

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)-EVENING-SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Keep the flag flying!

No time now to stop and count the cost. Full speed ahead.

Preparedness for the cleanup campaign is the immediate order of the day.

German efficiency shines in the department of needlessly making enemies.

If a backyard garden plot cannot be made to pay a profit this year, it never will!

War conditions are not noticeably interfering with activity in Omaha real estate operations.

All these plans for "reconstructing the world when peace comes" puts the cart before the horse.

Something doing over on the west front which will not be fully disclosed until the cloud of battle rises.

The first throw out of the war box calls for seven billions. As a nation of spenders we have a reputation to sustain.

Uncle Sam has the longest coast line to guard of any country in the world except the British Empire—but he is also equal to the job.

Repetition of promises of political reforms in Germany "after the war" indicates that the kaiser puts his ear to the ground occasionally.

Patriots on the watch towers of the Great Lakes appear deficient in imagination. Not a subsea scare has yet come out of the fresh water ponds.

Reports of subseas prowling along the Pacific coast serve to equalize the marine scare belt. The monopoly of the Atlantic side verges on monotony.

Despite the experience of three months in the hot-air trenches at the state house, no statesman offers a valid excuse for ignoring the call to cut loose and go home.

Thirty-five treaties between the United States and Germany are canceled by the war. The imperial pile of "scraps of paper" are sufficient to stock a museum at Berlin.

Our lawmakers at Lincoln are altogether over-generous in working after pay day stops. Nothing in the law, or the constitution, or their oath of office, requires such self-sacrifice.

Scolding about lack of patriotism will not fill up the ranks. It is much better to appeal to sense of duty and to point out the satisfaction to be derived from serving one's country.

Conferees on the dry bill mark progress and take leave to sit again. The suggested hanging of a keg at the end of the corridor as a stimulus for speed is out of order and cannot be entertained at this time.

The direct money cost of lives lost and injuries sustained at one dangerous railroad crossing would pay the yearly expense of guards at a dozen crossings. Effective safeguards conserve both life and money. Their absence from grade crossings of highways is inexcusable negligence.

"Omaha is the most unpatriotic spot on the map!" exclaims a Guards officer. Tut, tut, colonel. Surely the rush for marriage licenses is not to be classed as unpatriotic or dodging duty. With war prices to buck against, the man who undertakes to support two on an income fit for one performs a service little short of heroic.

Switzerland is supposed to have "death duties," by which it collects from estates going through probate all the back taxes which the deceased may have shirked any time during his life time. If we put such a plan into effect over here it would materially lighten the burden of that war loan.

Don't You Believe It?

Louisville Courier-Journal

Having made war upon the United States for a good many weeks the German government instructs its press agency in Berlin to publish the assertion—not the fact necessarily, or probably—that it will not wage war against the United States. This, obviously, is an effort to kill two birds with one stone. The Germans are told that the pious government, engaged in self-defense, will not harm a hair of an American's head, save in the course of its necessary measures of defense it sees. The Americans are told that preparedness will be a waste of time and a waste of money, or there is nothing against which to be prepared. The Germans may believe this outwitting. No American who is not a La Follette or a locked-in unatic will believe anything of the kind. Every American will know that Germany will, according to her ability, wage war on America. If she cannot do more than snipe American vessels with torpedoes she will do that. If she can do more she will do more, and she hopes to do more.

There is nothing in the report of the Berlin press bureau that need, or will, affect the active efforts of the United States to prepare itself to wage war against Germany with all the vigor that its strength admits, and with the blessed purpose of "shortening the war," which every sanctimonious German publicist has, with tiresome reiteration, declared the highest duty of America.

When the shortening of the war has brought about peace it will not be the peace for which the German advocates of war-shortening have schemed.

Confusion, Not Lack of Patriotism.

Omaha may have its full share of "slackers," but this city also has its fair quota of men who are willing and ready to do their duty. Some of these may be bewildered, or misled, by the conflicting announcements that have come from the military authorities. Four branches of the service are seeking to enlist men, each trying to outdo the other. The rivalry is keen and perhaps is good for the service. But the confusing proclamations and notices that come from Washington and Lincoln are not helpful.

