

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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The Bee's Service Flag



Over the top, but not finished. Go to it!

Hoover urges us to eat more potatoes; scarcely can be done.

Mayor "Jim" is home again, so the jockeying for start may commence.

Do not let the deadly grade crossing hide again until new victims call attention to it. Press it on the city council.

"Our line was reported intact on the whole front," is the word Haig sends from the battlefield. Good old bulldog.

Our democratic county treasurer may think his tax books of greater importance than the Liberty loan drive, but he will hear from the voters a little later.

Visitors to the movies will do well to observe local customs in matters of bestowing applause. Some of the home folks are getting mighty techy just now.

The city garbage question is again coming in for consideration. This is a point of city administration that may well occupy the thought of some of the aspirants for commissionerships. It will not be settled right till it is taken over as a function of government.

Br'er Edgar Howard has taken the plunge, burned his bridges, and is now enlisted for the war, or till after the primaries. This may add some interest to the primary proceedings in Nebraska; at any rate it will give the Mullen-Hitchcock plotters something to think about.

What Liberty Bonds Mean.

One of Omaha's oldest and most experienced bankers, answering the inquiry of a customer, told him the best investment extant today is Liberty bonds. A Nebraska man invested all his worldly possessions in the first and second issues, and when the third drive came on found himself without means to purchase; he enlisted in the army. There you have the spirit supporting the Liberty bonds in concrete form.

The banker says he knows of no interest or concern that takes precedence over the loan. The other man gave all his goods and then pledged his life. Arguments such as these are unanswerable. In them breathes the spirit of American liberty, the indomitable resolve to establish and hold on to all the rights of freedom. While American people are so animated, our institutions are safe, no matter by whom assailed.

We are facing the most formidable aggregation of relentless force ever dedicated to destruction, but the men who, maddened by lust of power, looked that force on civilization are purblind, unable to conceive devotion to principle that will lead men and women alike to make the supreme sacrifice to maintain their freedom. Utterly out of touch with the real life of the world, the Potsdam gang made the stupid blunder of conceiving that murder, rapine and destruction could be substituted as governing forces of society in lieu of justice and right. Even now they seem unable to understand what the real message of the Liberty bond is: An end to brute force as a factor in human government.

STANDING BACK OF THE PRESIDENT.

President Wilson notes the inconsistency between his test of loyalty and the possible succession of Gilbert M. Hitchcock to the vacant chairmanship of the senate committee on foreign relations.

Mr. Wilson not only is aware of the pro-German activity of the senator prior to the declaration of war, as evinced by the introduction of the embargo resolution, but readily must recall the visit to the White House when Hitchcock sought to dissuade the president from asking for a declaration of war. Not until he found that nothing he could do would prevent the declaration of war against Germany, did the democratic senator who misrepresents Nebraska desist in his efforts to save the kaiser from the destruction certain to follow America's entrance into the conflict.

This is why the president is opposed to Hitchcock's being made chairman of the committee, to succeed William Joel Stone. It is not because he is, as suggested by the dispatches, "independent," and that he will refuse to "obey orders," but because his loyalty at all times will not measure up to a test that has been established by the president himself.

The senate has a splendid opportunity to back up the president and serve the country at the same time by making Henry Cabot Lodge chairman of this most important committee. Such action will ensure the control of the committee in the hands of a man who is truly loyal, whose qualifications are unquestioned, and on whom the president can with confidence rely. Will the democrats support their professions of fidelity to the president by doing this?

Germans Plundering Russia.

Loot is evidently the uppermost thought in the mind of the superman. Founded on the robbery of France, and held together by prospects of rifling the treasure chests of the world, the German empire has an unbroken record of robbery wherever it has been able to break through with its armies. Just now the record of Belgium is being repeated in Russia. Finland has been invaded, under pretense of restoring order; efforts are being made to seize the remnants of the Russian navy, although the treaty of Brest-Litovsk specifically provided that these ships were to be dismantled by the Russians and not become part of the German loot. Little scraps of paper do not trouble the kaiser's conscience, though, and if these ships can be grabbed they will be made the first line of attack in an effort to break away from the strong blockade that has held the German navy helpless in its strongholds.

This, however, is the least of the offenses committed against decency and good conscience by the kaiser's wrecking crew. Rural Russia, penetrated through treachery, is overrun by armed parties of German soldiers, who are seizing farm animals, food and all sorts of moveables, leaving the wretched peasants helpless and destitute. Forced loans are levied on villages and terrible destruction follows resistance. Highway robbery and murder in all gradations are practiced against the unprotected mujiks, who thought in the Lenin peace they would find at least a chance to live, protected by their poverty. But no situation short of nakedness fails to tempt the greed of the heartless Hun.

