THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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If Bryan were still in the cabinet would the senator—Oh, pshaw!

Strange as it may appear, April's switch to the wet side increases its popularity.

Gentlemen of the legislature, the spring plowing season is on. Hike for home and get busy.

Of course you are having your back-yard vegetable garden plot laid out and cleared up. If not, why not?

Municipal elections supplement other signs of the times in clearly pointing to popular anxiety for public service.

Like the king of France and his ten thousand men, our Nebraska legislature resoluted up the hill and then down again.

With both of our ex-presidents approving and commending the president's war address, there can be nothing more to say.

For soil preparedness, April snows are just as good as April showers, if only the thermometer does not drop too far.

The "drys" have bagged two more capital prizes—Springfield, Ill., and Madison, Wis. Lincoln and Topeka are not as lonesome as they pretend.

It is intimated that there have been spies in the State department giving tips on inside secrets to interested parties. The impression is wrong, then, that all the "leaks" were in the treasury.

Despite the serious aspect of public affairs suffragists persist in sentineling the White House. Real friends of the cause would do the sentinels a good service by hinting that the silly season is over.

For the public good and the personal safety of all concerned, it is our fervent wish and prayer that nothing happens to cause Postmaster Fanning to explode while transacting official business at Washington.

It is all up with the senate banking committee. Criticizing banking board methods smacks of lese majeste and sounds the political death knell of the members. National Committeeman Mullen will name the pallbearers.

Individuals wire congressmen that Nebraskans "do not want war." That is a true statement. No one wants war. But when war is forced on us, individual desires are submerged by the demands of national honor and duty.

Why prod the democrats in the legislature about the platform pledges on the strength of which they appealed to Nebraska voters last fall? Those pledges were merely made, as usual, to get in on, but not to stand on.

So long as it was "toothache" that kept one Nebraska senator from being recorded in the roll call on the "dry" law, the explanation will be accepted. But had this happened in bygone sessions, corroborative testimony might have been required.

Chasing the nimble Turk through the hot and holy lands of Palestine is not attractive as a summery occupation. British Tommies and Egyptian fellahs, if at all sentimental, may console with the thought that the wollop is worth the perspiration.

The Up-to-Date "Realtor"

Louisville Courier-Journal

"Lying like a land agent" used to be a familiar expression. The old-time land agent, especially the man who had far-away property to sell, had the imagination of Jules Verne and the principles of Captain Kidd. Many, and often amusing, were the tales told of his prowess as a liar and his success as a salesman. Often he sold land on mountainsides, describing the salubriousness of the climate, the magnificence of the view, the beauty of the trees, and omitting to mention to the prospective purchaser that the land he believed to lie horizontally stood up perpendicularly. Swamp lands, glowingly described as being "as level as a floor," were sold without reference to the fact that they were under water three-fourths, or four-fourths, of the year.

Nowadays the man who advertises is expected to deliver the goods. The man who orally "guarantees" is under the same obligation. The old-time land agent has been succeeded by the modern realtor, who is a business man.

Once upon a time there was a man who had farmed the life out of his soil and allowed his buildings and fences to become dilapidated. He inherited money. He wanted a better farm. He put his place in the hands of a "land agent" for sale and described the sort of place he desired to buy. One day he dropped in upon the "land agent" and heard him describing his ideal, to an interested prospective purchaser. Alarmed lest the man to whom the place was being described should snap up the bargain, he begged to interrupt, saying that he wished a moment's private conversation with the agent.

"That's the farm I want," he declared. "I am ready to write a check for it. Why on earth are you wasting time trying to sell it to some one else?"

"You confounded idiot," replied the agent, "I was describing your place, I almost had it sold, and now you have broken the spell and perhaps lost a customer.

Times have changed, at a sacrifice of picturesqueness in the world of trading, but with a net gain to all parties concerned as a result of conservative representations and square dealing.

When the Call to Arms Comes.

