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See a slate—smash it!

And don't forget to vote for Joe Hummel.

Be early at the polls tomorrow and pick the best men.

Last call for roorbacks, campaign canards and the like.

What a campaign it might have been, if the war had not interfered!

If the government gets desperately short of steel, the "welcome" arch is always available.

Twenty-six hundred Omaha voters are in the army, so some of the close places may have to wait on the mails this time.

One thing the Picardy offensive has done is to relieve a weary world of the annoyance of having to listen to Trotzky.

The Lincoln State Journal hints that several gubernatorial booms wilted at the meeting of the Farmers' War council last week. Give us the names.

Nebraska, having put its share of the Liberty loan over the top and then some, will now turn to planting corn in anticipation of another record crop.

Dissolving the Austrian parliament may stop debate in Vienna, but it will not silence the uproar at Prague or Cracow, where the real trouble for Emperor Karl is to be found.

If you believe organized labor should be accorded special representation among the city commissioners, vote for either Reynolds or Wolf—both are endorsed by the labor unions or men who will be actuated by union principles.

Secretary Baker asks for the modest amount of thirteen billions for his army, and he will have no trouble in getting it. In return the ordinary citizens will hope that it be expended to better purpose than was the \$640,000,000 allowed for airplanes.

For a political orphan not on any slate, Commissioner Jardine is showing remarkable speed accelerated by the backing of business elements who believe his retention in the city hall is demanded in the interest of good business management. Jardine has always been in the forefront of all activities for the advancement of Omaha's material prosperity.

Omaha As a Communication Center.

The Chamber of Commerce rightly makes much of the establishment in Omaha of the divisional headquarters of the Western Union Telegraph company. This is handsome recognition by one of the highest authorities of the importance and strategic location of Omaha as a center of communication and of its exceptional facilities as a wire distribution point to all the surrounding territory—a recognition already accredited by the location in Omaha of the telephone headquarters for this region. The gain will in a measure serve to offset the loss by Omaha just a year ago of the main office for the Associated Press in Nebraska, which over the protest of The Bee went to Lincoln as a result of the selfish machinations of the other Associated Press member here. With the advantage of the divisional organization of the biggest telegraph company emphasizing Omaha as a news distributing point, the Chamber of Commerce ought to get busy now to regain the Associated Press headquarters, bringing whatever pressure may be necessary to make the newspaper that drove it away, back-track and stand up for its home town.

CHOOSE THE BEST MEN.

While The Bee has commended a number of candidates for favor in the city commissioner-ship contest as competent and capable and meriting support, it is not trying to make a "slate" of its own or ram any "slate" down on the voters. It is fortunate that there are more than seven good men in the running and only two or three whose fitness may rightfully be questioned, making certain that the commission about to be elected will be controlled by a majority equal to the task. The Bee's advice is: Smash all the slates—choose the best men out of the various self-made combinations.

As to the Gas Proposition.

The proposition to order proceedings to value the gas plant with a view to purchase and operation by the city will probably be voted at our impending city election. There has been no issue made over it, the gas company has not evinced any active opposition, it would naturally be expected to carry of its own momentum.

So far as The Bee is concerned, in order to keep the record straight, we wish to be recorded as having no disposition to block municipal ownership of any essential public utility that can be profitably conducted by the city to public advantage. Whether a gas plant is such a public utility and whether, if so considered, immediate purchase at the present sky-high war prices is advisable will be open to future discussion.

The cost of making the appraisal need not be great and may be money well invested whether we buy the plant at the figure fixed or not. The approval of the gas purchase proposition, however, can at best be but a first step. Let us not camouflage ourselves in a cloud of mere political campaign gas.

Between Bee and Banderlog.

