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In vain do Wall street's war babies whimper for nourishment these days.

Teutonic secret service agents are not always as secretive as they imagine.

As a clinching argument for good roads, the Auto show speaks for itself.

Only two more days of congress—and mighty little show for the belated bill!

Four out of the six weeks of Mr. Groundhog's hibernation have passed. Get ready to com'nout.

Looks as if Uncle Sam would have to stand guard over the Monroe Doctrine—and with a gun in his hand, too!

If half the reports of plotting activities is true, the plotters should have no difficulty in showing they earned the money.

But why did not the president disclose that German-Mexican communication long ago, if it has been in his possession for more than a month?

Legislative surgical operations in state expenses may be needed in obscure spots, but common sense forbids crippling the patient for the sake of the cutting experience.

With the May day advent of the "dry" era a lot of our municipal troubles will settle themselves automatically, so begin right now to boost for a bigger, better and busier Omaha.

Much misinformation filters into Germany, provoking doubt and uncertainty in official quarters. It is very annoying, doubtless, especially since Berlin gets back no better quality than it sends.

A party leader in the German Reichstag simplifies the coming peace negotiations very materially. "All damage and loss of property," he says, "must be borne by the originators of the war." Poor Austria!

New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston are abundantly stocked with provisions. Talk of scarcity is baseless. The problem is not in the supply, but in the means of jarring loose the speculative grip.

Persons prone to mocking gas and plumbing bills owe apologies to the bill makers. Their calculations, by comparison, typify strict economy and restraint befitting skilled tradesmen. Only amateurs practice the holdup. Consider the unskilled in congress and their ways. They rendered a bill for \$50,000 and didn't find a leak.

Vacant lot cultivation, systematically pursued, can be made profitable not only in crops garnered, but also in health-giving exercise. Unfortunately, the backyard potato patch is easily started and also easily abandoned on the first rainy excuse. Each prospective vacant lot cultivator should sign up a contract with himself to go through to the finish.

The progress of the state in fifty years, astonishing as it is in many ways, merely glimpses that it will be in another half century if coming generations profit by the experience of their parents. The advantage lies with them. Opportunities abound and reward wait upon the consummation of industry, perseverance and foresight which characterized the pioneer makers of the state.

Law or Violence

New York World

If it be true, as the Interstate Commerce commission announced yesterday, that no actual fuel shortage exists anywhere in the country, there can be but one conclusion as to present conditions. The necessities of life have been cornered in defiance of law and in contempt of officers sworn to enforce the law.

It is a sorry outcome of legislation and litigation extending over a quarter of a century that the first comprehensive test to which our many enactments against monopoly and restraint of trade have been subjected there is no hint of prosecution for crime and the suggestion of no remedy but pro-German embargoes, despotism, commandeering of food supplies or charity on a colossal scale. A dubious expression of this helpless bewilderment was the proposition in the senate of the United States yesterday by Senator Lewis of Illinois that food unlawfully held be seized for public distribution.

Where but in the courts is the lawfulness of any property to be determined? Where but in the courts are we to discover whether the men who have created the apparent scarcity are engaged in what is called business, or in what we know to be crime? Where but in the courts are we to find whether laws means what they say or mean nothing?

More important than an extraordinary foreign demand and a disposition to panic on the part of many of our people in the creation of present conditions are the confidence of the monopolists that nothing will be done to them, and the public conviction that law is no defense against extortion. The men who have cornered food are gambling on the proposition that the law will not overtake them. Their victims, seeing no evidence of law enforcement anywhere, naturally become alarmed and desperate.

The food supply being ample, it devolves upon state and federal authority to liberate it from the control of speculators and plunderers. This may be done by law or it may be accomplished by violence, but in the long run society will profit most by law.

Amazing and Audacious.

Amazing and audacious are the only words to characterize the move made by Germany for an alliance with Mexico against the United States. At the same time, one must wonder that the usually shrewd diplomats of Berlin should so tactlessly pursue a course certain to react so harmful to their country.