Half a million soldiers to be prepared immediately for service is the requisition drawn by the president. In itself this call, when it comes, will reflect the expansion of the country since that day, fifty-six years ago this month, when Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers, or, nineteen years ago, when McKinley called for 250,000 men. Lincoln's army finally mounted to an aggregate of two and a half millions, the mightiest force ever assembled up to that time; McKinley's first call, not entirely filled, was more than sufficient to answer the demand and many regiments were mustered out without having heard a shot fired, or even leaving the mobilization camps. But Lincoln was forced to resort to the draft to secure men needed, and McKinley had to recall the National Guard and substitute the United States volunteers to avoid the embarrassment of the obsolete system of raising an army. President Wilson will be relieved of this embarrassment only if new and better plans are carried out.

Plainly more equitable and more effective methods of enrolling recruits must be adopted, though it will take time to pass new legislation. In the meanwhile volunteers are responding in goodly numbers throughout the country. Efforts to discourage volunteering, such, for example, as the cunning suggestion of a certain Omaha newspaper that the proposed army is to be used to put down strikes, come close to the borderland of treason. Conscription by lot is said to be the plan favored by the president and to be early considered by congress, though, perhaps, not resorted to if volunteers fill the ranks. Whatever the method, the main thing is that the burden of self-sacrifice be fairly distributed among all our citizenship without discriminating favoritism.

To this much all can agree, that whatever part in the war America is to bear must be honorably borne and shared in by all patriotic Americans.

Distinctly a Backward Step.

According to the record of legislative proceedings, a bill has passed both houses of the legislature and has gone to the governor for approval providing that county commissioners in Douglas county be hereafter elected by districts instead of, as now, nominated by the district but elected by the voters of the entire county.

This proposed change is distinctly a backward step, presumably dictated solely by political considerations, with the idea that it will help keep the democrats in control of the Douglas county court house.

It embodies the same bad principle as the bill that would make us elect our school board members by wards. So far as accomplishing this object is concerned, we have no apprehensions; for we do not believe election by districts will be more to the disadvantage of the republicans than election by the county at large. Its tendency, however, will be to keep the county board made up of men of limited experience and caliber who can cuddle a small constituency, but who would not so easily run the gauntlet of the entire electorate of the county. If members of county boards served in a representative capacity we should favor district selection, but it is an administrative board charged with the management of the affairs of the whole county and every voter in the county should have a voice as to its makeup.

The governor would do his own party, as well as well as the public, a service, if he were free to kill this bill with a veto and courageous enough to do it.

Financing the War Operations.

First of all requisites to engaging in warfare on a modern scale is a commodious and well filled exchequer, supported by inexhaustible reserves from which steady supply of funds may be drawn. The United States has wealth beyond that ever accumulated by another people; three years ago the national wealth was estimated at 175 billions of dollars, and it has not suffered any shrinkage since then. None of the European countries approached this within half way. It is not likely that participation in the war will exhaust our resources or subject us to the strain that has been endured by the other nations engaged.

While plans for financing our operations have not been completed, the president's address contains suggestions that may be accepted as a sign that a considerable increase in taxation impends. The increase may be levied in any one of several ways, added imposts on incomes and profits being among the sources most readily reached. Much of the enormous sum required will be secured by borrowing, although it is fair to conclude that the president sincerely favors taxing incomes and profits to the uttermost that loans may be kept as low as possible. Congress will have to deal with this whole question, and will surely try to distribute the burden of war cost so that it will fall on no class with undue weight.

The strength of the stock market under the shock of the war news shows how well financially the country is prepared for the step taken. No nation in all the world's history was ever so well fortified in its financial power as the United States is today, and financing the war ought to be one of the lesser problems the country must solve.

Berlin Hugs a Delusion?