We are long familiar with the success of the enterprising man who cross-bred bees and lightning bugs, and produced a brood of honey-makers who could work at night. He is matched now with a New York sociologist who proposes an ideal for the human race in a cross between the bee and the banderlog. This writer finds in the monkey the ideal individualist. From the time he rubs sleep out of his eyes with daybreak until he gives over his chattering and seeks slumber in a safe crotch at night, he is busy on one or another of his fancies or whims. He does what he wants to, when he wants to, and as long as he wants to, and each evening finds him just where he started in the morning. He follows a leader, or goes by himself, the perfection of individual control. The bee, on the contrary, is the steady worker, continually producing, part of a great machine whose incessant operation results in the accumulation of far more than the tribe can use. It goes on and on, steadily piling up more than it needs, with no surcease and no reward. A mean between the two is sought, a happy medium, in which the energy of the bee will be blended with the aimlessness of the monkey. Under this arrangement man will produce enough, and even accumulate some surplus, but not to excess. He will have his smell of monkeyshines, but will temper his whims with the industry necessary to provide for his wants. Here is a prospectus that is most attractive if one does not look toward Russia, where the bolshevik seem to have attempted the experiment, with the disappointing outcome that they have only succeeded in engraving the foolishness of the banderlog on the socialism of the bee, to the utter extinction of the productive energy of the insect.

Look at Them Now.

One year ago the streets of Omaha were filled with embryo soldiers. They were awkward, their uniforms did not fit well, and their carriage betokened nothing of the martial spirit that animated them. Plenty of work ahead for the drill sergeant. Careless of appearance, loose in walk and carriage, the boys sadly lacked that element of "smartness" that is the distinguishing characteristic of the soldier. No wonder, for they had come from the various walks of civil life, the farm, the factory, the store, the office, with only the one great impulse in common between them. Some had lumpy muscles and some had none, but all had the spirit. The streets of Omaha are still full of soldiers, khaki in sight everywhere at all times, but what a difference! Now the wearers stand erect, heads up, chins out, shoulders squared, the waist line where it ought to be. They look alert and when they move it is with the easy, snappy, graceful walk of a well drilled man. The muscles that were limp and those that were hardened by specialized toil have been co-ordinated, and the awkward, gawky boy of a year ago is now a man, full of physical vigor as well as spiritual ardor, qualified to do and to hear things beyond his reach twelve months ago. If Uncle Sam has done no other service for his nephews, he has given them life and vigor by his kindly but rigid training, and none can contrast the two pictures without acknowledging the improvement. Our future will be all the better because these boys have had this training.

Omaha people may not be excited over the impending city election, but just the same the vote Tuesday will show that they are vitally interested.

Treasury "Watchdogs" and the War
Disappearance of the Old-Time Guardians of the Exchequer and Development of a New Breed

Senator Thomas of Colorado sprung a fable on his colleagues one day recently. It was during a debate over a miscellaneous lot of Appropriation bills, in which a number of items attracted his attention. His fable has to do with the disappearance of the "watch dogs of the treasury" and the alarming growth of another breed, that can not tolerate the presence of an unappropriated dollar, and runs as follows:

"Once upon a time, when the Uncle Sam was youthful he had to make his own way in the world. He was therefore careful to live within his income. Being thrifty, he amassed wealth sufficient for all his purposes, albeit these were many. In those days his money vaults were guarded by faithful and courageous animals called 'watch dogs of the treasury.' Then, as now, Uncle Sam's increasing family was divided into factions bearing attractive and inspiring appellations. He committed the management of his affairs first to one and then to another of these factions, as their changing preponderance in numbers required. Each of these factions championed economic and covetous masquerading as dogs of the treasury, and each claimed a monopoly of the virtue both he and their watch dogs, who succeeded with their masters in the guardianship of the treasury. Hence, Uncle Samuel took no great concern as to the safety of his strong box, and especially since the watch dogs on duty were watched in turns by the dogs in temporary retirement.

"Moreover, each of Uncle Sam's factions contended that its watch dogs were the only thoroughbreds, and those of the opposition were mongrels and coyotes masquerading as dogs of the treasury. Uncle Sam was pleased with this situation, since their misappropriation would be detected and exposed by fractional self-interest, promptly followed by an early and complete substitution of watch dogs.

