

THE OMAHA BEE DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

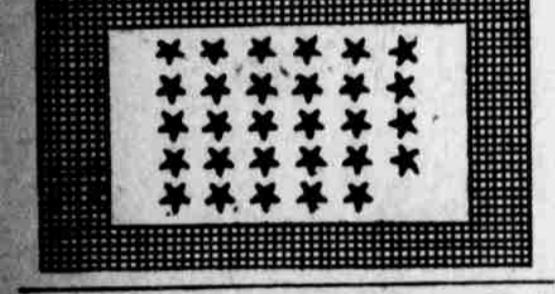
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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG



"Brother Charley" evidently knows what is wrong at Lincoln.

That sound you hear from Nebraska these days is the click of the corn planters.

Things must be looking up for the hyphenated senator, as he has been able to land a retainer in a job.

If George Creel could only get his second thoughts out ahead of his first he would have lots less to apologize for and perhaps regret.

The charter convention has recognized the vote of the high man as entitling him to be made president of this body.

Berlin will please take note that new American troops are daily being added to the line in Picardy and Flanders.

The minority of the senate committee on expenditures is right this time.

Canned jack rabbit will decorate the soldier's bill of fare abroad, and thus keep him ever reminded of the home he left.

War is offered and accepted as the excuse for most of our governmental shortcomings.

Beginning tomorrow, Harry Lauder will tell his experience in the war zone from day to day in The Bee.

One of the flashes on "Jimmy" Gerard's movie screen makes the kaiser say: "Bernstorff has successfully spent \$50,000,000 for our cause in the United States."

"To H—l With the Kaiser."

When Charles M. Schwab visited the shipyards at Philadelphia he took occasion to mingle with the men on the work, and later addressed a mass meeting of the workers, leaving with them this slogan: "Whenever you hit a rivet say, 'To h—l with the kaiser!'"

Mr. Hearst's accusation against Colonel Roosevelt that the colonel is seeking a return to power might have greater weight if it were not known that its maker hopes to go through the governor's chair at Albany to that of the president at Washington.

One Year Ago Today in the War. President Wilson signed the selective conscription bill.

Colonel Roosevelt's proposal to raise a volunteer army was rejected.

Premier Borden announced Canadian government planned for conscription of 50,000 to 100,000 men.

The Day We Celebrate. Edward F. Schurig, president of the Standard Electrical company, born 1882.

Nicholas Romanoff, late emperor of Russia, born in St. Petersburg, 50 years ago.

Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, born in Washington, D. C., 56 years ago.

Hamilton Lewis, United States senator from Illinois, born in Danville, Va., 52 years ago.

BROTHER CHARLIE'S PLAINT.

The reason for the manifesto issued by "Brother Charlie" Bryan, and the reason for putting it out at this particular time, may invite speculation, but the fact that it is the severest kind of an arraignment of Governor Neville and his democratic associates in the state house under guise of being a program for help-win-the-war legislation stands out sharp and clear.

The revamping of "Brother William's" grievance against Governor Neville for not including ratification for national prohibition, in the recent special session proclamation and for blocking the effort to put it over in spite of the omission will evoke difference of opinion. The more incisive indictment of Nebraska's democratic state administration is contained in the list of proposals enumerated in the Bryan program which would not be called for if authority given by existing laws were vigorously and honestly exercised.

If, as it is intimated, liquor interests are still thwarting the will of the people in Nebraska, who can be responsible but the law-enforcing officers backed by that unstinted appropriation of the last legislature?

Enforcement of state laws against monopolies and restraint of trade and enactment of new legislation to prevent profiteering is demanded, but what good will new laws be if no better enforced than our present ample laws against monopolies in restraint of trade?

The fire insurance companies are charged with collecting from the people of Nebraska, this year, \$748,000 more than last year, with no effort to prevent this extortion. Where has our state insurance board been—a board wholly the creature of the democratic government.

If grain growers in Nebraska need protection in the shipping and marketing and grading of their product, why have they not had it from state officers who already have authority to protect them?

Another item demands enforcement of the law regulating the hours of labor of men, women and children. If these laws are not enforced, it is because of the willful blindness of the governor's appointees.

So on, almost down the whole list, with the exception of the laws relating to activities of cities and towns which under the home rule scheme will no longer devolve on the legislature. But the question is unavoidable: How can the past and present state officers and legislatures, most of them democrats, escape responsibility for what "Brother Charlie" complains of?

How to Stop Fee-Grabbing.

No serious difficulty stands in the way of stopping that rank fee graft in the health commissioner's office. Congress shows exactly how it can be done when it makes the appropriation for the three commissioners who manage the city of Washington, one of whom must by law be an army engineer drawing army pay. The item in the appropriation reads as follows:

General expenses, executive office: Two commissioners at \$5,000 each; engineer commissioner, so much as may be necessary to make salary \$5,000.