It was to have been expected that Germany would, if possible, endeavor to divert the attention of the United States away from the main war operations, and our already strained relations with the de facto Mexican government, as well as our chronic friction with Japan, offered a ready-made situation for Dr. Zimmermann's use. To this he seems to have turned in his emergency, regardless of the after effects.

But other angles of the affair are equally interesting. In the Zimmermann note to Eckhart, Germany, hitherto constantly emphasizing its highly moral aspirations and professing to be above seizing a foot of land from a foe for herself, freely offers to aid Carranza to help himself to a huge slice of the United States. How far Carranza may have been influenced by such a proffer is a matter of conjecture; the bait was doubtless tempting enough to him, but he knew landing the fish to be quite another undertaking. It is reasonable to think that his nearer view of the United States would make even a Mexican chieftain pause before entering on so dubious a scheme of conquest.

Again, President Wilson's position would be unquestionably stronger now had he been more frank when he went before congress last Monday. This is attested by the bareback in the senate following the present disclosure. The information the president then possessed, but withheld, would have invited confidence and hastened intelligent action.

The one salient result of the uncovering of the intrigue must be a more complete shattering of faith of our people in the German expressions of good intentions and friendly desires. Assuming the genuineness of the Zimmermann note, the United States cannot regard its source as anything but hostile and must omit no rational measure of preparedness for self-defense.

Two Pictures.

Did you study the two pictures, reproduced by The Bee, contrasting the Farnam street of today with the same Farnam street when the Nebraska statehood proclamation was issued? If you have not already done so, you should, for there is inspiration in those pictures for every far-seeing person to pin his faith in Omaha.

These two pictures present an ocular exhibit of progress, monuments to the push, pluck, perseverance and enterprise of the builders of this city, whose principal business thoroughfare now bears less resemblance to itself, as it existed fifty years ago, when Nebraska became a state, than have the rebuilt areas of earthquake-shaken San Francisco or fire-swept Baltimore.

It is reasonable to assume that the physical characteristics of Omaha are now fixed for some time to come and that another fifty years will not work so many changes on any one street, because the expansion and reconstruction will be spread over much more territory, but we may be sure the growth and concomitant improvements will continue with fewer interruptions and less slackening of speed.

What the two pictures must impress most is that, even looking through this vista to the beginnings, no one dares conjure in his mind with any self-confidence a conception of what the main street of the Omaha of fifty years hence will look like.

Armed Neutrality.

That President Wilson will be accorded power by congress to change the position of the United States from passive to armed neutrality is apparent. While this is still short of war, it is as close as a nation can come without actual participation. It means authority to arm all American merchantmen, and, if need be, to convey them by warships on their journeys to and from port. Under it a merchantman is warranted in resisting visit and search, and may use whatever means are available to evade capture by a belligerent. This step for the protection of American commerce has been resorted to several times in the history of the country. To support this course, the president will be empowered to employ all the naval force of the United States. It is still a question as to whether the phrase, "other instrumentalities," will be carried with all it implies of unlimited power to the executive, but the purpose of congress to make full provision for the proper protection of American rights is manifest and if further action is needed it will be had.

Need of a State Budget System.

The preparation of the big maintenance appropriation bill in the legislature emphasizes the crudity of the system that prevails. Heads of the state institutions or departments make their estimates, and the committee of the legislature makes the decision as to what will be allowed. It is not to be doubted that the department heads take into consideration the fact that their estimates will be cut, and so set their figures high enough. It is equally true the legislators realize this and scale down accordingly. The one side is interested in getting all the money it can, the other in holding the public expenditures to the lowest possible limit. Under such a plan, especially when it is complicated by log-rolling and trading between the different sections of the state, the best service is impossible. Some unnecessary expense is certain to slip in, while something really needed is likely to be omitted. A better way of doing business is sadly needed. The house need surrender nothing of its constitutional prerogative, but it might be relieved of much of its present responsibility, and sometimes embarrassment, and better service for the state obtained, if a comprehensive budget system were adopted.

Conservation of forests looms large as the sole means of safeguarding the future paper supply. Unless inventive skill devises means of converting cornstalks, straw and other vegetable plants into paper, the ancient practice of burning wood for heat may break into the category of moral crimes.

