

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
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About time, it is not, for Patricia Newcomb to write another to himself?

It would not be New York's melting pot if it did not boil over.

China fights at home for the right to fight abroad. As a Chinese puzzle this is the real thing.

If you can't do the fighting, do the boosting; get back of the Red Cross with muscle and money.

Omaha's upward climb in the market town of the middle west grips attention in the clearings record. Business push tells.

High Commissioner Root put the issue up to the Russians clearly and forcibly. Failure in the fight means hike for Siberia, or worse.

And The Bee's cartoonist is not the only one who has a feeling that he is being "crowded a bit" by the fast moving procession of events.

The pen is still mightier than the sword and a great deal easier to wield. If you don't believe it, just ask any of the visiting Nebraska editors.

Since the big push began a year ago, the British captured 600 square miles of the western front. They are still some miles from the German boundary, but the going improves with the days.

Rallying housewives to the national defense is about to begin, with Mr. Hoover as field marshal of the domestic troops. The H. C. of L. will save time and trouble by emulating Davy Crockett's coon.

Likening an air raid on England to a Missouri cyclone lends an impressive touch of realism to the word picture. In both instances one such experience, as Bill Nye phrased it, is "an elegant sufficiency."

Rumor spots a German agent on the Juarez end of the international bridge. After a long, mysterious silence El Paso resumes its place on the news map.

Regardless of subscribing to the principle of "open shop" or "closed shop," the streets of Omaha ought to be open to the equal use of all law-abiding citizens.

Secretary McAdoo presents his compliments publicly to the newspapers for their surpassing boost for Liberty bonds. For cabinet family reasons the compliment will not be posted in the postmaster general's office.

This section of the corn belt is not even casually interested in the volume of war taxes slammed on the makers of hard drinks. So long as corn galls down a dollar or more a bushel, producers care not who worries over the extract.

The author of the successful strategy which enabled all the patriots to shine in the reflected light of Colonel Roosevelt at Lincoln ought to be conscripted to the army staffs somewhere in France. Such genius would "save the day" on the battle front.

Buying Liberty bonds is an investment in the best security on earth. Swelling the Red Cross fund is a contribution to suffering humanity. One conserves material interests, the other uplifts the soul and brightens eternity's paths. Each pay dividends worth striving for.

While conceding to the Japanese considerable artistic skill in that line, the United States is not backward as an original designer. Beside what our diplomats have done on the spot, native artists can show the coming Japanese mission by actual exhibits real genius in decorating China.

World's Shipping and War

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

An exhaustive inquiry by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce supports the conclusion that at the present rate of shipbuilding and ship destruction there will be approximately as great a merchant marine by June 30, 1918, as there was at the outset of the war. Should the present plans for shipbuilding be carried out and the submarine and other destructive activities be kept down to the record of the last few months, the world's shipping would be far greater than in 1914. The inquiry did not include the building program of the United States government.

The inquiry reveals a great change in shipping since 1900. The increase of tonnage in fifteen years was 70 per cent. But the change in character of vessels was more striking still. In 1900 sailing vessels furnished 23 per cent of the tonnage, while in 1915 their percentage was only 7. In 1900 wooden ships comprised 13 per cent of the tonnage, iron 26 and steel 61. Fifteen years later wooden vessels had dropped to 4 per cent and iron to 7, while steel had risen to 89. These changes represented great economies in time, fuel and labor.

It is assumed that all the German vessels seized by other countries will be retained, although where they are privately owned, monetary damages will probably be paid. The United States will be well supplied with shipping at the close of the war, even after allowing for the tonnage that will return to the coastwise trade. Holland, Japan and Norway will also have large merchant fleets. Japan has suffered little from submarine activities and Norway has been making large use of American yards, especially on the Pacific coast, ever since the war began. The extent of vessels and the expansion of the American merchant marine will depend much on how free a hand is given General Goethals. Public confidence in him is so great that there is not likely to be much curtailment of his authority.

In the Sign of the Cross.

