the harmony that prevails between the two partners in the plunderbund.

Trouble at Vladivostok grows primarily out of resistance of foreigners to looting by the bolsheviks. These apostles of liberty cannot understand why they are not to be permitted to plunder as freely one place as another, so long as it is done in the name of the people.

An Omaha socialist spouter pleaded in court that most of his disloyal remarks were made "in fun," and that he said some things without knowing what they meant. If he could have gotten away with it, he would have been a hero in the "red" camp, but as it is he will have to be content with the crown of a martyr, for the court refused to release him.

What a Woful Waste of Words.

At the instigation of the New York World an expert accountant has made a careful computation of the number of words spoken in the two houses of congress during the month of March, finding that the word output embalmed in the Congressional Record, when reduced to figures, was 3,121,402, or an average of 100,000 for every day in the month, including Sundays, holidays and adjournments for recovery from exhaustion. The World refers to this "as an orgy of oratory that runs on endlessly through the season."

We regret to note that the expert accountant does not distinguish the proportions that belong respectively to house and senate, or give us any way of ascertaining which of them is contributing more or less than its share to the outflow. It is fair to assume that while the membership of the house is in round numbers four times that of the senate, the "leaves to print" are correspondingly greater and that the amount of white paper consumed by each as word carriers is somewhere near equal.

They are preaching conservation at us in congress all the time, but this woful waste of words proves that there is no conservation of conversation.

PLUNKETT ON THE IRISH QUESTION.

Sir Horace Plunkett, who was chairman of the Irish convention, has written a letter, transmitting the report of the convention, which throws light on the situation. Sir Horace states that failure to agree unanimously on a plan for self-government for Ireland is due to the persistent opposition of the Ulster unionists. Southern unionists, nationalists and five of seven laborites united in support of the plan submitted, and which Sir Horace suggests should be enacted into law. He points out also a fact that is quite apparent, that the Ulsterites and the minority of the nationalists, in their reports, minimize the agreement and emphasize the disagreement.

Charges of bad faith against the government are made by both sides, although the turmoil seems to be caused by a group of extremists at either end, who are irreconcilable, and whose views will probably not be accepted by the majority in parliament at this time. Sir Horace warns the government that the question has become acute, because "in the dominions and the United States, as well as in the allied countries, the unsettled Irish question is a disturbing factor, both as regards war efforts and peace aims."

This is particularly true in the United States, where a group may be found supporting one or the other of the contending factions. Each of these for the moment overlooks the fact that much more is at stake in the war than a difference of opinion between Belfast and Cork. They must not be surprised if the people of the United States decline to consider seriously their factitious divisions, or if their efforts to enlist support for a movement to embarrass Great Britain in its war plans come to naught.

War's Grimmiest Aspect.

A few words in one of the dispatches from London disclose the awful nature of the present struggle on the flat grounds of Flanders. There war has assumed its grimmest aspect, that of scientific slaughter. Victory now depends on which side can kill the most men in the shortest time, and supply its own losses with least delay. This phase of warfare has from the beginning characterized German tactics. The theory of the kaiser's general staff is that of overwhelming the enemy by sheer force of numbers, regardless of losses sustained. If 10 men are started and one reaches the objective, the other nine being killed on the way, the high command reckons a victory. Allied commanders have been loath to adopt this form of fighting, and even now, when desperately defending threatened positions, are chary about wasting men in useless slaughter. But the German horde shows no consideration and leaves no alternative. Defenders must sustain the shock of tremendous bodies of men who move on in utter disregard of death. How long Germany can afford to pay the price is the question. A feeble British army checked the drive for the Channel ports in 1914 and the splendid organization under Haig will not give way now. Americans, confident of the steadfast quality of the defense, must stand aghast at the inhuman purposes of the kaiserbund as revealed in the battle as it now rages.

Marvin Hughtitt Retires.