Dispatches sent from Berlin, purporting to give the attitude of the German imperial government toward Americans, unquestionably aim at dividing popular sentiment in the United States. This is quite to be expected, for it is to the advantage of the kaiser right now to split the forces of his opponents if possible, not only here, but in all the ally countries as well. Commenting on the address of the president, one Berlin paper expresses doubt as to whether Mr. Wilson will have the support of his own people. If the German Junkers hug the delusion that the United States is approaching the war with divided ranks, they are making a bad blunder worse. From the beginning, the German policy in relation to the United States has rested on a mistaken notion. It is not easy for foreigners to grasp the fact that Americans may dispute and even wrangle over matters of public concern, or questions of public policy; our own people do not always comprehend the meaning of this phase of our liberty; but once a determination is reached to meet a national danger, factional differences quickly disappear and a thoroughly united country presents an unbroken front to its foes. Hope that rests on the foundation of a serious division among the people of the United States as to defense of our rights and honor is foredoomed to disappointment.

The hour is nearing for Colonel Bryan to make good his prophecy of millions rallying to the colors. Is the colonel watchfully waiting?

Uncle Sam in the Caribbean

18---The Dominican People

By Frederic J. Haskin

Santo Domingo City, Santo Domingo, March 24.—Ask almost any educated Dominican what he thinks of the American occupation of this republic and he will probably used the word "necessario." He does not rejoice in the present state of affairs; he feels the humiliation of his country, but he realizes that intervention in Santo Domingo by some stronger power was both necessary and inevitable.

Frederico Velasquez H. is the leader of one of the strongest Dominican political factions. He is a man of about 50, highly educated and intelligent. He says that he recognizes the need for the American intervention and hopes that the Americans will remain for some time and will help with the constructive work that must be done in the republic. He thinks the necessary work could be done in about five years. He recognizes the fact that no orderly government can be established in the republic until roads, schools and adequate laws honestly enforced are provided. He says that his life work is to improve the condition of the Dominican people, to the end that they may become an intelligent electorate and support an orderly government. Of course, this may be set down as high-sounding political conversation, but this man has lived by public office all his life, the American occupation has thrown him out of his job, so there must be an element of sincerity in his attitude.

A large percentage of the Dominicans, then, welcome the American intervention and accept it in a good spirit. They recognize that some stronger power must restore confidence in law and government and initiate the reconstruction of the country. They are not, however, looking toward annexation. Most of them will not hear of this. They are willing for us to help them because they trust the altruism of our motive and the good faith of our professions.

It is easy to prove that the Dominicans are a lazy, disorderly people, and also hard to to see how they could be anything else under present conditions. As in most small Latin-American countries, there are just two native classes—the very rich and the very poor. The upper class here is said to consist of not more than twenty large families. These hold all the political offices and own nearly all the land. They are wealthy, intelligent and well educated. Every law is designed to benefit them. There is scarcely any tax on land because they own it, but there are two or three taxes on everything else. Political salaries are large and numerous, and many of the political berths include no duties at all. In addition to this, graft in political office was, until the Americans came, the customary and accepted thing.

So the upper class might be described as selfish and corrupt—and necessarily so. There is not much inducement for a Dominican administration to initiate reforms when at any time some other political faction, by paying a few peons 40 cents a day, may start a revolution and seize the government. It comes back to the proposition that the government cannot possibly be any better than the people. The wholesale grafting which has characterized all Dominican administrations is explained in the same way. Graft in the United States is kept with bounds because it is condemned by public opinion. In Santo Domingo it is supported by public opinion.

The mass of the Dominican people are also what their physical and political environment has made them. They have never, until the Americans came, been able to plant a crop with any certainty that someone would not appropriate the harvest. They may squat upon the land, but they cannot acquire ownership. There are no industries for them to work at except agriculture, and trade is taxed to death.

The Dominican peon, by reason of the wealth of his country, can live easily and as he pleases, but it is very difficult for him to acquire property, a sense of security, a place and status in the scheme of life, or any of the other things that develop in men social and national consciousness. Furthermore, as he gets no education and cannot travel, he has no conception of any other way of living. He raises a little patch of sugar cane, not large enough to attract the covetous glance of any bandit or revolutionary general. He sets out a few banana and plaintain sprouts, and has a papaya tree in his yard. Squashes and melons grow half wild, and mangoes and cocoanuts wholly so. His goats and cattle take care of themselves. There are plenty of fish to be had for the catching. So it is easy to live in Santo Domingo, and very difficult to do much more.