No better illustration of the fallacy of non-resistance could possibly be afforded. "Our weakness is our strength," said Lenin, but the German regards the Russian peasant's weakness just as does the wolf that of the lamb. A helpless, nonresisting people is to be plundered to the last shred, all in the name of kultur. The kaiser is building a monument of infamy whose shadow will rest dark across Germany for many generations.

Universal Service at Hand.

The action of the house military affairs committee in reporting for passage the senate bill extending the provisions of the selective draft law to include automatically all men attaining their majority since June 5, 1917, indicates a change of attitude on part of the administration. Chairman Dent of the committee held up the bill, awaiting word from Secretary Baker, to be given on his return. The sentiment back of the measure is of a nature that admits of no quibbling. It devotes America's man-power to the war purposes to which our country stands pledged. Under the restricted operation of the law, whereby those attaining the age of 31 passed out while none were coming in, the class subject to the draft was rapidly diminishing. Opposition to inclusion of those who came of age rested on the theory that its recognition would amount to endorsement of universal military training for America, against which the administration had set its face. What Mr. Baker learned in Europe may have helped him to change his mind, for the senate bill has been recommended for passage, and we are to have an army adequate to our needs.

A correspondent asks the pertinent question of the school board as to how much longer High school pupils are going to be forced to study German. An answer to this query will interest a lot of people.

The Austrian Revelations

"Greatest Diplomatic Sensation of the War"

New York Evening Post.

Publication by the French foreign office of the letter written by the emperor of Austria, March 31, 1917, is easily the greatest diplomatic sensation of the war. It eclipses even the secret dispatches of Zimmermann and Luxemburg given out by Secretary Lansing. For here we have, over the name of Emperor Charles, a peace offer last year which not only included many of the terms upon which the allies have long insisted as indispensable, but went on to make this definite pledge: "I beg you to convey privately and unofficially to President Poincare that I will support by every means, and by exerting all my personal influence with my allies, France's just claims regarding Alsace-Lorraine."

The implications of this fairly take one's breath. Did Vienna venture this step without the knowledge of Berlin? Did the Emperor Charles move without consulting his own government? So urgent and almost humble an appeal for peace would argue that Austria was even more desperately off, a year ago, from both the military and the economic point of view, than had been supposed. All kinds of suppositions leap to the mind. This extraordinary peace "feeler" may have been put out chiefly to sound France and England, with the intention of withdrawing or repudiating it. Berlin, it will be remembered, professed not to have known of the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia in 1914. Some things it is convenient not to know. You can then indignantly deny complicity in them. And it is possible that Germany was not so ignorant of Austria's efforts for a separate peace—or, at least, separate efforts for a general peace—as is now pretended. With so much lying and mystification going on, it may be that the present exchange of

Why They Don't Go Back

The natural query has been of those who have been pro-German, both before the United States entered the war and some times since, "If it is all so fine under the kaiser, why don't they go back there?" Some splendid reasons for not "going back there" have been advanced by the war, but even better ones remain behind.

Edward Mott Wooley, a magazine writer, has been comparing the wages of laboring men in Germany and the United States as taken from official documents. In Chemnitz, Germany, before the war, masons, plumbers, painters, and bricklayers received \$6 to \$8 a week; plasterers, \$7 to \$9; machinists, \$6 to \$9; molders and pattern makers, \$7 to \$8; teamsters were paid \$1 a day, and textile workers \$6 to \$7 a week, unskilled laborers from \$4 to \$5, and municipal employees, \$4 to \$6.

At the same period in New York plasterers were getting \$5.50 a day and masons, boiler-makers, electrical workers, steamfitters, painters, cabinet makers, stationary engineers, ironworkers, slate roofers and decorators from \$4 to \$5.50, the average being, perhaps, \$4.75 or more a day.

Chemnitz newspaper compositors received \$13 a week, compared with a scale of \$37 in New York. In 1910 in Chemnitz, with a population of 287,000, two-thirds of the inhabitants lived in apartments of three rooms or less. Food for a family of six persons cost \$7 to \$8 a week.

These and similar items showed that the great gap between the wage scales of the two countries was not closed by differences of living cost in favor of Germany.

Vienna plumbers before the war earned \$1.10 and painters \$1.25 a day. Employees in the shoe factories earned \$3 to \$4 a week. Unskilled laborers worked 11 and 12 hours for wages ranging from 60 to 90 cents a day.