Having passed his eightieth birthday, Marvin Hughtitt retires from the chairmanship of the directorate of the Northwestern and from active connection with the affairs of that great railroad system. No other reason is given for his action, so the assumption is warranted that Mr. Hughtitt seeks a little rest from the toil of a busy life, spent in the building up of one of the greatest transportation services known to the world. Pioneer among the railroads, the Northwestern is inseparably connected with the settlement and development of the west, and Marvin Hughtitt's name is so connected with the railroad that they can not be told apart. What the seven prosperous states so well served by the railroad he helped to build owe to his foresight and energy can not be estimated, but it is shown in some slight degree by the evidence of material well-being to be noted along the various lines of the system. Marvin Hughtitt has been a builder, not of railroads alone, but of communities, and his service in this way is beyond computation. Of him it has been said that he managed the Northwestern in the interest of the stockholders, and allowed no financial freebooters or stock-juggling pirates ever to climb aboard. He found that to serve his stockholders he must serve well the patrons of the railroad he directed, and this he did. Omaha, as one of the great centers of Northwestern activity, long has had an interest in Marvin Hughtitt, and will not now relax its friendly concern.

What do the loyal people of Nebraska really think of the effort of the Hitchcock-Mullen bunch to put through the legislature that "proviso" in the declaratory citizenship amendment to the constitution? Do they realize that this "joker" would continue the right of foreign-born residents to claim exemption from military service because not yet naturalized and at the same time vote and hold office while American boys subject to the draft are fighting in the trenches in Europe?

Captain Persius, the German naval critic, admits the kaiser blundered when he forced the United States into the war. Some day a German will be found who will admit that the kaiser blundered when he started the war in 1914.

German Menace in Far East
Time Ripe For Japan to Act With All Its Power

N. Kato, London Editor "Osaka Mainichi," a Japanese Daily.

Japan's special position, both physically and politically, in the war made its statesmen think that its hour of wholehearted military co-operation had not yet struck. The physical difficulties of sending a large army to the European theater were so great that even with its utmost endeavor it would have been something like beating the roof of a high building with the lap of a cool pole.

Politically it was waiting for the time when the public opinion, both of its own nation and that of its allies, would have come to the unanimous agreement that its military intervention was a matter of indispensable importance. Such a concord of public opinion, both at home and abroad, has, in my opinion, at last come.

The German menace in the Far East is now serious enough to arouse the patriotic enthusiasm to a high pitch, which spirit is most essential for a victorious war for any nation, especially for the Japanese people, whose moral code is so much centered upon the love of country.

Suppose for a moment that Germany could launch a few submarines in the Pacific, using Vladivostok as its naval base, or send out thence a few squadrons of airplanes across the channel to attack the defenseless cities and towns within the range of such air raids, what would be the consequence? It would mean an entire paralysis of the Japanese shipping now engaged in Japan's own commercial enterprise, as well as in the all-important service for the allied cause, and, moreover, it would mean that the wooden hordes of the Japanese towns would be put to fire like a box of matches in a grate!

The liberation of German prisoners in Siberia is another danger which might happen at any moment when Russia and Siberia come under the domination of Germany. Japan's hour to intervene has now arrived, if simply for the sake of its self-protection. But Japan's responsibility is more than its own defense, because no one can possibly fail to see the disastrous consequence which might arise out of German penetration to the Far East.

It is as if the front door of a house had been opened to it on account of the Russian abject surrender, but the key of the back door is in Japan's hands. Can Japan be so unfaithful to the allied cause as to abandon the key in the enemy's hands, even in a struggle? God forbid! The guardianship of the Far Eastern peace is one of the most sacred duties of Japan, for which fulfillment

German in the Schools

Real Knowledge of Language Necessary, But Not Propaganda

Boston Transcript.

The agitation against teaching of German in the public schools is partly wrong, but more largely right. It is quite right and entirely desirable that there shall be a widespread and expert knowledge of the German language in this country, not only for defensive, but for business reasons. It has been well said that if you are dealing with a sharp competitor, you cannot succeed against him unless you know what is in his mind, and in order to know that you must be acquainted with his language. This is one reason why it is desirable that all those who have dealings with the Germans should be familiar with their language. There is, besides, an enormous store of practical and expert knowledge on every scientific subject, and it is to be found recorded only in German. Our military men, as well as those of France and Germany, are compelled to consult German books and reports which have never been translated. The desirability of a knowledge of German is axiomatic. Nobody denies it. The Germans themselves have set us an example in this line by the familiarity with English and French which they have shown during this war.