The cross is one of the oldest symbols known to man and one of the most widely diffused. Ten thousands years ago it was familiar to Egyptians as an emblem of life, the perpendicular line representing the creative, the horizontal the productive forces of nature and the juncture of the two the union that means life. As such it was accepted throughout the ancient world. It later came to have a peculiar significance in connection with a great religion and to be revered not so much as a symbol of life here as of the promise of life hereafter.

Sixteen hundred years ago the great Constantine set out from his new capital at the head of a mighty host to subdue a rebellion in Gaul. Hesitant at the outcome of the encounter, on which the stability and duration of his empire depended, he was comforted by the vision of a cross in the noonday heavens, with the legend, "In this Sign Conquer." The cross was thus adopted as the insignia of that mighty and victorious army and in later times it was emblazoned on the shields of the Hospitallers, who defended the Holy Sepulchre. The Spaniards planted it on the shores of America alongside their royal banners, while their priests marveled exceedingly to find the symbol carved on stone monuments that yet endure. The sign of the cross has had a great place in man's affairs.

And now goes forth another cross, blazoned as brilliantly and as luminously as the one the Roman emperor visioned, as nobly pledged as the Crusader wore. Under the Red Cross a mighty army of mercy will labor to bind up the wounds of humanity, to restore the wrecks of war and to minister to the ones on whom the blows of conflict fall heaviest. All are invited to join this army. Its mission appeals as no other can, its soldiers are as valiant as any and its support is a duty as obligatory as any resting on the community.

Was This Feature Overlooked?

There is one deplorable feature to this wholesale boost of Douglas county assessments which has not yet been emphasized. The arbitrary increases proposed by the county assessor are not likely to stand—in fact, the action of the equalization board already indicates a purpose to put the figures back somewhere near where they belong—but the county's assessment roll is bound to be discredited in the general opinion of the state outside of Douglas county. Notwithstanding the fact that we have for years been bearing a disproportionately large share of the state's tax burden, it is a fair inference that when the State Board of Equalization convenes the assessor's skyrocketing will be cited to prove undervaluations in Douglas county, and effort made to use it as a leverage to boost the assessment of the county as a whole as compared with the other counties. Such a horizontal revision upward would be as unfair as the hit-or-miss increases in which the assessor has indulged. Our county assessor should have thought of this in the first place, and even now the whole board should keep it in mind and prepare to see that Douglas county gets a square deal before the State Board of Equalization.

Gratitude of the Belgians.

Expression by the Belgian commission of thanks to America is not merely a proforma acknowledgement of service, but the really sincere utterance of a grateful people through the only mouthpiece available. No page in all our history is brighter than that on which is written the record of our dealings with Belgium. The spontaneity of the response to the appeal for help from the hungry and homeless of the victims of ruthless warfare has no parallel. As a people we are not greatly given to boasting of our generosity nor much inclined to let the left hand know what the right is doing in the way of alms and of extending relief to the needy and unfortunate, and this case is no exception. It is impossible to conceive what would have been the fate of the unfortunate Belgians, entrapped behind the German lines, without our help. Other nations have shared in this work, which still is under way, and must be carried on somehow till the end of the war. Only a few days ago London reported the dispatch of 50,000 tons of relief supplies to Belgium, and a similar shipment is to follow soon. Our presence in the war has made this wonderful service a little more difficult to perform, but help for the helpless will be provided somehow. Whatever the final outcome of the great war may be, here is one thing we have done well.

Price Control by Indirection.

From Washington comes the announcement that steel plates for ships to be constructed by the government will be delivered at a basic price of \$56.20 per ton instead of \$95, at which latest deliveries were made. Last week the government notified copper dealers that on government contracts copper would be taken at 25 cents per pound, when the open market quotation was 36 cents. Early in the proceedings a tentative offer was made the government of the entire output of copper at a price to be determined on the basis of a five-year average. This and the fixing of the contract price of steel means in effect a control of the market to that extent at least. It remains to be seen how much farther the government will go in setting maximum prices on purchases to be made on war account, and to adjust the relation between sales made to the public and to private consumer. Prices may be as effectively controlled by indirection as by direction, and relief from a condition that was becoming intolerable may yet be reached along this route.