This Dominican peon will probably display his intelligence and skill in raising high grade game chicken; his daring and enterprise by betting everything he owns on the best cocks. The Dominican game chickens are among the best and almost every man owns a few.

It is no easier to raise good game chickens than to do anything else well, and it takes as much nerve to stake your all on a rooster as on Bethlehem Steel or a new city addition. Who shall say that the Dominican is not a man of possibilities?

The A B C's of Military Law

Alien: The legal term for a resident of the United States of foreign birth and unnaturalized.
Armistice: An interval of time agreed upon between belligerents for a temporary cessation of hostilities.
Base of operations: The point from which an army begins its expedition.
Billeting: A legal process by which armed troops may be quartered in the houses of private persons.
Blockade: A means taken by a navy to prevent vessels reaching or leaving a port in war time without permission.
Bombardment: An attack by artillery or naval guns upon a place fortified or unfortified.
Capitulation: An agreement entered into between belligerents relating to the surrender of troops or fortresses.
Cartel: An agreement between belligerents to allow certain kinds of nonhostile intercourse, such as postal service, etc.
Code: A method used in giving signals and transmitting messages in the army and navy to prevent their interpretation by an enemy.
Commissariat: The department of an army responsible for the supply and transport of food and forage.
Contraband of war: A term applied to various articles which are regarded as being of sufficient help to an enemy to prolong a war that the transportation of such articles to him, especially by ships, is prohibited.
Council of war: A deliberation of staff officers in charge of a campaign.
Espionage: The act of spying upon an enemy.
Expeditionary force: A military unit consisting of a definite number of men, as organized in times of peace, which is ready for sending to foreign parts on the declaration of war.
Honors of war: A term used in capitulation, by which surrendered troops are allowed to march out with colors displayed, drums beating, bayonets fixed and swords drawn.
Levee en masse: The spontaneous rising and arming of otherwise nonbelligerent inhabitants against the enemy.
Martial law: A code of procedure by which all the ordinary functions of police and magistrates are exercised by military authorities.
Mobilization: The process by which an army or navy is converted from a peace to a war footing.
Objective: In strategy, the town, fortress or other object aimed at, the occupation of which is deemed to have a decisive effect.
Reconnaissance: An advance of a body of troops detached from a main army with a view of discovering the enemy's position, or to mislead him.
Reconnoitering: The military technical term for scouting.
Safe conduct: A document issued by a military commander authorizing its holder to pass through a zone of military operations.

TODAY

Proverb for the Day.

A shoemaker should stick to his last.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

British reported severe defeat for the Turks below Kut-el-Amara.

In fierce fighting at Verdun the Germans stormed and captured the village of Hancourt.

General Zupelli, Italian minister of war, resigned and was succeeded by General Paola Morone.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Contracts were let for William A. Paxton's magnificent new residence, which is to be erected on the block bounded by Twenty-sixth street, Twenty-sixth avenue and Douglas and Farnam, to cost $100,000. His lot is now being brought to grade.

In the prospective reorganization of the city schools under the new charter,

it is believed that manual training will be given a very fair recognition.

W. F. Christy, formerly with Peycke Bros., has been engaged by Freeman & Co., the commission merchants.

Sam Finlayson of the firm of Finlayson & Douglas, job printers, has returned from a flying trip into Missouri.

Charles Charon has obtained a license to wed Miss Olga Lindblad.

Nelson Mercer, son of Dr. and Mrs. Mercer, is recovering from his dangerous illness.

Colonel Chase has been confined to his bed for several days with a severe case of inflammatory rheumatism.

Fearon & Cole, formerly in the produce commission business, have opened a real estate office under the name of Fearon, Cole & Robertson.

Judge Stenberg married J. R. Peterson and Theresa Ketelson, the ceremony taking place at the residence of B. F. Madsen, Sixth and Pierce.

This Day in History.

1811—Robert Raikes, the founder of Sunday schools, died at Gloucester, England. Born there September 14, 1735.

1814—Napoleon I abdicated the throne of France.