Any old money looks better than home made money in Mexico. The main obstacle to an effective deal with Carranza is the difficulty of sending a shipment of marks through the blockade. Carranza and Cabrera need the money.

All doubts as to the success of the Auto show are dispelled, and the exhibition is only half over. Dealers have been too busy booking orders to worry a great deal about the weather.

Undistributed Prosperity

The latest evidence of what is called our "unprecedented prosperity" appears in the statistics of foreign trade for the month of January and for seven months of the current fiscal year. For the month exports reached a value of \$613,400,000, compared with \$330,784,000 in the same month last year, and \$204,000,000 in January, 1914. The excess of exports over imports amounted to \$371,700,000 in January this year, \$148,430,000 last year and \$40,320,000 in 1914. For seven months of the fiscal year ending with January exports were valued at \$3,614,000,000, imports \$1,348,000,000 and excess of exports over imports \$2,266,000,000. The figures for the corresponding period a year before were \$2,183,000,000, \$1,097,000,000 and \$1,086,000,000. For that ending January, 1914, they were \$1,522,000,000, \$1,067,000,000 and \$454,000,000. These are impressive figures, "signifying much."

No doubt they signify for some people a high degree of prosperity. Among other things they indicate large opportunities for labor at high wages; but they are accompanied by high prices for many things, including necessities of life, and denote what is so often referred to as the "high cost of living." This high cost of living affects everybody. Everybody shares in paying the high prices, but a comparatively small proportion of the people share in receiving them. A large number of the working people do not share in the high wages, at least not in those which have risen in proportion to the cost of their living, which in very many cases has to be pretty poor.

While we see so many of these impressive figures of profit and of huge foreign trade, and of much domestic industry and trade which contribute to it, there is percolating through the air a suffering and investigation into the causes of it. There are pitiful pleas for relief from starvation, such as beset the city hall with a crowd of poor women the other day. Evidently there is a bad distribution of the fruits of this boasted prosperity. While many are short of food and weeping with their hungry and ill-clothed children exposed to cold weather, there is an enormous waste of the food supplies in thoughtless and heartless extravagance. Recipients of high profits squander them in self-indulgence and few show any disposition to share with the suffering. Comparatively little is done for their relief at home, while the organizations to rescue from starvation abroad. This latter should be increased and not lessened, but more of the squandered surplus of profit should be used in relief of domestic suffering. Little of that is afforded by complaint and criticism or even by expensive investigation.

Chemical Preparedness

The remarkable growth and development of our chemical industries, due to loss of the imports from Germany and to the foreign demand for high explosives, not only promises to make us independent in years to come, so far as supplies of chemical products are concerned, but now assist in preparing the country for national defense. As our manufacturers of steel and munitions are fully equipped and ready, because of their work on foreign orders during the last two years, so the new chemical industries will meet the requirements of war, if that should come. The needs of both peace and war have caused the establishment and expansion of them. The same chemicals which belligerent armies and navies must have are indispensable in our factories in days of peace. Those which are the basis of dyestuffs, for example, must be used in making high explosives.

It is said by government officers that we are now making enough benzol, toluol and phenol, or carbolic acid, to supply the wants of the whole world in normal times. The increase in two years has been 400 per cent. Forty per cent of our coke now comes from the by-product ovens in which such chemicals are recovered from what was formerly thrown away. The smoke now yields valuable substances which in the past we imported. Such full utilization of coal is giving us great quantities of ammonia and nitric acid. Scores of factories are turning out such dyestuffs as we formerly bought from Germany, and chemists say there is now an ample domestic supply of the necessary colors. Growing outputs here have reduced the very high prices of many chemicals. We are making potash from kelp, aluminate, the waters of a lake and the waste of cement mills. The value of the product rose last year to \$3,500,000. Exports of chemicals have grown from less than \$500,000 a year before the war to \$24,000,000. The authorized capital for new companies and additions to old ones in the chemical industries has been about \$170,000,000. If our country should be drawn into the war, all this chemical preparedness would have a new and greater value.