Prussian efficiency consists in getting about everything out of the working class, and giving them in return a militarism that offers them the most splendid chance of getting themselves killed for their masters that the world has yet seen. In comparison the United States seems to do pretty well for them. Yet they are pro-kaiser!—Minneapolis Journal.

Possibilities of Concrete Ships

The announcement by the shipping board that three concrete vessels of the 7,500-ton type are to be built immediately and that other ships constructed of the same material and of large tonnage are to follow furnishes indications of an expansion in the shipbuilding program that must be based on most satisfactory conclusions as to the practicability of ships of this character.

It had been understood earlier that, while the theories concerning the concrete ship had proved acceptable to the experts, a practical test would be awaited before a general launching into the new kind of construction would be undertaken. The largest of these ships, the Faith, is now being outfitted on the Pacific coast and has not yet been used for the preliminary practical tests which were to precede further developments of the concrete shipbuilding plans.

The natural assumption is that the shipping board officials are assured that concrete ships will prove a success. The larger tonnage will be called for because of the fact that increased tonnage rather than a greater number of vessels is the pressing need of the moment. Under the methods of construction the larger vessels can be built nearly as quickly as those of the 3,500-ton type, will cost but little more and will be far more profitable.

In the event that the concrete ship has met all practical requirements, its superiority over both steel and wooden ships in meeting the existing crisis produced by submarine destruction is beyond question. Even if the cost of construction and the liability to loss through submarine attack were the same as with the wooden or steel vessel, the rapidity of construction gives it a prime advantage.—Washington Post.

The Bee's Letter Box

Abolish German in High School.

Omaha, April 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: Just a few words more about the study of German in the Omaha High school. We notice with delight that The Bee is making some very plain statements in regard to "kultur." We expected it and are not surprised. But we are surprised that members of the Board of Education treat with indifference pleas made that German be dropped from the course of study at once.

Why not? This kind of being namby-pamby about Hunism should stop. The Mockett law has been repealed; good enough so far. Now let the Board of Education of our city show its Americanism by following suit.

I make this suggestion: The Liberty loan drive ends May 4. Why not gather up every thing pertaining to German, the property of the school district, textbooks, note books, scratch paper, everything and have a bonfire on the court house square. Some Hun may ask why I do not sign my name to these articles? I am not seeking notoriety for myself. I only hope to say something that will drive the study of this accursed thing from our schools. No occasion for yellow paint yet. Let's get together and go after the thing right.

Boys who have High and go out to work on farms are given full credit for the time they are out of school, yet other pupils are compelled to study German or be cut out of their credits. I wish the pupils of the class had a little encouragement to get home and believe they would rise in rebellion and refuse to learn another lesson, and I doubt if even our policy-playing board would dare refuse them graduation.

Mr. Ernst, Mr. Brogan, in fact all the members—what had you to say? Come, let's hear from you. Not only hear from you, but hear of you doing something to rid the High school of this Hunism. CITIZEN.

Driving in the Market Place.

Omaha, April 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the mornings, during the summer months, the streets in the market district—viz: Eleventh between Harney and Jackson streets and Howard between Eleventh and Eleventh streets, are badly congested. It would help much if drivers of pleasure cars and all others who have no business to transact in this district would use other streets to and from the "tail end" of the market, and especially those who have the apparent disposition to show how fast their cars can run. Numerous accidents occur, most of which would be avoided and the business of the market expedited if the suggestions are observed. "OBSERVER."

"Hot Shot" on Fire Department.

Omaha, April 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: A wonderful exhibition of the efficiency of our fire department was furnished Tuesday, in the Savoy hotel fire.

What a thrilling sight it was to see the powerful auto trucks come racing down the street, couple up their hose immediately, and start pouring water onto the old landmark. What a splendid piece of work our fire laddies did in conquering so soon, and with comparatively so small a loss a dangerous blaze.

The thought occurred to me, "What if it were the packing houses on South Side that were burning, and the council had heeded Dan Butler's protests against modernizing the South Side fire department?" What would have happened?

The South Side packing houses are working ceaselessly preparing food-stuffs for our boys in France, as well as for us at home. Is there a price too big to pay for protecting these big mountains of energy? A thousand times, no! Better that we should pay ten times the amount asked for the fire auto trucks needed on the South Side than that we should run the slightest risk of a fire catastrophe such as befell the wholesale food district in Kansas City last winter. With all was too farsighted for "Camouflage Dan" Butler, and a good thing for all of us that he was.

