

THE OMAHA BEE

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Every day greases the toboggan for the potato trust.

City commissioners might acquire much useful information by joining the canning classes.

It goes without saying that America's foreign legion will assist in delivering the message at Berlin.

At last those militant saps pull down the "martyr's crown"—a fool's cap with the latest trimmings.

High prices are tumbling, but Mr. Common People has so far shown no signs of inability to watch the spectacle.

Another reduction of fat is reported in Germany. At the rate the fat goes into the fire the era of the grease spot is not far off.

The landing "somewhere in France" no doubt persuaded Junkerdom to sit up and take notice, even though nourishment is short.

A million or more garden patches swelling with tubers and other summer joys wave signals of coming triumphs to wielders of the hoe. Cheer up!

War economy in leather necessitates an edict against fashionable high shoes in England. Style makers, like other autocrats, cannot dodge trouble nowadays.

It is inferred from British press comment that the American invasion of France wipes off the slate the insinuations of "coining dollars out of Europe's blood."

Renaming the streets in newly-annexed suburbs is all right, but the trouble arises from the fact that not enough streets are found to immortalize all the local statesmen involved.

It may be noted in passing that the wool socks the women are knitting for the soldiers are actually worth more than \$2 per pair, so no one can question but our boys will be well shod to start with.

A correspondent is inclined to challenge a statement that corn was nine feet eight inches high in Sarpy county in June, 1887. He should remember "there were giants in those days," and corn was one of them.

Congress appears determined to grant sweeping power of control over food and fuel and other essentials of war. If national precedents are shattered the responsibility and the worry rests with greedy profiteers.

I. W. W. agitators are rapidly reaching the ultimate limit of Uncle Sam's forbearance, and we fear some of them will find their movements seriously interfered with, unless they modify materially their present walk and conversation.

As a means of stimulating harvest hands to go the limit John Bull lifts the lid on the breweries and authorizes a 50 per cent increase in the output. As an emergency sample of paternalism this carries a shade more punch than near-beer or buttermilk.

Thrones tumble and kings go, but King Ak-Sar-Ben goes his happy way, swaying his subjects with unflinching cheer. Of worries he has none and his cornfed liegions know not short rations. Alone among modern monarchs, his lines are cast in pleasant places.

A semi-official speller at Washington nervily urges people to forego annual vacations this summer and relieve railroads and summer resorts of the trouble of caring for mere pleasure seekers. Why waste money and time while patriotism calls for service? It is risky fittingly to stigmatize this kind of talk in plain print. The task is passed up to passenger agents and hotel clerks, whose courage and vocal versatility alone are equal to it.

The Exemption Problem

Registration of all male residents of the United States between the ages of 21 and 31 was a comparatively easy matter compared with the evolution of a system whereby those who are needed at home can be exempted from military service.

The task was to get the right sort of men, men of the right age and physical equipment, and to obtain them without dislocating the vital industries or agriculture.

The officials of the government have reached a wise decision in determining that there shall be no general classes of exemption. Even some of the industries can spare some of their men. If there were class exemptions, if for instance all the men in the steel industry were exempted, a way would be opened for slackers to avoid service by attaching themselves to the pay rolls of such organizations.

The federal exemption board will decide the question whether a man is needed at home or in the fighting line. The greatest care should be taken in the establishment of local boards and in the selection of the personnel. Heads of industries should be placed on their honor when they are asked to say what men can be spared, and what ones cannot be spared.

No Class Exemption from Draft

The announcement of the personnel of the local boards to administer the selective draft law is accompanied by the statement that no class exemptions will be made. This is a wise provision, doing away as it does with invidious distinctions between occupations. It is admitted that men will be required to carry on all forms of industrial activity, although some may be speeded up above others by reason of war demands.

However, it is equally apparent that men will be needed for the army and these are to be chosen in the fairest way possible. Exemption boards will consider individual cases and will decide all on merit, to the end that the man will go where he is most needed. The character of the men selected for the important work of making these decisions is such as to insure absolute impartiality in the choice, but even then their action is subject to review and the individual has the right to appeal. The whole plan is worked out to make the draft fair and square between those who are subject to the law, that none may feel he is discriminated against in any particular. The date for the drawing soon will be announced and the machinery will begin to operate on making the great army needed.

Eastern coal operators admit their share in the move to unduly advance prices and by submitting to the government demand for a horizontal reduction confess their guilt. Boosts of more than 100 per cent in selling prices, made at a time when people were suffering for want of fuel, are shown by price lists, while correspondence between mine owners and jobbers disclose a deliberate and shameless purpose to squeeze the consumer to the utmost. That they have been overhauled and checked in their piratical plans is the first fruit of the effort of the federal authorities to bring about a better adjustment between prices asked and the ability of the people to pay. No reason for a fuel famine ever did exist in this country, nor is it likely now that another such experience will be forced by a combination of operators. In this connection it is enlightening to read a plea from the operators asking that they be assured immunity from prosecution under the Sherman law if they unite to reduce prices. Caught with the goods, they developed a sudden respect for the law whose presence did not greatly worry them when prices were going up. Others who deal in public necessities may well observe the new relations established between the coal men and the government.