1817—Chilean patriots defeated the Spanish royalists at battle of Maypu, which sealed the independence of Chile.

1842—British force under General Pollock raised the siege of Jellalabad by forcing Khyber pass.

1862—Andrew Johnson, as military governor of Tennessee, suspended the mayor and other officials in Nashville for refusing the oath of allegiance to the United States.

1875—Prohibitory law in Massachusetts repealed.

1876—State of siege in Paris, which had lasted five years, raised by decree.

1892—Charles Kendall Adams resigned the presidency of Cornell university to become head of the University of Wisconsin.

1898—United States consuls in Cuba were recalled on the eve of war with Spain.

The Day We Celebrate.

William M. Wood, the foremost figure in the American woolen manufacturing industry, born at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., fifty-six years ago today.

A. Lincoln Felene, prominent Boston merchant and civic leader, born in Boston fifty-two years ago today.

John Q. Tilson, Connecticut congressman, who accompanied his command in the National Guard to the Mexican border, born at Clear Branch, Tenn., fifty-one years ago today.

William H. Deneen, former well-known base ball player and umpire, born at Syracuse, N. Y., forty-one years ago today.

Joseph Stecher, leading claimant to the world's heavyweight wrestling championship, born at Dodge, Neb., twenty-four years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Annual meeting of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway company at Parsons, Kan.

Founders' day will be observed at Tuskogee Institute today in honor of the memory of Booker T. Washington.

Fifty-year 4 per cent gold bonds to the amount of $25,000,000 are to be place on public sale today by the state of New York.

Many educators of national prominence are on the program of the annual convention of the Alabama Educational association, which begins its sessions today at Montgomery.

Storyette of the Day.

Recently a golf architect was measuring off a course in the south. At one end of the steel tape was a dilapidated specimen, known in the parts as a "pore white trash," one of the uncomplaining sort who, somehow or other, everybody picks on. It was his duty to mark with his heel a spot on the ground at the end of every measurement in order that the man at the other end of the tape might find it readily.

His shoes were of the "hand-me-down" variety and they no longer boasted of heels. The Carolina clay was just beginning to soften after a light morning's frost.

"I wish you would make those marks so I can see them," growled the man at the other end of the tape from time to time.

Finally a smouldering ember of spirit burst into flame:

"I'm doin' de bes' I kin wid dis yere heel o' mine; but I yaint no plow."—Golf Illustrated.

HERE AND THERE

An electrically driven machine wraps lump sugar in individual papers at a speed of 7,500 lumps an hour.

A substitute for cement used in some parts of Turkey consists of a mixture of linseed oil, slaked lime and cotton fiber.

Madagascar fishermen sprinkle a substance on rivers and lakes which paralyzes the fish and causes their bodies to rise, when they are caught by hand.

According to their latest statements Canadian banks had on deposit something more than $1,500,000,000. Last year's increase was $232,000,000.

Experiments are under way in England with driving motor omnibuses with ordinary coal gas, which is carried at low pressure in bags strapped to their roofs.

So that electric light pull switches can be found in dark rooms there has been invented a glass pendant filled with a substance absorbing light in the day time and becoming luminous at night.

A Pennsylvanian has invented a portable developing cabinet for photographers which folds flat for carrying and into which a man can insert his arms through light-tight sleeves.

It has been shown that heredity in wheat seed is not so important as good soil and cultural methods. Good seed, good soil and good farming count for more in crop-production than fancy variety.

Since the war has cut off the importations from Germany there is a great increase in the manufacture of wooden toys in the United States. The largest toy-producing center in this country is the town of Winchendon, Mass.

The Bee's Letter Box

Standing by the President.

Omaha, April 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: In sending to Senator Hitchcock the letter, a copy of which is given below, I trust that I have not misrepresented the feeling of a large majority of the men of Nebraska:

"Hon. G. M. Hitchcock, United States Senator: Less than a month ago a great many of us out here sent you letters and telegrams saying how proud we were of the splendid way in which you had supported the president in the matter of the armed neutrality bill. Are you going to make us regret sending those letters and telegrams?