It is impossible for the would-be soldier of Uncle Sam just now to know just what he is going into. Most of the boys are eager to help, but would like to know something about the terms and conditions under which they are to be taken on. One day the young men are told the Guard is filled, the next that more men are wanted. On one occasion, in the full tide of enthusiasm, came an order suspending enlistment until the routine work of filling out papers and the like could be caught up with. One message brings word that conscription is to be resorted to, another that the volunteer system will prevail, and so on. If the head engineers of the army and navy will get together and decide what they really need, they will stand a mighty good chance of getting it. It is a good thing for the country that all our military operations do not show the same lack of system that has characterized the work of enlistment so far.

No Credit to the Democrats.

The cunning scheme to repeal the law prohibiting the sale of Nebraska's school lands has been ditched in the legislature, for which every one interested in maintaining intact this school endowment will rejoice, but the democrats in control in the statehouse can claim no credit for safeguarding the school children's patrimony. The bill was not killed by any party majority, although the original law establishing the present leasing policy was enacted twenty years ago by a strictly demo-pop legislature, but, on the contrary, the sale scheme would not have gotten a start except for democratic sponsorship and promotion. Nor should friends of the public schools overlook the fact that the local democratic organ, owned by our democratic United States senator and professing to voice the purpose of the democratic party in Nebraska, came to the aid of the school land grabbers openly at the moment of most helpfulness to them and endorsed the plan without qualification. All this should be remembered for the future, because it is a safe assumption that if the democrats are again placed in the saddle in Nebraska the same agencies with the same political co-partners, will renew their efforts "to put it across" emboldened by the near success achieved this time.

Remembering all this, however, the voters of Nebraska should see to it that the opportunity is not again offered.

Salvage from Industrial Wreckage.

One phase of industrial economy hitherto greatly neglected is coming to the front for deep consideration, a direct result of the application of workmen's compensation laws. It is the care of the injured after accidents, especially with reference to treatment after recovery. Surgeons have discovered that, short of actual loss of limb, many victims of accident may be restored to full service who are now allowed to go as cripples. Under proper treatment complete restoration of the use and control of injured muscles is possible, and investigators are coming to recognize it as desirable.

It might sound better to say that a higher sentiment than that having to do with the cost of operation actuates the movement, but this might be only partially true. Insurance companies and employers are interested in saving whatever is possible of the wreckage due to mishaps in order that the amount paid in compensation may be no greater than actually is needed. Whatever the motive, the purpose is good, for society is better off with a self-sustaining workman steadily employed than with a cripple drawing sustenance from a compensation fund, which, while it may be directly charged against the industry, is finally assessed against the general production of wealth.

Continued treatment to bring about the recovery of the use of disturbed faculties and damaged limbs is now urged as an alternative to the payment of continuing compensation. This is based on European experience, where the practice is steadily gaining, even with the presence of war, and where many apparently serious physical derangements have been entirely overcome by proper treatment. Knowledge of a remedy is of little avail, however, without means for applying it, and this leads up to the problem of establishing clinical hospitals on sanatoria in large industrial centers, where approved methods may be given an opportunity to benefit the injured.

Broken Drouth Cheers the Crops.

An encouraging call comes from Oklahoma, where the long drouth is broken by a deluge that has done much to restore the chances for winter wheat. Following the generous rains, the word is sent out that millions of bushels of wheat will be added to the estimate and that the yield for the current year will be but little behind that of last. While the Oklahoma output is not one of the commanding factors, it is encouraging to know the crop is saved. Southern Kansas, too, has benefited from the rains, and the condition of the crop in that region is correspondingly improved. Nebraska hasn't felt the full tide of spring yet, as winter persists in outstaying his welcome, but the farmers are pressing ahead as fast as possible under the circumstances and are ready to move in force as soon as the cold, gray weather breaks, a date that is not apt to be postponed much longer. The broken drouth south of us is a sign of hope for Nebraska.

It is unfortunate for the country at this time that men of the stamp of John Sharp Williams or Henry Cabot Lodge are not at the head of the senate/foreign relations committee. The rule of seniority may be tolerated in peace times. Under present conditions the senate should have its strongest men at the front.