Registration in the Household.

In taking his first step to bring about a better adjustment of the food situation in America, Herbert C. Hoover asks the women to pledge themselves to conservation and to register for the service. He scarcely could have started better, and if all his future moves are as intensely practical and as easy of application as this success of his campaign is assured. Accurate data as to daily needs of the households of the nation is essential to a just determination of the first real problem, that of distribution of the food supply. When this information is gathered and tabulated the authorities will be in possession of means through which to reach such definite arrangements as will produce the best results. Food enough for all exists, and none will be permitted to suffer for lack of something to eat. The only aim at present is to find out what actually is needed for home consumption and to avoid useless waste. Mr. Hoover will find the women of America thoroughly awake to their responsibilities and as eager to respond as the young men were ready when asked to register under the draft law. As a people we are going about this business of co-ordinating our resources, physical and moral, in a way that answers the question, "Can democracies be efficient?"

Luxemburg Asks Help

By Frederic J. Huskin

Washington, June 16.—A committee of the citizens of the grand duchy of Luxemburg have addressed a petition to President Wilson, asking that the United States do not forget the wrongs that have been inflicted upon their country by Germany. If this war is being fought over the rights of small nations, says the petition in effect, remember that we are the smallest of all nations and that our rights were the first to be violated. The first neutral nation to be invaded by Germany was Luxemburg. The invasion was a flagrant breach of a solemn treaty, and the Germans admitted as much, explaining with their usual myopic morality that the breach was justified on grounds of military necessity. "We have committed a wrong—I speak plainly," said the German chancellor, addressing the Reichstag, "but we will make redress for this wrong as soon as our military objects are attained."

The first prisoners taken in the great war were citizens of Luxemburg—men who had done no wrong, done nothing but protest against the invasion of their territory. They were removed into Germany and the natives got the impression that they were spies, with the result that their lives were endangered. The German armies swept completely over Luxemburg, one of the most peaceful and progressive states in Europe.

Luxemburg is a country of about 1,000 square miles, with a population of 270,000. There is no compulsory military service and the army in 1914 consisted of 300 men and an excellent military band. When war was declared Luxemburg closed the roads over its frontiers with steel chains. The German advance guard forced the army to remove the chains at the point of the pistol. One single barricade was erected to check the advance of the Teutons and the men who built it were forced to take it down. Any resistance, of course, was absolutely hopeless.

Since then Luxemburg has been in German hands. The petition to President Wilson was drawn up by a committee of exiles in Paris. A large number of Luxemburgers left the country rather than remain under Prussian domination. The number of Luxemburgers fighting as volunteers in the allied armies is greater in proportion to population than those of any other nation in the world.

There are two reasons why possession of Luxemburg was important to Germany. First, it lies on the direct road to France. Second, it is an important agricultural and industrial state. It has rich mines of lead, copper, antimony and iron. Almost 30 per cent of the whole world's output of iron is produced in this tiny nation. In the face of these considerations the solemn treaty stipulations were not considered. The first scrap of paper was torn to shreds.

For many years past Germany has been attempting to extend its influence in Luxemburg. The highly developed railroad system of the country was controlled by Germans, and it is now clear that this network of railroads, so excellently adapted to the transportation of troops, was designed largely with that end in view. Luxemburg was a member of the German customs union. Every effort was made to Germanize the grand duchy, but these efforts failed because a hatred of Prussia is deeply ingrained in the Luxemburg nature. Of this there seems to be no reasonable doubt.

The ruler of Luxemburg is Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide. It is said by some that the grand duchess herself went out in her motor car to protest against the violation of her neutral duchy, but the actual protest seems to have been made by officers of the tiny army.