"Today we see your name linked with Senator Stone's, and your own paper asserts that if the president considers a declaration of war unavoidable you intend to vote against any action being taken because 'the west does not want war.' Who knows what the west wants—now? There has been a great shift in public sentiment out here during the last three or four weeks; there is a growing feeling that Germany has no intention of letting up on us, and a growing disinclination to take any more 'lying down.'

"Your paper has been urging us frequently to stand by the president; it has told us that we could trust him in any crisis. We are trusting him today, and we are with him—republicans and democrats alike—more of us are with him than ever before, and we should be very sorry, Mr. Senator, to see you desert him in this latest and gravest of his trials."

GEO. E. HYDE.

No Politics in Prairie Park Club.

Omaha, April 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: I wish to correct an impression that has grown out of the controversy of the vaccination troubles at Saratoga school and the so-called recall petition with reference to Commissioner Kugel as originating with the Prairie Park club.

This club is a social club and does not now and never has taken any part in controversies of this kind, and does not sanction the use of the Prairie Park club in any manner other than a social nature. LOUIS NELSON,
President Prairie Park Club.

No Odium on Silver Creek.

Silver Creek, Neb., April 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: Silver Creek seems to have obtained considerable notoriety recently in connection with the universal wholesale theft of automobiles. Reading the articles in the papers of today, it would be inferred that the entire population of Silver Creek engaged in no other occupation than that of stealing and disposing of stolen automobiles. No doubt these articles are inspired by the ego of Sherlock Pipkin, a so-called detective of Omaha, whose principal business seems to be to declare every Ford automobile he sees to be a stolen one and beating up and abusing old men after pretending to arrest them and carrying them out into the country where there is no one to interfere and then leaving them to get back home as best they can.

Silver Creek is a live town of 600 inhabitants on the main line of the Union Pacific and has some of as good citizens as are to be found in any community. I have been a resident of the town for the last twelve years and am forced to admit that a few thieves and thugs of Omaha occasionally run out and do quite a little devilment before we "get onto" them and chase them away. But if the entire police force of Omaha cannot apprehend these toughs who spend most of their lives there, how is it possible for the town marshal of our little village to stop their nefarious traffic.

The claim that forty stolen automobiles were found here is perfectly absurd, as Sherlock Pipkin would claim that he had found a stolen automobile and the number had been tampered with when the same automobile could easily be proven to have been bought entirely new from a reputable garage and easily traced through all persons who had owned it.

The man who was arrested and claimed to have paints, brushes, automobile tires, etc., in his possession is a resident of Genoa and I know nothing at all about the merits or demerits of his case.

This whole hubbub about stolen automobiles started from the arrest here of a man by some York parties whom the majority of the citizens of Silver Creek believe to be innocent, but who unfortunately purchased an automobile which the York party claimed was stolen from York, but which, Sherlock says, was stolen from Omaha. It seems that neither party can positively identify the property, and as the man arrested has grown up in the community, is well known and believed to be innocent, the people are standing by him and will continue to do so until he is proven guilty.

Notwithstanding Sherlock Pipkin's wonderful claim of great accomplishments as a paid detective who must do something to hold his job, I presume. I charge that he was derelict in his duty and overlooked his best chance. I own a Ford, don't know where I got it or whom I got it of or what I paid for it, and yet so far as I know he never even looked at it or knew I had it. My, what a detective!

Silver Creek, like all other villages as well as cities, has its undesirables. Also, it no doubt has been imposed on and purchased automobiles which may have been stolen, as no doubt many others communities have, but that should not condemn the entire community and cast reproach on an average progressive, respectable, enterprising little village, and if the saintly Pipkin or anybody else will honestly try to apprehend any criminals that may be in or about Silver Creek the authorities here, backed by the good citizens of the town, will lend all the aid possible, but such write-ups as we have recently had for the purpose of aggrandizing some particular individual will be just as strenuously resented. W. C. ROBINSON, M. D.

A device used in the Philippines in place of glass for window panes is the translucent shell of an indigenous oyster.

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L. V. Nicholas
President

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