"As time progressed these great factions established the custom of holding quadrennial 'pride and alarm' meetings. They were so called because the factions at these meetings always paraded their own virtues and watch dogs with great pride and viewed the virtues of the other factions and their watch dogs with great alarm. They also compared each his own economies in past administration of Uncle Sam's fiscal affairs with the reckless extravagances of the other faction. So common has this formula become that it has persisted down to this hour. No 'pride and alarm' meeting of either faction would be complete were these terms eliminated from its public announcements.

"These watch dogs guarded the treasury and watched each other with great success for many years. Their mutual rivalry and suspicions of their owners Uncle Sam's accumulations waxed fat and became more and more alluring. As time passed, and these accumulations multiplied, the financial virtue of the factions was gradually but surely disintegrated by the temptation to divide and enjoy them. They gazed more and more avidly at the vaults which contained them, and more and more reproachfully at their vigil and watch dogs keeping sentinel over them. The barriers of their moral resistance finally yielded to the unremitting pressure of opportunity. So the watch dogs were gradually allowed away from the treasury portals and tied in the back yards, where they were starved and

The Murder at Brandenburg

The burning alive of seven prisoners of war—one English sailor, one French soldier, and five Russians—in the German prison camp at Brandenburg is officially established. The statements of British and German governments agree on the fact. The fire was accidental; that is to be assumed. Eye-witnesses assert that when the prison shack took fire the Germans made no attempt to rescue the seven inmates; that they forcibly prevented other prisoners from going to the rescue; and that when the endangered men tried to climb out through the window, a sentry bayoneted them one after the other and they fell back into the flames. The first to suffer in this way was John Genover, the English sailor, and his fate is thus described in a memorandum drawn up by eight Spanish sailors who saw it:

"Those inside the dungeon were being choked. The Englishman broke the panes of a small window with the idea of freeing himself and his companions. The sentry, seeing him leaning out of the window, gave him a tremendous thrust in the chest. The wounded man fell like lead. A small but revolting struggle then took place. The prisoners attempted to get out, and the German soldier reddened his bayonet again and again with the blood of the men shut up, who saw with horror that the fire was increasing.

So say the Spanish sailors. An English prisoner of war, who tells the same story, adds that after the bayoneting of Genover "a rush forward was made to break the place open, but we were driven off by other armed Germans who had arrived on the scene." Another eye-witness says that when he and other prisoners attempted to go to the rescue "they placed a cordon of German soldiers at a distance of 60 yards around the cells, with rifles loaded and fixed bayonets, so as we could not get near."

German Super-Strategy

A year ago the German people were assured that no American army could ever be sent to France, because the U-boats could be relied upon to destroy the transports. When the American troops began to arrive in France regardless of the U-boats, the assurance took a new turn. The United States tried to be able to send a few divisions, but they would be untrained and useless. Now that there are large American forces in France and American troops are fighting with the British and French in Picardy as well as holding trenches on the western front, further explanations are necessary. These are provided by the naval expert of the Lokal-Anzeiger of Berlin, who has observed with symptoms of distress that, "notwithstanding our brilliant submarine successes," no American transports are sunk. That might be disturbing to an ordinary mind, but not to the mind of a German expert. It is not worth while to waste torpedoes sinking American transports. "If America could send 1,000,000 soldiers they could not be fed. Our war aim would be reached as well as if they were all drowned."

People and Events

Cuba is hot for Liberty bonds, and boosting the sale with the fervor of a new fruit. The Havana Post of April 21 epitomizes the spirit of the queen island with a front page cartoon depicting a giant American swatting the kaiser on the jaw and rescuing a maiden from the Potsdam clutch. A great act in live colors. Tax-gatherers and tax-eaters in Missouri still wonder where they are. Assessors under the spur of the State Tax commission worked up a huge boost of assessment value. Taxpayers were dazed by the uplift and tax-eaters shook hands with themselves over the prospect of abundant "velvet." Then the State Board of Equalization took a hand and cut the boost of values to the regular level. Now the power of the latter body to do more than equalize values is challenged and the courts are to be asked to solve the mixup.