It can be done right here in Omaha by the simple twist of the wrist in exactly the same way and effectually end fee-grabbing.

Regulation Needed at the Mines.

One function of the United States fuel administration appears to have been overlooked in the general effort to adjust relations between producer and consumer. While it is good policy to stress the importance of laying in an ample supply of fuel during the summer months, that winter requirements may be anticipated as far as possible, this should not be pushed to the extent of neglect of other factors in the general problem. One of these is production.

Just now the local administrator tells the public that certain of the mines have practically suspended production because no demand is apparent for the least desirable portion of their products. Arkansas mines, it is stated, have practically shut down because of the accumulation of slack, for which no market exists at this time. It is also set out that 50 per cent of the "mine run" coal at these mines is slack. If this be true, the methods of production should be carefully looked into. When half the output of a coal mine falls into the slack pile, something is wrong. In this connection, it may serve to recall the charge made by the railroads a few weeks ago that last winter 50,000,000 tons of slate, stone and other noncombustible refuse from coal mines were shipped and sold as fuel.

This needs close inquiry. Just before the fuel administration took charge of the mines, coal was not only carefully screened and sorted, but was washed, and consumers were guaranteed the quality of the fuel they purchased. Why this care should be abandoned in face of emergency and wasteful practices be permitted is not plain to the man who has to pay for the stuff that does not burn.

Mr. Hearst's accusation against Colonel Roosevelt that the colonel is seeking a return to power might have greater weight if it were not known that its maker hopes to go through the governor's chair at Albany to that of the president at Washington.

"Over There and Here"

Germanant, Pa., is trying to change its name to Woodrow. Bismarck, N. D., is also weary of its Germanic appellation.

"Sturmpanserkraftwagen!" Can you vocalize it without dislocating the jaw? It's German for war tank. No wonder the junker pattern broke down under the lingual load.

Since the beginning of the war the London Times has collected more than \$10,000,000 for the British Red Cross society and the Order of St. John, joint workers in war relief. The huge total evidences the power of the Times' pull. And the good work goes steadily on.

In a manifesto foreshadowing bankruptcy for Germany unless indemnities are laid, the Industrial Union of Saxony says the war has added \$3,700,000,000 to the empire's annual peace expenditures of \$1,200,000,000. It remarks this total will absorb 60 per cent of the whole national income.

"Such a burden," it adds, "would paralyze production and all spirit of enterprise and ruin our life." Frightfulness comes home to roost.

Britain is steadily restricting the output of beer, this year's total being cut to 12,590 standard barrels, which includes the army supply. There are 90,000 "licensed public houses" or saloons in the country and only enough beer to keep them going 24 hours a week. A writer in the London Chronicle urges immediate closing of 30,000 saloons, which would release, at least, 100,000 persons for some useful war service.

Coming Boost in Railroad Rates Prospects of Turning a Deficit Into a Surplus

New York Financial World.

On the basis of the tremendous shrinkage shown by the railroads of the country in the first three months of 1918 the United States will find itself a loser by the end of 1918 of several millions of dollars as the result of the enforced taking over of the railroads for the period of the war. It is no wonder, therefore, that a leading banker who had something to do with turning over the railroads to the protecting care of the government exclaimed a few days ago: "It is a good thing that the government took the railroads when it did, otherwise we would now be in the throes of a large sized panic in securities." In other words, the situation had got beyond the bankers and the railroads, but there can be no panic while Uncle Sam holds the bag, and it is pretty certain that Uncle Sam isn't going to shoulder all the burden without using his influence to correct the income account.

Now the government has influence which it knows how to use and it is pretty certain that it will find a way to turn the present railroads rates, which came so nearly ruining the railroads, are inadequate to support them. It will see to it that the rates are revised and it will more quickly obtain public support for the increase when it is announced that a substantial part of the increase is for the purpose of giving a wage advance that will cost \$300,000,000 more annually. It is believed, however, that if the rate advance granted the New Haven recently, and which will mean about \$4,000,000 additional revenue per annum to that road, is given to other lines in the same ratio, the additional revenue will be \$650,000,000 to \$700,000,000 annually, and, offset by the wage increase, a net additional revenue of \$350,000,000 to \$400,000,000, which can be utilized

for the rehabilitation of the railroads, pay for new equipment and maintain them as efficient agencies for the successful prosecution of the war. The government wants first to make the railroads do what it wants them to do, no matter what the cost, but it purposes to make them pay their way, if possible, and not leave the way open for congressional criticism and attack. There are plenty of politicians in congress who would only be too glad to be able to charge that the democratic administration has been loaded with a burden that will mean big losses to the public, which has to foot the bill. A freight rate advance of 25 per cent would not mean more than 3 per cent additional expense in the living accounts of the people and no protest is likely to develop. If, therefore, railroad shareholders wake up some morning and hear about a big general rate advance, affecting all passenger fares and freight rates, they need not be surprised but realize that it is only a government job made necessary by war conditions. Such an advance will mean more to security holders than they have had in years and it may rehabilitate railroad security holders once more in public speculative and investment favor. March net operating earnings for 34 large roads were \$35,000,000, against an actual operating deficit of more than \$4,000,000 for February and January, but with the wage increases referred to coming and an increase in the fuel bill amounting to \$60,000,000, a substantial deficit is certain for the year unless rates are advanced. The \$35,000,000 net operating revenue for March will be absorbed by interest charges and dividends, leaving nothing for emergencies, extensions or improvements.