No one, in fact, seriously proposes to put the German language aside. But what we should get rid of is the useless smattering of German which is about all that the pupil in the public schools has ever gained from the official teaching of that language. What does the pupil, in either the elementary or the high schools, usually obtain from the instruction in German which he has had? No more than a hazy idea that the language of Schiller and Goethe is something full of awe and moment, but beyond his reach. He also gets, if he gets anything, a considerable amount of deliberate German propaganda. Frederick the Great, the founder of Prussian militarism; William the First, butcher of the Liberals of 1848, the trampler upon France, and even William the Sullen, chief purveyor of the massacres and outrages of Belgium and France, apostle of frightfulness and blasphemer of God, have all been glorified in this German school literature laid before our teaching children in public schools. We in all this propaganda, no useful knowledge generally speaking, of the German language has been disseminated. Of all the American men and women who have really learned the German language, and whose knowledge of it has perhaps been of some use to the country in the present emergency, how many have learned it in the public schools? Extremely few; perhaps none at all. The public school teaching of the language has been, willingly or unwillingly, to a larger extent German propaganda than it has been effective instruction in the German tongue. It could be discontinued without any sacrifice or impairment of the expert knowledge which it is an undoubted advantage to possess.

The idea is not to sweep away, but rather to extend, a proper knowledge of German. Insofar as it is a public or a private benefit to know the language, it should still be taught. Business and technical schools should undoubtedly teach it, and teach it thoroughly, conversationally, idiomatically. Officers of the United States army should be found in every battalion who can speak and understand the language well. West Point and Annapolis will do well to develop their kind and sound practical instruction in it. Those who undertake to master any branch of science should learn it in its own language. An idiomatic knowledge of the language is open in this country to any individual who will acquire it and is willing to acquire it in the patient and zealous manner by which, and by which alone, a practical knowledge of any foreign tongue can be obtained. To say, "Away with everything German, from A to Z, just because it is German," is foolish. But it is also foolish, and worse than foolish, to continue that gilded smattering of German which is all that the average elementary and high school student of the language gets. It is purely mischievous, and a hurtful perversion of scholasticism.

Americanizing Americans
A Future Task

At the Americanizing conference in Washington the other day there were governors of 18 states, members of the State Council of Defense and representatives of many educational institutions and industrial interests of the country. The purpose of the gathering and of various associations is to promote from this time on the real Americanizing of all who may become American citizens or who exercise the privilege or enjoy the benefit of living under American law and government. The importance of this is being forcibly emphasized at this time. The United States has been a free country, open to all who see fit to make it their home. Part of its policy has been to afford free education to its people, but the different foreign elements have been free to go their own way in education.

Hence there are regions in which the English language, the language of the United States, is an unknown tongue in families and in schools. The native tongue of foreign settlers is kept up and they persist as foreign communities, with their old traditions and habits. They retain sentiments of people who are liable to become enemies of the United States. Now everybody who exercises the rights of American citizenship should be able to speak, if not to read and write, the language of the United States. All pupils in public schools should be taught that language. No other should be the language in which the exercises of any public institution is conducted. The people living in the United States as regular or permanent residents, as subjects to their laws and entitled to their rights, should be Americanized in their education, and so far as possible in their views and habits.

After this war there should be an end, not of personal liberty or equal rights, but of special privileges in maintaining communities that segregate themselves to preserve foreign qualities and characteristics, which are likely to bring them into conflict with other elements of the population and put them on the foreign side in any international differences. There can be no sudden transformation and it is to be hoped that there will be no occasion to consider "enemy aliens" in the future, but our educational and social system should be directed hereafter to Americanizing all those who assume or presume to be Americans.—New York Journal of Commerce.