The welfare of our boys in khaki is more dear than the few thousands that were spent for fire trucks. At this time, no price would be too high for these up-to-date fire-fighting machines, needed to protect the big food plants of Omaha.

And, for that matter, was the price higher than that charged by other cities that have purchased the same apparatus? "Camouflage Dan" made his play to the grandstand on the fire apparatus, and then wrote all over the country, trying to get some foundation to his charges of exorbitant prices. And what did he find? Nothing. Other cities had paid the same price, and some even a higher price, than Omaha.

Thinking people of Omaha, are you going to let the amount paid by Dan's grandstanding of the last few months? You, Mr. Reader, are you going to vote for a grandstand reformer whose schoolmates will not vote for him because he couldn't recognize them on the streets after he was elected? Or are you going to vote for Dan because Brother Joe Butler, who has been drawing \$175 a month for three years from the taxpayers for managing Dan's campaign, has "pussy-footed" into your neighborhood and convinced you that Dan is really a paragon of perfection, an angel on earth? Think it over.

"HOT SHOT" MURPHY.

TART TRIFLES. "The directors of the road are a precious lot of grafters." "I'm a bad." "It would be half as bad if they would refrain from painting while they are drinking."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"This paper tells of a man passing himself off as a woman for 20 years. Now I wonder." "If I ever gave up my seat to that lobster on the street car."—Boston Transcript.

"Artists drink, do they not? That is, some do." "So it is said." "That's bad." "It would be half as bad if they would refrain from painting while they are drinking."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Twice Told Tales

Lucid Testimony. "The average individual," said a Scotland yard official, "can't give a detective simple, plain, straightforward information. Questioned by a detective, he becomes as involved and difficult as the office boy. A detective asked an office boy if it was Mr. Jones, you remember the name of the office first, as a rule." "Well," said the boy, turning very red, "Mr. Jones at first was always last, but later he began to get earlier, till at last he was first, though before that was had always been behind. He soon got later again, though of late he has been sooner, and at last he got behind as before. But I expect he'll be getting earlier sooner or later."—London Mail.

Announcing the Stork.

A Kansas cattle king in the old days woke up one morning to learn that he was the father of triplets. Immediately he called for a veterinarian to had done for him, he raved to the village, eager to tell the news to all his friends and fellow rangers. This is the way he broached the subject to the crowd at the country store. "That's all right," said the crowd, "but you're a little late. The stork had already been here for some time. You were three base balls for a nickel." The fellow kept hollering, "One baby, one cigar! Two babies, two cigars! Three babies, six cigars!" Well, I'm passing out the cigars today in honor of a stork party at my house last night. Congratulate me! And, by George! everybody gets six cigars, or you can shoot me for a Jew."—Pope's Journal.

ON THE HILLS OF PICARDY.

On the hills of Picardy, Lie the sons of Liberty. Once again doth Rachel weep, For her children in death's sleep. Never shall their grief and pain, Be forgotten or in vain. Tho' the Beast at times prevail, Right shall triumph, cannot fail. Lift the banner in all, Stand for the just who dare. God from Egypt saved His own, Ever by His power alone Shall the wicked conquered be. As of yore in the Red Sea, Though the sons of Liberty, On the hills of Picardy, Lie so silent in death's sleep, And again doth Rachel weep, Never shall our hearts despair; We have cast on Him our care, Knowing well He will fulfill All His word and conquer still. Lord, we pray Thee speed the day When the righteous shall hold sway. Send Thy foe by living fire To Gomorrah's funeral pyre. Let our praise arise to Thee Author of Eternity. Let us see "Thy kingdom come— And on earth 'Thy will be done."—RUTH CHAMBERS WOLFE.

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TODAY One Year Ago Today in the War. House democratic caucus voted to confine legislation to war measures. American steamer Mongolia fired upon German submarine while near British coast. General Nivelle's army crushed 200,000 German reserves and continued its victorious advance. The Day We Celebrate. Lt. Col. Lawrence G. March and manager of the American Electric company, born 1878. Admiral Henry Harwood Rousseau, born at Troy, N. Y., 48 years ago. Dr. John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton University, born at Princeton, Ill., 57 years ago. William A. Ayres, representative in Congress of the Eighth Kansas district, born at Elizabethtown, Ill., 51 years ago. Owen Bush, shorthand of Detroit, born at Indianapolis, 30 years ago. This Day in History. 1775—Battle of Lexington, first conflict of the war for American independence. 1822—Mrs. Lucretia R. Garfield, wife of the 20th President of the United States, born at Hiram, O. Died at Washington, D. C., March 13, 1913. 1829—Bishop Loras was publicly welcomed in Dubuque on his arrival to take charge of the newly created diocese. 1847—The American forces entered Mexico.