As is often the case in small nations, the patriotism of the Luxemburgers is a very ardent sentiment. Their country is at once one of the most beautiful and the richest in the world. In most of the arts of peace they occupy a very advanced position. The government is a constitutional monarchy; there is complete religious freedom in normal times. There are excellent roads, 510 miles of railroad—in a country of 1,000 square miles—a network of telephone lines, 125 post-offices and schools are particularly numerous. Education is compulsory. In this state of 270,000 people there were before the war 800 primary schools, 700 secondary schools and numerous technical schools and colleges. Students came from all over Europe. The country enjoyed relatively great wealth and prosperity.

Both French and German were taught in the schools. The common people use a mixed dialect, principally based on German words. French was universally used in official circles and by the higher classes generally.

What will become of Luxemburg after the war? The people are unalterably opposed to Prussian rule. Nowhere are the Prussians better hated. Luxemburg would sooner be French than Prussian and it would rather be a part of Belgium than a part of France. What it really desires is plain enough—it wishes to become again what it was once, a free and independent state.

Shafts Aimed at Omaha

Grand Island Independent: But with those two additional suburbs, will Mayor Dahlman not be necessitated to provide an extension to his larria?

Plattsmouth Journal: The way to get rid of the trouble among the Omaha gang is for the people of that city to rise in their might and fire the whole lot bodily.

York Democrat: Perhaps there are a few papers once given to much berating of "wicked Omaha" that will admit now that Omaha is enforcing the prohibitory law with commendable vigor.

Ulysess Review: King Ak-Sar-Ben continues to rule in Omaha despite the world war against autocracy. But, then, this king is a jolly old soul, and it is indeed a pleasure to do homage at his shrine.

York News-Times: Omaha is sore because that city was not selected by the War department for mobilization encampment. Des Moines, with one main line of railroad, got the prize. But the Des Moines camp sites are fine.

Blair Enterprise: The cities of Benson and Florence have lost their identity, have been involuntarily absorbed by Omaha by enactment of the recent legislature. The next legislature, if dominated by the Hitchcock-Mullen gang of political free-booters, as the recent legislative body was, may annex Calhoun and Blair to Omaha to help pay its millions of indebtedness.

Shelton Clipper: Two more villages, Benson and Florence, have been annexed to Omaha. The Nebraska metropolis bids fair to become one of the largest and most important centers in the United States. The vast resource in the territorial tributary to Omaha will assure its continuous rapid growth in future years.

Lexington Pioneer: Omaha is growing. Last week two suburbs, Florence and Benson, were formally annexed to the city. The newly acquired territory will bring to Omaha nearly forty square miles of land, a population of more than 6,500 and four additional public schools and broaden the field for graft for one of the rottenest city administrations in America.

People and Events

The death of Major William Redmond in the battle of Messines removes a brilliant Irish home-coming hero in oratorical power, his distinguished brother, John E. Redmond, leader of the Irish nationalist party. Thomas Kettle, another Irish enthusiast, also gave his life to the cause on the battle front. Both men were known in the United States, having done missionary work in this country for Irish home rule. Mr. Kettle was the last to visit the west, some eight years ago, and addressed an audience in Omaha. Champions of liberty at home, Redmond and Kettle made good in action the principles advocated and gave their lives to the cause of democracy.

TODAY

Proverb for the Day. Desperate diseases require desperate remedies.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Austria admits capture by the Russians of Czernowitz, capital of the crownland of Bukovina.

Teutons under General von Linsinger check Russians advancing on Kovel.

Death of General Count Helmuth von Moltke, former chief of the German army staff.

Attacks by the Germans north of Verdun beaten off by the French.

This Day in History.

1776—George Washington left Philadelphia to take command of the Continental forces.

1834—Cyrus McCormick obtained his first patent for a reaping machine.

1898—Forty persons drowned by backwash at the launching of the British battleship Allison at Blackwall.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

The First Methodist church of South Omaha was dedicated, the sermon being preached by Rev. J. W. Phelps, the presiding elder.

Rev. W. J. Harsha preached the annual graduation sermon to the graduating class of the high school at the Dodge Street Presbyterian church. He took for his text "Behold a Greater than Solomon is Here."