The Bee's Letter Box

On Basis of Ability. Omaha, May 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: When the city abolished the form of government passing councilmen \$1,500 a year to the commission form of \$4,500, we did it expecting to secure good business men to manage the city affairs, but the result, thanks to the brewery and corporation control, we were given the same men at \$4,500 a year plus automobiles, chauffeurs, private secretaries, fine quarters and with more swelled heads. Now these men openly admit that they are great and want to be continued as our masters.

The management of this city under a nonpartisan commission takes it out of politics and places it on a business basis and everyone who votes next Tuesday should do so in a businesslike manner or stay at home for if he votes for incompetent men he injures his fellow citizens as well as himself. Let the voter ask himself the question "What man will manage the city commission, excepting Jardine, that could command the salary from any business house in Omaha of one-half what the city pays him?"

The Daily News urges us to vote for Dan Butler. Now as they have us for men of ability, if they will publish that if the city does not want Dan, they will take him on at \$4,500 a year, they will help Dan to more votes than anything they might say. The World-Herald will propose to give Mayor Jim a job at \$5,000 a year we would then consider that it really believed him a man of ability. All voters should follow Golden Rule and not vote as trustee of the city, a man they would not trust to manage their own property. Every man should vote for Jim Dahlman next Tuesday who would be willing to make him the executor of his estate without bond, and not otherwise.

D. C. PATTERSON.

About Purchase of Gas Plant.

Omaha, May 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: Doubtless you have access to and have read the law for the acquisition of the "Gas Plant" if the people next Tuesday vote to acquire the plant, but it has been suggested to me that you will be interested in the law, that you may point out, if you choose, its material features. The act is the result of an extended research throughout the legislative acts of the commission on the character and a discovery of the latest and most approved method for such condemnation and the holding of the courts respecting the matter.

As you will see, the essential features are those which provide the method of securing the services of three district judges to sit as a board of condemnation, and these are to be selected by the state supreme court, and two of them must be taken from judicial districts outside the city. This condemnation court is empowered to command the attention of witnesses and to enforce the production of all books, (as you will recall we had trouble, to some extent, on this point in the waterworks case, eventually), papers and data deemed essential by the court as a basis for fixing values.

The most important features of the act, so far as the city is concerned, however, are those which provide, if the condemnation court's finding of value be deemed excessive or so high that the city does not care to proceed now with the acquisition of the plant at the price found, the city authority is given the right to elect to abandon the proceedings at any time within 60 days after the filing of the value by the condemnation court, but if the city does not abandon, within said time, then the company is given the right to appeal by filing a bond within 20 days after the 60 days given the city to make its election; and an important feature of this law, unlike other laws on the subject, is the one which provides that if the company does appeal, the city in the meantime has the right to take possession of the plant and operate it, by tendering to the company the amount of value found by the condemnation court. This feature was inserted mainly because of our experience with the acquisition of the waterworks. Pending the appeal in that case and for nearly a period of six years, as you will recall, the water company, keeping possession of the plant and naturally enough not desiring to make betterments or extensions while the acquisition of the plant was in litigation, the people of this city were much annoyed and the growth of the city retarded, to some extent, on account of the almost total cessation of extensions by the water company, and in many instances the property owners resorted to the expedient of laying extension pipes and paying for them themselves. Under this act if the city elects to take within the 60 days, even though the appeal is made, appeal, the city goes into possession of the plant, if it elects to make the tender of the amount found by the condemnation court, and the city may treat the plant as its own from that time forward and hence, of course, make such improvements as it desires and fix such rates as it may deem proper. JOHN P. BREEN.

Hummel's Record in Parks.