Just 30 Years Ago Today The First Baptist Church association have sold their building at Fifteenth and Davenport streets, to Thomas Bonner, for \$10,000. New trucks are to be laid through the yard by the Stock Yard company. Native born New Englanders want a society of their own in South Omaha and a meeting will be called shortly. Miss Carrie L. Chapman delivered her lecture, "America for Americans," in the First Methodist Episcopal church before a large audience. Articles of incorporation of St. Agnes church of South Omaha, were filed with the county clerk. They are attested by James O'Connor, bishop of Omaha; R. A. Shaffel, vicar general; D. W. Moriarty, pastor, and Daniel Rafferty and John C. Carroll, laymen. Henry W. McKendry of South Omaha, is going into the hotel business and has leased John P. Richards' new hotel.

"Over There and Here" The bread ration of France is down to the following basis: Children less than a year old, three and one-half ounces per day; children from 1 to 13 years, seven ounces; above that age 10 1/2 ounces, with an extra allowance of three and one-half ounces for hard workers. This is one-third less than former rations. Eat less white bread here and let the flour go over there. To any two men of his business class who will beat him selling Liberty bonds, Harry B. Rosen, a foreign born citizen of New York, will give each a miniature American flag made of rubies, diamonds and sapphires. Competition is limited to members of the Life Underwriters' association. Winners must hustle, for Rosen is some salesman, himself. "Everything I have," he says, "I owe to America. And what I am going to do every foreign citizen in this country should do." The man who gets a letter from home in a 50 per cent better price than the man who does not, says Sir Walter Lawrence, a Britisher back from the front. The great thing is to write—write—write. Always write cheerfully, even if you do not feel cheerful. That's the task of all the home folks. Do it now. An American soldier over there expresses the general feeling in these lines: "It's pretty hard to tell you what a letter means to me, but you could here I believe that you could see that the greatest of the pleasures soldier boys have ever found is just to get a letter when the mail is passed around."

Whittled to a Point Washington Post: With 93 per cent of the wounded cured in 15 days, the western front seems to be a good prospect for the chronic invalids. Baltimore American: If two-thirds of all our surplus supply of wheat must go to the allies, let us eat corn or rye with patience. Our luxuries are the allies' necessities. Minneapolis Journal: We sometimes wonder if Secretary of the Treasury and Director of Railroads know any method of beating his way on the trains. Wall Street Journal: "America's chief weapon is bluff," say the German papers; which, if they knew our national card game, would show they were still guessing the strength of our hand. Minneapolis Tribune: Russia now promises to have an army of 1,500,000 in two months. Russia should engage Colonel Bryan to supply them with one of his famous invectives of 1,000 words that springs to arms between sunrise and sunset. New York Herald: By way of explanation, not apology, it can be said for that Collinsville (Ill.) lynching that it was not dictated by a commander-in-chief and not conducted by an army—as was the case with the lynching of Belgium and the lynching of Serbia. Louisville Courier-Journal: Von Hertling and Czernin seem to share the opinion that now is the time to found an international debating society. Americans think now is the time to kill enough Germans to make peace certain and lasting.

Twice Told Tales Lucid Testimony. "The average individual," said a Scotland yard official, "can't give a detective simple, plain, straightforward information. Questioned by a detective, he becomes as involved and difficult as the office boy. A detective asked an office boy if it was Mr. Jones, you remember the name of the office first, as a rule." "Well," said the boy, turning very red, "Mr. Jones at first was always last, but later he began to get earlier, till at last he was first, though before that was had always been behind. He soon got later again, though of late he has been sooner, and at last he got behind as before. But I expect he'll be getting earlier sooner or later."—London Mail. Announcing the Stork. A Kansas cattle king in the old days woke up one morning to learn that he was the father of triplets. Immediately he called for a veterinarian to had done for him, he raved to the village, eager to tell the news to all his friends and fellow rangers. This is the way he broached the subject to the crowd at the country store. "That's all right," said the crowd, "but you're a little late. The stork had already been here for some time. You were three base balls for a nickel." The fellow kept hollering, "One baby, one cigar! Two babies, two cigars! Three babies, six cigars!" Well, I'm passing out the cigars today in honor of a stork party at my house last night. Congratulate me! And, by George! everybody gets six cigars, or you can shoot me for a Jew."—Pope's Journal.

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