A returning fugitive from the ball ground, Frank Wilson, horces ran away and threw Wilson out after which they collided with a hitching post at Sixteenth and Iard, demolishing the buggy.

The general committee appointed to take steps looking forward to the prohibition of Sunday base ball playing within the city limits, met at the Young Men's Christian association, corner Fifteenth and Dodge, pursuant to the call of the chairman, Rev. J. S. Detweiler of the Kountze Memorial church. The following members of the committee were in attendance: Reverends W. R. Henderson, C. W. Sawyer, L. A. Hultman, E. H. Graham, Dr. Leiserson, J. S. Richardson, William Morrison, P. L. Perrine, E. P. Swezey, William Robertson and George A. Joplin.

At a meeting of the board of education, Miss Lydia Shallenberg was given permission to teach a summer school at the Cass school, Mrs. Reed at the Leavenworth, Miss Ida Barron at the Lake and Miss Hamilton at the Center street.

Nearby W. B. Lanius, C. O. Lobeck, S. D. Leland, W. H. Kayner, H. F. Strickling and George W. Wilson, delegates of the Nebraska division of the Traveler's Protective association, have left for St. Louis to attend the National association.

The Day We Celebrate.

The first issue of the Omaha Bee appeared June 19, 1871, so that this its thirty-ninth birthday anniversary.

The Bee was founded by the late Edward Rosewater who continued as its editor and directing force until his death.

Frank A. Kennedy, editor of the Western Star, was born June 19, 1862, at Burlington, Ia. He prides himself on having edited a labor paper more years than any other man in the whole United States.

Sidelights on the War.

An entire regiment of Scandinavians has been recruited in Canada.

More than 6,000 Canadians have joined the British navy during the present war.

The copper dome on the court house at Canton, O., has been painted red, white and blue, and by order of the county commissioners will remain so until the end of the war.

The standard ship now being built in British yards to make good the loss of tonnage due to submarine warfare is of 8,000 tons, and all the ships already laid down are of identical pattern.

The sandbags used by the allies on the western front alone have reached such stupendous figures that if they were piled on one another they would form a towering mountain seven miles high and twenty miles around its base.

Storyette of the Day.

A clergyman while passing through one of the by-streets of Edinburgh came upon a rough-looking and gigantic coal man, who was "persuading" his horse to move along more expeditiously. The horse had taken a stubborn fit, and the coal man was very excited, and coaching his sentiments in language which was simply appalling.

The clergyman was a little man, but rash, for he rebuked the coal man in a manner that left absolutely nothing to be desired.

"I cannot understand," he said, in winding up his expostulation, "what you mean by using such harrowing expressions."

This rebuke was lost upon the coal man. "My wee man," he replied, at the same time patting the clergyman on the shoulder with a very dirty hand, "neither could I understand it—when I was your size."

Needless to say, there was no rejoinder, and the clergyman passed on.—London Tit-Bits.

THE VILLAGE POET.

Tom Daily in Philadelphia Ledger. Whenever it's a Saturday my work is never through Unless it shows of simple verse a homely line or two.

So now when I bethink me of a theme to write about My fancy files to Thursday, which is Ellen's "evenin' out."

Now Ellen is an honest cook (though over-fond of salt). An' I am not the sort of man that's strong for flouting fault. She's frum enough with breakfast an' her coffee's always good.

An' the missus says she's never very wasteful in her house. I understand her luncheons are as good as they can be. Thought, of course, that's served hearsey, for they're seldom served to me.

But though her Sunday dinner is her masterpiece, My fancy files to Thursday, which is Ellen's "evenin' out."

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The Bee's Letter Box

Dislikes Socialist Plan. Grand Island, Neb., June 17.—To the Editor of the Bee: The stand some of the socialist leaders took in their recent attitude toward the socialist party is a manly, as well as a patriotic act. I never did consider the socialist party any more than what it exposed itself to be in refusing as a party to abide by our president's proclamation on the selective draft and other very important war measures.