When it comes to playing politics, the controlling democratic majority in Nebraska's present legislature is not overlooking any points. In its zeal to mix political medicine, however, it is likely, as usual, to overplay the game and suffer the consequences later.

The business of Chicago's marriage license bureau was doubled by a report that it would suspend operations with the outbreak of the war. Dan Cupid's squadron, equipped with bows and darts, is always mobilized.

The Hazards of the Date

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, D. C., April 10.—Out in one of the government date gardens in the southwest there is a single flourishing date palm which would be worth about \$10,000 if it were for sale. This palm is one of the very few members of its variety in the world which is young enough to yield the "offshoots" from which new trees can be raised. It is one of the few survivors of a date variety that was practically killed by its own popularity.

These date palms, known to the Arabs of Algeria as the "Menakher," yield a fine, big date that makes the ordinary little dried fruit that you buy for 10 cents a pound look like a withered almond beside a fine, big peach. Owing to their size and fine flavor, they make one of the best stuffed dates on the market. All these facts were well known to the Arabs who raise dates and also to the Arab governors who have a fine taste in the choice varieties. It was the affection of the Arab governors for the Menakher that put these dates out of business.

When a governor knew of an Arab who had a grove of these date palms he would send around and estimate the crop. If the trees promised to yield 500 pounds, the governor would intimate to the owner that he would be pleased to buy 500 pounds of dates. Such an intimation is equivalent to a command; the grower would send his dates, and perhaps send a bill. He may be sending the bill yet, for the Arab governors are not particularly prompt in payment. The custom amounted to confiscation of the crop on account of its high quality and as a result the growers became discouraged and turned to raising less popular varieties. The Menakher date palms were allowed to grow old without having the necessary offshoots to provide young trees taken from them, until now they are practically unobtainable. In its experiments in date culture in the hot southwest, the Department of Agriculture secured two of the trees, and hopes to establish the variety in this country.

The story of the date in the United States is a tale of twenty years of labor and experiment. There were date palms in the country long before that time—some of them planted by the old Spanish friars in California hundreds of years ago, but they were simply curiosities, with no commercial significance. It is one thing to induce a fruit-tree to grow and quite another to raise trees in quantity and quality that will enable their fruit to meet its kind in open competition in all the markets of the world.

Behind the appearance of these high-grade dates on the market—where they are beginning to attract attention in the last few years, though their sale is largely confined to the Pacific coast as yet—there lies a long story. It is a story that includes explorations in the Sahara Desert on camel-back by agents of the Department of Agriculture, expeditions to Egypt and Persia, losses and failures, years of experiment, the invention of new methods of shipping and growing, the trial of literally hundreds of varieties of date-palms, and finally the selection and multiplication of a few very high-grade standard varieties that the department is recommending to the grower with many precautions. These few varieties that are fit for commercial culture are among the finest dates in the world. Besides the rare Menakher, the government has several other varieties in much larger quantities, and numerous private growers and co-operative associations have learned to produce high-grade palms.

The first date-palms that came to the United States in the course of this work were shipped in tubs—a very expensive and not very satisfactory method. Many of them died. Then Mr. W. T. Swingle, who has been in charge of the work for the department for many years, devised a new method of shipping which permitted half a dozen palms to be transported on camel-back and by ship at a small expense with better results. In the early days of the project there was no trouble in getting offshoots from Africa for planting. They were so cheap that American date-raisers did not trouble to take offshoots from their own palms, and they were often carelessly handled. On one occasion many thousands of valuable offshoots were set out improperly and most of them died. The business was developing unexpected difficulties. Then the French government, from whose African territories the palms were coming, decided that the big American demand was threatening the industry, and they put an embargo on date-palms. Now we have to produce all our own offshoots for planting.

The department has met the situation by working out a new method of culture by which over 90 per cent of the offshoots take root and flourish. This is a vastly better showing than the Arabs themselves can make, although the date-palm has been one of their chief dependencies for centuries. Here, as elsewhere, the application of science beats the methods of tradition to a standstill. Little Arab children can distinguish at a glance the variety of a budding date-sprig, where an American scientist has to use a microscope, but the scientist knows what he is about and whether he is working, while the Arab plods along in the footsteps of his fathers.