The Bee's Letter Box

Drop German in Schools.
Omaha, April 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice the letter of "Citizen" regarding the Kultur being taught in our high schools, and I think our school board should be bombarded by the parents of these scholars with letters until they drop this study. If the board continues it I, for one, believe a coat of yellow paint might make them take notice that we are not schools for this shame in our schools. Question to the board: Do they believe the \$1,000,000 bonds would have carried if the voters had known that they were going to teach kaiser-kultur and sing "Wacht am Rhein" in school?

PROTESTER PARENT.

Defends the Negro.
Osceola, Neb., April 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: We note in your paper of April 5 that Mr. C. L. Nethaway desires to be enlightened as to whether there is a man running for city commissioner who believes in the segregation of the colored population of the city? While we have no fears that there are gentlemen so running for city commissioner, we deplore the fact that, regardless of the thousands of all true men in such grievous times as these, we have yet among us a man who has no conception of what true manhood consists of.

We wonder if he is aware of the tremendous part the negro has played in the destiny of this land—we wonder if he knows that a black's crimson blood was the first to stain the ground of Boston's common when this country fought for independence? We would know if he will follow us down through the pages of this country's history, and see those gallant black men bleed and die on the hills of San Juan. But wait and see those black sons-of-guns plunge into that hell trap at Carrizal! Do not pause, but consider Booker T. Washington, a recognized leader of 10,000,000 of this country's people (blacks, if you please), by whose death the world lost one of the truly great.

Isolation for Pro-Germans.

Editor of The Bee: On April 11, to the Editor of The Bee: The anarchists, socialists, pacifists and Industrial Workers of the World are nothing but German monkeys. The proper place for them is in Russia where the Germans are learning them the way to step lively to the German music. I think these German monkeys should have an island set apart for them so they could live or starve together.

INES TO A SMILE.

"I despise a hypocrite. Now there's Johnson, for example; he's the biggest hypocrite of earth."
"But you appear to be his best friend."
"Oh, yes; I try to appear friendly towards him, it pays better in the end."—Boston Transcript.

"Black"—The widow married a bank president and her daughter caught a young millionaire!
"White"—I see—a case of mother and child doing well.—Life.

"The man they were after was in a perfect fever when he found detectives were on his track."
"I suppose it was the spotted fever he had."—Baltimore American.

"What is the Chinese word for trouble?"
"Dunno."
"Would you know it if you saw it?"
"Can't say I would. All their words look like trouble to me."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Heard from you boy lately?"
"Yep. He's getting along very well in the army; but he complains that he hasn't been introduced to General Pershing yet."—Detroit Free Press.

"Why don't you open the door? That may be opportunity knocking."
"Is much more apt to be a bill collector."—

"Well, if you only knew it, a bill collector offers a good opportunity to get out of debt."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

PASSED BY THE CENSOR.

I met her in the "Balse Roulage"—
To be precise, "somewhere in France."
Her elbow almost touched my own.
And I was gladdened by her glance.
One look, and then we went our ways.
"Somewhere in France," her loveliness
To haunt me through the coming days.
And give me courage, more or less.

A great ship on a certain sea.
Sailed westward from a certain tale.
And on the deck, one morning, she
Returned my greeting with a smile!
While we were passing Sandy Hook.
And in the Narrows, near the fort,
I held her hand and later, took
Her bag at "an Atlantic port."

We hastened from a certain dock
Up through a certain city where
There is a certain lofty building.
Fifth avenue meets Broadway there.
And, later, when I dared to plead
"With ease, I found in my glad place
She said she was glad, indeed.
That we had met "somewhere in FRANCE."
—S. E. KISER.

"Over There and Here"

Professing is not confined to communities adjoining training camps. New London, Conn., landlords, appreciating the influx of shipyard workmen, have boosted rents to unheard-of heights.

Many prominent men of German blood in Minnesota have formed an organization to give practical effect to their loyalty to the United States and overcome the seditious spirit rampant in that quarter.

Major-General Sir Hugh Gough, the British general who lost the St. Quentin line, has been relieved of his command. The incident is not likely to win a new tablet for the Gough statue in Phoenix park, Dublin.