Madmen Do Not Run Us Absolutism and Lunacy a Prussian Affliction

Minneapolis Journal.

The kaiser has hallucinations, it is reported. He has always had them. His staff are worried. They would better have been worried years ago. His father, the Emperor Frederick, was worried. The first chancellor was worried. But for all the work he has evoked, such was the constitution of the German confederation and such the prerogatives of the king of Prussia that William didn't need to mind. He was not required to be sane, to be everything that ordinary men are, to be prudent even as limited monarchs must be. He could do any crazy thing he liked, and all his life he has been doing just that. Such is the peculiar virtue of the German system, concurred in by 70,000,000 Germans, but at last become intolerable to the rest of mankind.

Absolutism has been in the grasp of madmen before this. That is the right privilege of absolutism, to confide the welfare of millions and the destinies of nations to morons and paranoiacs. Wasn't the Czar Paul who saved Frederick the Great from ruin a lunatic? What was King Charles, who was crowned by Joan of Arc and who forsook his deliverer, but a half-wit? Didn't De Quincy write about the 12 mad Cesars and come near to proving his case? The madness of the patrician and imperial family of Claudius ran through generations of Roman history and colored it.

This kaiser, he of the shriveled arm and aching ear, has been an able paranoiac all his life, nursing the delusion of greatness, convinced of his mission under God, a fanatic as rabid in his way as was Philip II of Spain, as crafty and bloodthirsty as was Mohammed of Mecca, and as meddlesome and vain as was Claudius Nero, emperor, poet, artist and clown.

A republic has the privilege of electing whom it pleases. Sometimes a republic will choose a mediocrity, but that is about the extent of its folly. It doesn't exalt madmen and then swear they are inspired of God. It isn't such a fool.

Oh, we have heard democracy sneered at since this war began, and some faint-hearted ones have experienced grave doubts of the ability of democracy to survive in a world such as this. But, believe us, the possibilities of error open to a republic such as ours are zero compared to what a Prussia can do and has done. Take our line of presidents from Washington down. There isn't a dynasty of monarchs that can stack up with them.

Witnesses Against Autocracy

With all junkerdom is a rage over the disclosures of Prince Lichnowsky, who was German ambassador in London at the outbreak of the war in which the guilt of the military party in Berlin is fully exposed. Maximilian Harden now adds to the uproar by bringing in his esteemed Zukunft what autocracy can hardly ignore.

"I swear," he says of the Prussian Diet, "that there are dozens of men sitting there in these dark war hours who have written and said similar things in sharper and more bitter words," and he asks if they would meet the same fate as Lichnowsky if their papers were stolen and exposed in Berlin shop windows.

Prince Lichnowsky, who was on the spot, representing Germany, corroborates everything that Sir Edward Grey, then British foreign secretary, has said as to Germany's determination to bring on the war and Great Britain's efforts to avert it. If, as Herr Harden writes, there are dozens of members of the Prussian Diet who are as well informed as Lichnowsky, and who have privately written and spoken in the same strain, the proposed prosecution of the prince may be one of these days be abandoned in behalf of an indictment of persons higher up, with these dozen along with Lichnowsky and Harden, as the accusers.—New York World.

People and Events

A bunch of Missouri boosters planned to carry a message of patriotism to Washington on a de luxe train, the "Loyalty Special." General Manager McAdoo ditched the scheme ere the train was made up, and inferentially told the boosters to send the message by mail and invest the money in war bonds. Business before pleasure.

Prospects brighten for ending a crisis in footwear within a week or so. The National Association of Tanners are getting together on the question of the weight and color of madame's boots, with chances in favor of subduing the bright colors which now dazzle gazing eyes. Most tanners are elders anyway, and naturally averse to window dressing at the foot.

The post bakery at Fort Douglas, Utah, scores a victory over the sunset gun. The nearness of the gun when in action jarred the sensibilities of the dough, causing it to sag in the middle and sideways, preventing a proper frontal elevation on emerging from the ovens. The gun had to go to the respectful distance and the staff of life now swells in comparative peace.