The net result of twenty years of exploration, investigation and experiment is the rise of a promising new class of fruit-growing for the United States. The Department of Agriculture is careful to point out that this new industry is still to be classed as extra-hazardous for all but the expert. If you plan to go into the date business, they will point out a dozen technical angles wherein the date differs from any other fruit tree in America. Moreover, only a comparatively few unattractive regions in the United States are fitted for date raising—Death Valley, for instance. But in spite of all this, the date-palm remains and flourishes in the southwest, the source of new profits and the symbol of another victory over the indifference of Nature.

Our Fighting Men

John L. Chamberlain.
Brigadier General John L. Chamberlain, who holds an important post of inspector-general of the United States army, is 59 years old, and a native of New York. He was graduated from West Point in 1880, and his first assignments in the service were with the military arm, his rank as an ordinance authority being high, so much so that he filled teaching positions at the West Point academy and in the Army War college. But in late years he has figured more prominently in the duties and responsibilities of inspection work connected with the army; first in operations in the Philippines, and later in the various department divisions over which he has had military authority. When a few months ago he was transferred from the Department of the East to succeed General Garlington as head of the inspector-general's department at Washington. At the same time he was raised from the rank of colonel to that of brigadier-general.

Albert W. Grant.
Rear Admiral Albert W. Grant, U.S.N., who is in command of the submarine force of the Atlantic fleet, has had a long and varied experience in the naval service. He was born in Maine and appointed to the Naval Academy from Wisconsin. He was graduated from Annapolis in 1877, and as a cadet midshipman served two years afloat in the Penacola and Lackawanna. From 1885 to 1898 he served afloat and ashore in various grades with high credit. From March, 1908, to the latter part of 1909 he was chief of staff of the Atlantic fleet. Then he was put in command of the battleship Connecticut, and served in that station until he was transferred to the command of the League Island Navy yard, in 1910. When the superdreadnought Texas was placed in commission Captain Grant became its first commander and he continued to serve in that capacity until a year ago, when he was selected by Secretary Daniels to direct the task of developing for the United States navy the greatest submarine flotilla service of all.

TODAY

Proverb for the Day.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Italians pushed Austrians back at Monte Sperano.
French balked German attacks on Hill No. 304 at Verdun.
British repelled German assaults at two points on western front after bitter hand-to-hand fighting.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

The Apollo club was organized with the following membership: A. S. Van Kuren, A. Lucas, R. W. Erickson, C. C. Deane, D. H. Wheeler, J. C. E. Burmester, Jay Northrup, T. J. Pennell, F. S. Smith, S. B. Reed, N. M. Brigham, R. M. France, W. B. Wilkins, J. M. Woodburn, W. L. Welsh, C. D. Bornman, W. H. Wilber and H. W. Snow. The club will have for its director B. B. Young, formerly of Salt Lake City.

Over 300 people watched the second wrestling match between Charles



Moth and Colonel J. H. McLaughlin, which was won by Moth.

P. E. Her states that the boring south of the distillery would go down 2,000 feet at least. The drill is now working through rock 400 feet thick and Mr. Her is confident that under this the oil will be found.

The stockholders of the Nebraska Tile and Pottery company held their annual meeting at the office of Sidney Smith for the election of directors for the ensuing year. Samuel J. Howell, John A. Wakefield, J. B. Rowley, Charles B. Westren and J. J. Griffith being elected.

Agreement was filed in the county court between Freeland, Loomis & Co. of Boston and B. Byers & Co. of Leavenworth by which Byers agreed to erect a five-story brick block upon the northeast corner of Fifteenth and Douglas. Freeland, Loomis & Co. will occupy the building under the firm style of the "Continental Clothing company."

Assistant Superintendent Dickinson, Master Mechanic Davis and Newt Barkalov have left for the west in Mr. Dickinson's special car.

George Krug, the enterprising representative of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing company, is again in town looking after the interests of that company, which intend to invest \$100,000 in Omaha this year.

This Day in History.

1776—Washington and the main part of the American army arrived at New York from Cambridge.

1777—The British under Cornwallis surprised General Lincoln with 500 Americans at Boundbrook, N. J.