Omaha, May 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: Joseph B. Hummel relies on deeds and not on airy persiflage in his appeal to the public. Hummel's department was a vast one, but those who waited to criticize and scoff can amuse themselves by consulting Hummel's record of achievements. If you please, do you want to return to the day when what are now fine recreation grounds, were only spots of grass and trees? All right. But if

you want to "Grow With Growing Omaha" catch step with progress and progressive people. There are many useful features introduced by Hummel that are conducive to health, moral and physical uplift. The creature is never greater than the creator. Consider what Mr. Hummel has accomplished with his small appropriation and what he could accomplish if dealt with more liberally. Omaha is rapidly taking its rightful place as a city that is making itself most beautiful. Joseph B. Hummel has started these improvements with the idea and ideal that they may be improved without destroying their present effect. Why change experience for a novice? When a man can accomplish what Mr. Hummel has with the limited means at his disposal, it is easy to see what his work would be with more assistance. A vote for Joseph B. Hummel means a vote for honest, faithful service with the idea and ideal that they may be improved without destroying their present effect. W. E. ALEXANDER. 2512 North Tenth—Fifth Street.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Did you make a business once of reading people's futures in their hands?"—Baltimore American. "Mrs. Flatbush—He's a manly little fellow, isn't he?" "Yes, Bensonhurst—Why?" "See what a face he makes when he takes his medicine."—Yonkers Statesman. "Dad, I want to go in for war work." "All right, girl. But remember it means something more than just getting your picture in the papers."—Louisville Courier-Journal. Barber—That officer wot I've just shaved has been wounded twice, and he's actually been wounded three times. I've seen him get such him a bit.—London Opinion. Mother—Tommy, stop pulling that cat's tail. Tommy—I'm only holding it. The cat is doing the pulling.—San Francisco Chronicle. "Pop!" inquired little Clarence Lilywhite, "what am I a millennium?" "Sho." "What?" "Don't you know what a millennium am, chile? It's jest about de same as a centennial, only it's got mo' legs."—Illustrated World.

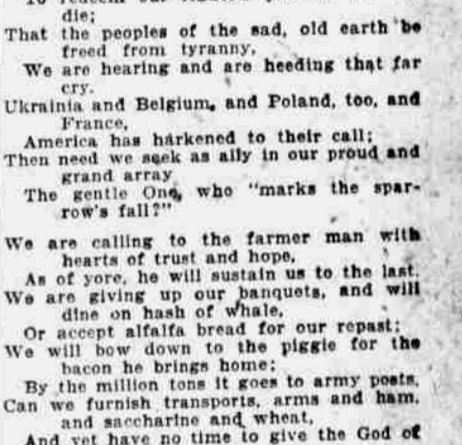
DARE WE IGNORE HIM?

We are building ships with tonnage that will carry old New York; We will take the coal mines "over there" by plane; We have harnessed up the lightning, we consolidate the air; And we'll utilize the gas, and hall, and we will bridge Atlantic ocean with the bodies of our boys; If we have to, and not one of us complaining; But a national petition to the God who made the world; That's for women! Please don't mention it again. We are mighty millions, listed in the cause of freedom fair; To redeem our leader's promise we will die; That the people of the sad, old earth be free; We're hearing and are hearing that far cry; Ukraine and Belgium, and Poland, too, and America has harkened to their call; Then need we seek as ally in our proud and grand array; The gentle One, who "marks the sparrow's fall?"

We are calling to the farmer man with hearts of true and honest; As of yore, he will sustain us to the last; And we're giving up our banquets, and will dine on hash of wheat; Or accept a bread for our repast; We will bow down to the piglet for the bacon he brings home; By the million tons it goes to army posts; Can we furnish transports, arms and ham, and saccharine and wheat; And yet have no time to give the God of heaven never seen His rating in the military caste; This God who made the sun, the sky, the stars; And we know our own brave Pershing and our Wilson, and our Clarke, and our Maer; And the power that raised the deluge, moved the earthquake, sent the storm; Liveth still; for man hath earned the chastening rod; Yes, we're hearing and the sign that flamed for Constantine of old; Oh, America, awake, and pray to God; M. CARRAHER CAREY. Petersburg, Neb.

WHY NOT NICHOLAS OILS?

This is the easiest money you ever made. The same old reliable No. 5 Oliver that thousands have paid nearly four times as much for. This offer is not good for ever; oh, no! We are going to sell just an even hundred at this figure and it is all off. How to get one (or more) of these greatest of all visible writers: Just send check or money order and simply say "Send No. 5 Oliver as advertised in The Bee." Shipment will come by first express unless all sold out, when you will get your money back.