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WHY NOT NICHOLAS OILS?



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TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.
British extended Arns victory and routed Germans on 33 miles of front.

The Day We Celebrate.
Charles W. Baker, president of the Baker Construction company, born 1875.

1890—President Jackson at a public dinner in Washington in celebration of Jefferson's birthday gave the toast, "Our Federal Union, it Must Be Preserved."

1890—Samuel J. Randall, who served three terms as speaker of the national house of representatives, died in Washington, D. C. Born in Philadelphia, October 10, 1825.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

Commissioner O'Keefe left for Hot Springs, Ark., where he will remain for some weeks.

About 90 ladies and gentlemen, inmates of the deaf mute asylum in Council Bluffs, visited the city for the first time.

Wheat hoarders in Gage county have been placed on the carpet by the County Council of Defense. One Axel farmer, said to have 20,000 bushels of wheat stored up, has been tagged for action.

By royal order, the celebration of Arbor day has been made obligatory in every township and municipality in Spain, and tree-planting is to be carried on upon a more extensive scale than heretofore.

"Kill the cures!" thunders the Kearney Hub in training its artillery on useless dogs that menace the sheep industry of the state. "A good dog," says the Hub, "is a true friend and in many cases useful, but the gangs of curs that range about a city or town are utterly worthless and should be disposed of."

Members of the women's land army of England occasionally lend a touch of color and variety to the official uniform. One of the number recently arraigned in a London court wore an American soldier's hat, an officer's trench coat, trousers of unknown identity and the green armband badge of the land army. Incidents of this kind suggest that more than one is not dead sure of saving his old clothes.

Out of the Ordinary

Merrimack county, New Hampshire, has contributed Daniel Webster and John Paul Jones to the draft army.

For military purposes a New York man has designed exceedingly efficient wireless telegraph and telephone apparatus that can be carried in a motor-cycle side car.

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Peppery Points

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: When treaties become a "scrap of paper" there's nothing left for it but the bitterest kind of a scrap between peoples.

Washington Post: The caretaker of the German embassy in Paris has presented a bill for damages done by Hun bombs. Next thing the boche will be complaining that American military equipment seized in Russia doesn't fit.

Minneapolis Tribune: Von Hindenburg was willing to pay his toll to Paris with 300,000 men. The toll was collected before he reached the halfway house. The allies have placed a prohibitive price on the rest of the distance.

New York World: Berlin blames Paris for the killing of scores of women and children during the shelling of a church. Only a wicked city would put a high price on the right of the path of the Christian-like shells of the ally of the Lord.

Louisville Courier-Journal: The kaiser's last joyous telegram to Mrs. Hohenzollern was: With Gott's help our most glorious long distance gun tore a hole in a French church and killed many women and children, for which Gott be praised.

Baltimore American: The case with which all America turned its clocks ahead and slipped into the new order of things without commotion indicates what can be done through centralized authority. And it is thus that we will win the war.

Twice Told Tales

Practical Sympathy.
Mayor Hyman said in a Red Cross appeal in New York:

"Whatever we non-combatants can do for our soldiers seems trifling and futile beside what these young heroes are doing for us."

"Yes, the most generously contributing non-combatant, when he's compared with the fighting soldier, is a good deal in the position of the lady visitor at the lost hospital!"

"And so you've lost a leg?" the lady visitor said to a young patient.

"Yes, ma'am," said he.

"Nor dear!" said the visitor. "Have a gumdrop!"—New York Mail.

Business-Like.
"When Jones bought his new house it was with the express understanding that he should have a room all of his own—a den or study."

"Yes, I know what you mean. Did he get it?"

"Yes, and his wife furnished it."

"How?"

"With a sewing machine, a cutting table, two dressers, dummies, three sewing chairs and a full-length mirror."

Emergency Rations.
"You say you were lost for days in the boat and your provisions had given out?"

"Exactly."

"What did you do for something to eat?"

"Finally I hit on a happy idea and we had a spread of canvas."—Florida Times-Union.



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