1813—Spanish forces at Fort Charlotte (Mobile) surrendered to the United States forces under General Wilkinson.

1818—The United States flag as finally adopted was first raised over the hall of the house of representatives in Washington.

1823—British Parliament passed the Roman Catholic relief.

1823—American settlers in Texas drafted a state constitution.

1848—By resolution congress tendered the congressional seal to the people of the United States to the French people on becoming a republic.

1865—Raleigh, N. C., surrendered to the federals.

1892—United States troops called out to suppress the cowboy disturbance in Wyoming.

1904—Russian battleship Petropavlovsk blown up by mine outside Port Arthur.

The Day We Celebrate.

Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves, first Episcopal missionary bishop of the Platte, born at Wells, Vt., seventy-five years ago today. He was once rector of the church at Plattsmouth.

Frank W. Wood, who has acquired a great fortune through his development of the chain-store idea, born in Jefferson county, New York, sixty-five years ago today.

Lucius E. Johnson, president of the Norfolk and Western railway, born at Aurora, Ill., seventy-one years ago today.

John Hays Hammond, Jr., inventor of the wireless-controlled torpedo, born in San Francisco twenty-nine years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Watch your step! Today is the first of the two "Jinx days" of 1917. The second and last "split-over-the-little-finger" day of the current year will be Friday, July 13.

Alabama observes a legal holiday today in honor of the birthday anniversary of Thomas Jefferson.

Governor Johnson's proclamation setting aside today for the observance of Arbor day in Ohio, points out that in this day of wars particular efforts should be made to stir up the "finer sensibilities of nature."

A general conference of commercial and manufacturing interests is to be held at Chicago today to consider what action may be deemed advisable in regard to the petition recently filed by the railroads with the Interstate Commerce commission, asking for a general increase in freight rates.

Ways in which the machinery trade may aid the nation in the war will be considered by a joint conference to be opened at Memphis today by the American Supply and Machinery Manufacturers' association, the National Supply and Machinery Dealers' association and the Southern Supply and Machinery Dealers' association.

Storyette of the Day.
As Widow Watts bent industriously over her washbasin, she was treated to polite conversation by a male friend, who promptly turned the conversation on matrimony, winding up with a proposal of marriage.

"Are ye sure ye love me?" sighed the buxom widow, pausing in her wringing.

And the man vowed he did.

For a few minutes there was a silence as the widow continued her labor. Then suddenly she raised her head and asked him, suspiciously: "You ain't lost yer job, 'ave ye?"

Chicago News.

"OUR SOLDIER BOYS."

Heard the tread of many feet
As in time and step they march the street.
Daring are they, and do not lag
Cheer for the soldiers, "hate off" to the flag.

Face forward, not a look to the left or right.
There are the men not afraid to fight,
And if in conquest do not brag
Cheer for the soldiers, "hate off" to the flag.

In heat and cold, on desert plain,
Fitter over peak and rugged crag
Loyal to country are these "hate off" boys,
Cheer for the soldiers, "hate off" to the flag.

Far from home and friends most dear
Work and weariness sometimes fade,
"My country first" they say,
Cheer for the soldiers, "hate off" to the flag.

"BELLVIEW."

The Bee's Letter Box

Cupid and Country.

Omaha, April 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: America is in need of patriots. Cupid is no coward. Cowards hide behind Cupids.

The fellow who marries in such times as these to escape service to his country possesses that degree of courage that wife-beaters are made from.

He will transfer his property to his mother to escape payment of his wife's funeral expenses.

He will desert at every turn and dodge every duty requiring courage to perform. Life to him is a selfish business. He will pretend fealty with a soul filled with treachery.

He is an unconscious traitor, but none the less a renegade. The term "slacker" is but the sum total of skulker, poltroon, renegade, turncoat, recreant, coward, traitor.

This is a time to count every man against who is not actively for America and manhood. Every young man should guard his future against the terrible handicap the name "slacker" will fasten upon him.

Girls, boys and parents, think it over.

A PARENT OF SONS.

The Aviating Cost of Living.

Omaha, April 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: I send you a copy of a letter that I have just addressed to Hon. C. O. Lobeck, member of congress from this district. I think the members of congress should be deluged with letters by people asking for relief from the injured party.

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