Prohibition Drink Money

Congress passes a bill cutting off revenue as lightly as one calling for the expenditures of hundreds of millions. Since the legislative department has refused to consider the effect upon the treasury of the act forbidding shipments of liquor for personal use into prohibition states, perhaps the executive branch will inquire into the matter. Assuming that Representative Shirley is well-advised when he says that 40 per cent of Kentucky's liquor product has been sold in prohibition states, it is reasonable to suppose that the ratio holds good generally and that it applies to brewers as well as to distillers. Last year the direct tax upon the manufacture of spirits, beer and wine amounted to about \$238,000,000. If the new law proves effective in stopping the "personal-use" traffic in prohibition territory, it will also, on the 40-per-cent basis, stop about \$95,000,000 in taxes which congressmen and others in Washington have found highly useful for appropriations.

In joyous disregard of consequences, congress appears to have considered this subject only as a moral, social and political problem, with a suggestion on the side that the action taken was an excellent joke upon the prohibitionists whose cellars have never gone dry. When the bill gets to the president, who must necessarily grapple with sordid finance occasionally, he may want to know how he is to replace that \$95,000,000 of prohibition drink-money.

People and Events

Down east seed potatoes are held at from \$12 to \$15 a barrel. Vacant lot gardening is due for a jolt when planting time for spuds arrives.

Little old New York considers one flag good enough for all. Some incautious rounders who express different opinions loud enough to be heard generally win a smash and a tattoo of shoe-leather. Unusual speed is necessary to escape a knockout.

A girl in Jersey City left home because she couldn't get a new dress for a dance. Another in New York flew the family coop because dad chided her for making up her face. Both returned before harm befell. Such incidents are reminders of parental authority gone to seed.

Medical reports from the Warwick farms, the New York State Sanitarium for Drug Addicts, convey hopeful prospects for a new treatment devised by Medical Director Charles F. Stokes, formerly surgeon general of the United States navy. The nature of the treatment is not disclosed, but is said to have shown gratifying results in twenty-five cases treated. It is said no suffering ensues and acute symptoms are removed in two or three days. Dr. Stokes promises to make known the treatment should satisfactory results show up in 100 cases.

Health Hint for the Day.

In treating dandruff the brushes and combs used must be kept scrupulously clean and disinfected, otherwise reinfection is inevitable.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Two ships reported sunk in new submarine war. Rumanians took Bittis, in Turkish Armenia.

Germany lost heavily in new drive at Verdun. Earl Kitchener and other members of the British government at Big Guild hall meeting urged strict economy for the nation.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

A sorrel horse attached to a top buggy, the property of Dr. Ward, was taken from the corner of Fifteenth and Harney. The doctor would like to interview the thief or "joker" who aspired to the possession of his steed and attachments.

About 100 spectators were present at the wrestling match between Charles Moth and Elliott Edwards at South Omaha. James Mangel was chosen referee. T. M. McGuire and A. Carey timekeepers. Moth was seconded by Jack Hanley and Edwards by Frank Bradburn. The match was won by Moth.

The deed of the Briggs farm to C. E. Mayne and Erastus Benson was filed with the county clerk, the consideration paid being \$295,750.

While Judge Stenberg was trying part of the prisoners in police court the remaining part were quietly enjoying "a pull at the bottle," some man in the lobby having smuggled a quart bottle of whiskey, which they were passing into the court room.

W. E. Findley of Fremont, O., who is the guest of W. B. Jacobs, intends to locate in this city and follow his professional pursuits as architect.

Mrs. C. J. Emery has gone to Kansas City to visit friends. Mrs. E. M. Smith of Creston, Ia., has returned to Omaha and taken up her residence on Burt street.

Charles H. Hoyt's farce comedy, "Parlor Match," was presented at Boyd's opera house.

This Day in History. 1769—De Witt Clinton, statesman, known as "the father of the Erie canal," born at Little Bristol, N. Y. Died in Albany February 11, 1828.

1776—A Bostonian named Adams was opened upon Boston from all the American batteries. 1779—Simon Gabriel Brute, first Catholic bishop of Vincennes, Ind., born in France. Died at Vincennes June 26, 1838.