Central Typewriter Exchange, Inc. Omaha Oliver Agency.

TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War. Allies urged United States government to send American troops to France at once. French forces completed their occupation of the entire Croaone ridge, taking many prisoners and advancing on a front of 20 miles. The Day We Celebrate. Charles A. Richey of Richey Sand company born 1873. Cornelius Claassen, with the Peters Trust company, born 1882. S. P. Bostwick, real estate, loans and rentals, born 1860. Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, United States navy, retired, discoverer of the north pole, born at Cresson, Pa., 42 years ago. Oscar W. Underwood, United States senator from Alabama, born at Louisville, Ky., 56 years ago. Philander C. Knox, United States senator from Pennsylvania, born at Brownsville, Pa., 65 years ago.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

The rain of the last two weeks has greatly delayed the progress in all of the departments of the new yagon bridge across the river. South Omaha river was running down N street as usual during the rain storm. Commercial travelers flocked to the city to enjoy the hospitality of the hotels and the various attractions of the city has to offer. General P. McCarty, former assistant general ticket agent of the Union Pacific railroad, has recently been appointed chief clerk in the general passenger office of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad under C. N. Ford, general passenger agent. The Parnell Social club, which is composed of young gentlemen residing in the central portion of the city, is making arrangements for its semi-monthly hop, to be given in Cunningham's hall.



Aimed at Omaha

Nebraska City Press: An Omaha man was arrested because the officers found a quantity of liquor in all of the departments of the new yagon bridge across the river. South Omaha river was running down N street as usual during the rain storm. Commercial travelers flocked to the city to enjoy the hospitality of the hotels and the various attractions of the city has to offer. General P. McCarty, former assistant general ticket agent of the Union Pacific railroad, has recently been appointed chief clerk in the general passenger office of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad under C. N. Ford, general passenger agent. The Parnell Social club, which is composed of young gentlemen residing in the central portion of the city, is making arrangements for its semi-monthly hop, to be given in Cunningham's hall.

Peppery Points

Minneapolis Journal: Germany is still shooting up Russia. That is what comes of turning the other cheek to autocracy. Baltimore American: The British effort to bottle up the submarine by the attack on Zebrugge will have the cordial approval of one Hobson. St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Not a single recommendation is springing to plant potato peelings and raise potatoes. The editors of city papers have taken one step in the science of agriculture. Louisville Courier Journal: Former President Taft, who says the war will last four years longer, might add with deep feeling that while Sherman didn't regenerate it is better to be fighting than president. Brooklyn Eagle: "It's the Americans! It's the Yankees!" The cry of the Germans at the mole of Zebrugge announces that coming events cast their shadows before. Soon and often on sea and land that cry will be correct. New York Herald: Another reason for the inability of the German to prevent the present flow of American youth toward France is found in the news that ten baseball games are played a day in Paris.

Twice Told Tales

Seldom Seen. Sobyeki Kournos, the Polish pianist, narrated at a dinner in Denver Poland's unhappy story. "In this new Austro-German wrangle about the partition of Poland," said a mine owner, "which side, professor, will Poland take?" "Kournos do laugh bitterly. "Did you ever see two dogs fighting over a bone?" he asked. "Yes," said the mine owner. "Well," said Prof. Kournos, "did you ever see the bone do any fighting?"—Washington Star. The Kid's Come Back. There are, of course, anecdotes about General Pershing going about all of them to his credit, it need hardly be said. But this is one which General Pershing himself is fond of telling, and it is always much relished by his hearers. It happened when the general was on the Mexican border in the regiment he commanded by when it met a small, ragged Irish boy, holding tight to a donkey, which had become fractious owing to the noise of the regimental band. It was all his small courted to do something for him. As the men swung by somebody in the ranks called out: "Say, kid, what are you holding your little brother so tight for?" "Because," replied the Irish lad, "I see you guys, and I'm afraid he might enlist."—Christian Science Monitor.