There are some very good men in this party, but they are severing their connections very regularly. The socialist howl "we don't believe in war." We haven't a representative in Washington, who does and the American people as a whole do not countenance war, but when a foreign nation attempts to blackmail us, who is going to refuse to back up our Old Glory in a crisis like we are in at present, to protect humanity, and keep sacred our forefathers' freedom, freedom and democracy of principles? I emphasize the assertion nobody would be a slacker so low that Webster can't define him.

The copper heads of 1861 did all they could to hinder our government in time of need and if we Americans would listen to the walls of the socialist we would be paying taxes to the Kaiser before long, like Lansing said. The socialists have some good ideas but they have not been endowed with any superhuman ability to make our grand old America one iota better. We are looked up to as the peer of all people and nations, and by the grace of God may we always enjoy our distinction and preserve our Christian land of the good old U. S. A. When Uncle Sammy calls for married men I'll be there with a knapsack on my back and Springfield on my mind.

V. A. BRADSHAW.

Why So Many Hides?

Omaha, June 15.—To the Editor of the Bee: It has been repeatedly told recently that the packing houses of this city have a vast number of hides stored away, so that the walls of the buildings nearly bulge out on account of them. If such is the case, why are they storing them, while the price for shoes soars higher and higher every day? Why do they not let those hides be sent away to tanneries, if they do not want to allow them to be tanned here, so that the hides can be made into leather so that more shoes may be made?

Are they doing the same thing as the other food and price manipulators are doing? Are they going to hold up the public as we have been held up in all lines, in the last year? If so, it is high time that the government took control of all the hides and see that the general public gets some justice.

There are said to be more hides in storage by far than was ever the case in the past. If this statement is true, it is high time something was done and done mighty suddenly at that.

When the papers some weeks ago stated that there was in storage in Omaha something like 10,000,000 pounds of sugar, men who know about it state that the real amount in storage was over 1,000,000,000 pounds and that vast quantities were stored in the packing houses of the city.

It is time a law was passed to prohibit packing companies from engaging in any other kind of business except the meat business. When they buy up immense quantities of apples, potatoes, eggs, butter, sugar and poultry to store away when there is an apparent shortage of the articles named, it is time the public had something to say about it. I am not opposed to the packing industries, for they have done an immense amount of good in the country, but they should engage in their supposed line of business and not be allowed to help in making the high cost of living such a burden to the great body of the people of

America. I am not an anarchist or socialist, but I am in favor of dealing with food and price manipulators in a harsh and vigorous manner. FRANK A. AGNEW.

Board of Control and Hearings.

Lincoln, June 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: A recent interview in an Omaha paper in regard to the hearing of complaints against Prof. F. W. Booth of the School for the Deaf indicates that the board of control did not act as promptly as it should in setting a date for the hearing. As a member of this board I merely wish to explain that it is not always possible to hold a public hearing on a date that will suit everyone. This was true when June 15 was fixed for hearing the complaints against Prof. Booth. That date was the earliest possible date the board could fix upon without materially disrupting existing conditions. If the date had been advanced in order to accommodate teachers at the school so they could have been heard at the school before their vacation began the hearing doubtless would have worked a detriment to the closing work of the school year, both with the pupils and the teachers. In no manner does the law require the board to hold hearings at any given place—as a matter of fact, hearings properly should be held at the offices of the board in Lincoln. The board decided in the Booth case to have the hearing in Omaha in order to accommodate the considerable number of witnesses who were to have been called. I merely make this explanation to set the members of the board right before the public. All of the charges brought against Prof. Booth have now been officially withdrawn.

E. O. MAYFIELD, Chairman.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Must have been interesting to Joffre." "What's that?" "A colonel on some governor's staff was telling him about some thrilling experience."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"There's a man planting potatoes," said Farmer Corntoast, "when he ought to be playing golf." "Yes, I do, but if he'd go ahead and play golf he wouldn't be spottin' good potatoes that somebody could use."—Washington Star.

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