1792—General Sam Houston, leader in the struggle for Texan independence, born near Lexington, Va. Died at Huntsville, Tex., July 26, 1863.

1810—Pope Leo XIII born at Carpineto, Italy. Died in Rome July 30, 1903.

1819—Congress authorized Alabama to form a state constitution. 1836—Declaration of independence of Texas signed.

1853—Washington territory created out of the northern part of Oregon. 1881—Roderick Maclean, a demented youth, attempted to shoot Queen Victoria in the railway station at Windsor.

182—William J. Tucker was elected president of Dartmouth college. 1894—General Jubal A. Early, celebrated confederate chieftain, died at Lynchburg, Va. Born in Franklin county, Virginia, November 3, 1816.

1912—The president issued a proclamation warning Americans to observe the neutrality laws with Mexico.

The Day We Celebrate. Charles R. Sherman first saw the light of day in Montgomery Center, Vt., fifty-five years ago today. Omaha boasts the possession of a whole string of first-class drug stores due to the progressiveness of Mr. Sherman, who also is a Water Boarder.

John H. Shary, president of the International Land and Investment company, was born March 1872, at Wilber, Neb. He has made quite a success in real estate and land colonization.

General John W. Foster, eminent lawyer, diplomat and former secretary of state, born in Pike county, Indiana, eighty-one years ago today.

Prof. George F. Swain of Harvard university, chairman of the board of engineers employed to place a valuation on the railways of Canada, born in San Francisco sixty years ago today.

Edwin Milton Royle, author of numerous successful plays, born at Lexington, Mo., fifty-five years ago today.

Samuel Untermyer, famous as a corporation lawyer, born at Lynchburg, Va., fifty-nine years ago today.

Prof. Henry Marion Howe, noted metallurgist and son of the late Julia Ward Howe, born in Boston sixty-nine years ago today.

Tom Cowley, well known heavy-weight pugilist, born at Cumberland House, England, twenty-five years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders. Texas today will hold its first official observance of Sam Houston Memorial day in celebration of the 124th anniversary of the birth of Sam Houston and the eighty-first anniversary of the adoption of the Texas declaration of independence.

Representative-Elect Jeannette Rankin of Montana is to explain her political views before a New York audience in Carnegie hall tonight in the first public address she has delivered since her election to congress.

Girl students of Washburn college and Kansas State Agricultural college are to engage in an intercollegiate debate today at Topeka.

Many librarians are expected at Atlantic City today for the annual meetings of the American Library institute and the State Library associations of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Storiette of the Day. The city's diners out are hearing a new story this season. Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of the Free synagogue says: "Not long ago a mother of one of my little pupils came to me and said: 'Doctor, how could you speak to my little daughter so cruelly? She came home from the synagogue in tears, and never wants to go back.' 'What did I say to her?' I asked in astonishment. 'You told her if she didn't come often you would throw her in the furnace, the accusing mother asserted. 'I thought it over, much puzzled, and then I recalled that what I really did say was this: 'If you are not more regular in attendance I shall have to drop you from the register.'"

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No Charity in Vacant Lot Planting. Omaha, March 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: For years I have championed the cultivation of vacant lots, and am delighted to see the impetus now being given to this movement by so many of our citizens and newspapers. However, I believe that to associate this movement with a form of charity is a great mistake. It is in no sense a form of charity.

Every citizen, regardless of his station, ought to enjoy the cultivation of vacant lots. It is not only a healthful exercise, far surpassing most outdoor sports, but it is a great aid in the improvement of the looks of the city itself. In addition, it is a means by which fresh garden truck can be furnished directly to the table of the growers. No one really relishes the great difference between such small vegetables taken fresh from the garden to the table, so much as those who raise them. These are the esthetic reasons for the cultivation of vacant lots, but the economic reasons are by no means to be ignored, when these fresh vegetables, as well as others, are so high priced.

Far be it from me to discourage the use of vacant lots for charitable reasons; but there is a certain justifiable pride in most people against being classed as indigent charity dependents. Yet these people would no doubt appreciate the opportunity to cultivate vacant lots. That is the reason why, I fear, it is not for the best development of this civic spirit to associate it too closely with a charity movement. In its best and true sense it is nothing of the sort.