The outcome of the fight against higher street car fares in Kansas City seems likely to be women conductors and motor operators. The president of the company indicated as much at the hearing now on before the State Utilities commission, a body similar to the Nebraska Railroad commission.

As the company views the situation the issue is higher fares with men employees, present fares and women.

Editorial Shrapnel

Minneapolis Journal: If the truth were known, the Dutch have about as much to eat as the cat has for the vacuum cleaner.

Washington Post: Prospects of sheep feeding on the White House lawn are enough to tempt William Jennings down for a peek through the railings.

Baltimore American: Their war work has made women equal to men, says Roosevelt. In many instances, individual comparison will put them far superior to numerous men, who have done little or nothing.

Brooklyn Eagle: The greatest churchman of the war by the common consent of mankind is Cardinal Mercier, archbishop of Malines. Again he hurls the eternal truth in the teeth of the kaiser and again and again he will send his shots home. Not in all of Germany's and Austria's inventor be found to make a gun of longer range or more deadly effect than the simple words from the lips of this brave and learned man.

The Bee's Letter Box

Clean the Court House. Omaha, May 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your advice to the voters to complete the political house cleaning by applying the elimination process to the Douglas county court house inhabitants is worthy of full consideration, and should not be lightly cast aside.

To my way of thinking the greatest mistake of the public, politically speaking, is to indefinitely keep a certain bunch of politicians in office after their first term, usually they consider themselves owners of the jobs and the public gets scant consideration.

As a taxpayer, for instance, I have visited the court house periodically and if my experience is that of others, the public certainly receives shabby treatment from the "servants."

Anyhow, although I have been liberal in the past in voting for them, I have about come to the conclusion that you can't expect much from a democrat in public office other than recklessness with public funds and inventing new jobs for the faithful.

Bombardment of London. Des Moines, Ia., May 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: How the Huns would like to destroy London? Ever since the war began they have been sending fleets of Zeppelins and other aircraft over the channel to drop bombs on the British capital. All they have succeeded in doing is to kill a few score of women and children and excite the indignation of the English soldiers to such a point that when the tide turns on the western front many Hun cities may be razed to the ground. The allies could not be blamed if they made a howling wilderness out of the whole of Kaiserland.

What actually will happen in this respect remains to be seen. The Germans are still bent on destroying London and Lieutenant General Von Rhone, an expert on ordnance, is authority for the statement that the bombardment of Paris is merely in the nature of a trial for the Huns would really intend to bombard the great English metropolis. As the great cannon have become more or less of a joke to the citizens of "Gay Paree," it is not to be expected that the Londoners are wildly excited or alarmed over the prospect. In any event, the Huns will have "some" fighting to do before they get within 76 miles of the object of their envy and hatred.

J. A. LOGUE.

CHEERY CHAFF.

A woman left a baby in its carriage in front of a department store. A policeman found it there and believing it was abandoned he wheeled it to the station near by. As he passed down the street a kammy yelled: "What's de kid done, officer?"—Boston Transcript.

"I am afraid that your son is a follower of Bacchus," said the preacher who was calling on old Gotroff.

"A follower? Why, he caught up with that guy Bacchus and passed him years ago."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

"Birds of a feather flock together." "Don't you believe it. I went on a lark, collected a number of bats, took a great many swallows, and next day found myself eating crow."—Baltimore American.

"The welfare workers of this town want to know if you will play for the poorhouse." "To be sure," answered Yorick Hamm. "Playing to poor houses was my regular game."—Kansas City Journal.

"A boarding house keeper has no trouble in marrying off her daughter." "Huh!" "Somebody is bound to get behind with his rent."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Why the elaborate toilet, Judge?" asked his wife. "There's to be something of a function in court today. I'm to officiate at a fashionable divorce."—Chicago Post.

Agnes—A man just went by in an automobile. He looked at me and said: "What a beautiful woman!" Marie—Heaven! He must have been going fast.—Boston Transcript.

IF GOD INTENDS.

If God intends that man should reel into the boat again—success. Must greet the Teuton fire and steel! If God intends that man's distress should go unanswered all his tears—And blood go unrequited, then a madman's lust shall scourge the years To come for all the sons of men.

If God intends that night should reign Where once we had the light of day—Then Teuton fury, turned insane, Must win and grinning death hold sway. Then what we once held dear must go The way of things outworn, and all that left behind us vite must know A renascence that will appal.

But if the good in man still gropes For something better than before, And if our dreams, desires and hopes In spite of death still upward soar, Because God wills that we be strong Before the bragging hosts of sin, Then—darkness shall not try us long. The best must lose and right must win. —New York Times.

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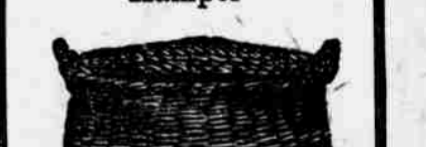
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