Responsibility for War. Omaha, March 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the New York American is an article purporting to prove that "the people of the United States alone have the constitutional and moral right to declare war." It impudently charges with disobeying the constitution article I, section 8, paragraph 10, and the tenth amendment of the constitution in support of its accusation and contention.

It claims that congress alone has the constitutional power and right "to

define what acts of a submarine are and what are not felonies on the high seas and offenses against the laws of nations."

It furthermore charges that congress has been unfaithful to its sworn obligation in "permitting and endorsing the unlawful exercise by a department officer (Mr. Lansing) of the sole powers granted to congress alone by the constitution," and that congress "could not lawfully delegate that power to him (the secretary of state and the president) if it tried."

Finally, the American charges that our country is on the verge of war over a definition made unconstitutionally and unlawfully by Mr. Lansing.

Mr. Editor, may I ask you if there is any error or flaw in the statements, logic and conclusions of the article in question? If there is, please tell us. If there is not, then, may God be merciful to our country, if war results from the present crisis with Germany without the outspoken consent of the majority of the voters of the United States.

P. ETO.

Lines to a Laugh. Belle—How in the world did Gertie head-stroke ever come to marry Jack to reform him? Helen—I can tell you. Gertie tried to reform Jack before she had any idea of marrying him and failed, and you know Gertie—Judge.

She—You don't mind my talking so much, do you? He—No, indeed; but (facetiously) I may mind after we are married.

She—But I shan't mind then.—Boston Transcript.

Dear Mr. Kabibble. I'm in love with one of my tenants—how can I show that I care for her? —A Landlord.

Explain the lease to her.

What's in a name? The rose, you know, will smell as sweet by any other name;—but, indeed, it is like one to call it a potato.—Baltimore American.

My dear, you promised me to read the book book.

Well, I read it to please you, but I really don't see much to it as literature. I couldn't get the hang of the plot and there were absolutely no thrills.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Discontinuing the Raymond Location

at 1513 Howard Street

Every piece of this splendid stock of Furniture, Rugs and Draperies will be sold as rapidly as possible for the purpose of discontinuing this location. The Raymond stock covers 50,000 square feet of floor space in the salesrooms alone. Every floor is congested to the limit with a stock so large and so varied that any housefurnishing need may be supplied from it.

Think what this means—Such a stock of such quality at discontinuation prices. Opportunity smiles on your want list of furniture as it never did before.

CENTRAL FURNISHING logo with text: WE SAVE YOU MONEY—THERE ARE REASONS. OMAHA QUALITY HOME FURNISHING.

Buy Your Drugs and Toilet Articles

at the Sherman & McConnell Drug Co., where you can "really and truly" save both time and money.

Out-of-city Auto Show visitors can save quite a portion of their traveling expenses by taking home an armful, gripful or autoloaf of Toilet and Medicinal necessities and luxuries.

- Toilet Goods At Reduced Prices. 25c Packer's Tar Soap...14c. 50c Laxett's Toilet Waters...34c. 25c Wool or Velour Puff for 14c. 50c Cold Cream, 3 or 4 standard kinds, at per jar...34c. 50c Perfumes, six standard odors, per ounce...34c. 50c Danderine Fat...34c.

- West End Pharmacy 49th and Dodge. This store is just "getting its eyes open"—but will be thoroughly awake soon. We'll tell you more about it a little later.

Big Candy Sale All This Week. Three or four kinds "Sealed at Factory." 1-lb. box assortments of Chocolate covered Nuts and Fruits, regular 40c and 50c values, on sale, at, per lb. box...29c.

Sherman & McConnell Drug Co.

5 Good Drug Stores—All on Prominent Corners, Omaha, Neb. Corner 16th and Dodge (the Original) Home of Downstairs Sodalists. Corner 16th and Harney (The Owl, with its Downstairs Owl's Nest) Lunch and Soda Room. Corner 24th and Farnam (The Hgward). Corner 19th and Farnam (Handsome Commodious). Our New "West End" Pharmacy, 49th and Dodge.