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Insurance Men to Protect Food Warehouses

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The Plague of the Trenches

By Frederic J. Hoskins

Washington, June 26.—It was the third day of battle. The enemy's guns had ceased firing for some reason which the air scouts were trying to discover and several thousand Frenchmen, standing knee-deep in ice water that flooded the trenches relaxed their holds on their rifles for the first time in thirty hours. Occasionally a khaki-clad form stooped over what appeared to be an empty place in the trenches and lifted another khaki-clad form, inert and water-soaked, onto an army ambulance that teetered slowly down the line through the snow and mud.

An officer in mud-spattered uniform, his face lined and gray as the surrounding mist, pulled himself stiffly out of his trench and walked over to where an army surgeon was working with a group of men lying unconscious in the snow. The officer observed that the surgeon was using not the usual hypodermic of morphine, but a strong reviving stimulant of hot whisky.

"Wounded?" he asked, as the surgeon lifted one man on his arm and thrust a canteen between his lips.

"Yes," answered the surgeon. "Wounded with tuberculosis." "Wounded with tuberculosis" is one of the bitterest phrases the war has coined. It is bad enough to die on the battlefield, but at least death comes quickly under such circumstances. But to be sent home to die slowly of the white plague, often in a poor-law institution—that has been the fate of thousands of trench soldiers. France has discharged nearly 200,000 soldiers on account of tuberculosis since the beginning of the war, and the spread of the disease in the British army has reached such alarming proportions that the civilian population has organized to combat the situation.

It has taken some time for France to realize its plight, but today the French combative spirit is aroused. An anti-tuberculosis campaign is under way, in which it may be stated with pride that Americans are contributing the major part both in money and service. The officer of the above incident was an American, and it did not take him long to discover that the whole French army was rapidly being weakened by the dread scourge. Later, when wounded he was sent back to France, he got in touch with his friends from home, to whom he gave a grim account of conditions. "Something must be done," he concluded, "and done quickly, or there will be no French army."

The Americans in Paris immediately organized themselves into a committee—that being one of the things for which Americans are famous—and called upon the French government. The French government was sufficiently alarmed concerning the spread of the disease, but unfortunately it was already handicapped with too many obligations to offer any adequate remedy for the situation. It simply had to be left to the civilian population.

In a subsequent investigation it became apparent that the civilian population was largely responsible for the disease anyway and not the army. While trench life certainly aggravates any tendency towards tuberculosis, it was discovered that in the majority of cases the disease was already there. In other words, the terrible fact was revealed that the whole of France was highly tuberculous.

Before the war the death rate from tuberculosis was nearly three per thousand of population, in the cities the percentage running much higher. In Havre, for example, the death rate from all diseases last year was over three times that of New York City. The death rate from tuberculosis alone was equal to 40 per cent of the entire death rate of New York City.

Searching for the cause of this large mortality from tuberculosis, the investigating Americans soon found it. The United States has suffered sufficiently from the scourge to make most of its citizens intelligent as to the proper anti-tuberculosis campaigns. Every American, although he may not always practice it, is a believer in the value of fresh air. The French, although an extremely enlightened people in the sciences of anaesthesia and surgery, are not by any means an example to the world in sanitary matters. The fact of the matter is that the French do not get enough fresh air.

Fresh air, cleanliness and disinfection are the three greatest essentials in combating tuberculosis. Naturally when a country neglects any of them more or less and lives in positive terror of the first, you can expect to find the disease flourishing.

In December of last year the war victims' fund was established to take care of French tuberculous soldiers. The sum of \$116,118 was collected and a number of sanitariums opened. Soldiers were collected from poor institutions and those arriving from the front were given the best of care. The Americans worked as if inspired. They naturally showed the greatest respect for the population the proper methods of trench while curing their soldiers, and they made the most of their opportunity.

The work has been slow, owing to lack of funds, but it is accomplishing its purpose. Many soldiers have recovered and the French people are becoming educated to the value of fresh air. Windows are being sawed in hundreds of peasant homes which boasted none before the war. The propaganda of fresh air and sanitation is having its effect.

The United Hebrew Charities, in connection with the Society for the Relief of Jewish Tuberculosis, has created a new ideal in the care of tubercular victims in its fresh air schools and sanitary factory. In the latter simple tasks are provided for tubercular employees, who are thus able to earn their living supervised by physicians. If four hours is all a person is able to work without tiring, a doctor is there to see that he works no longer than that. There are nurses to take his temperature; a lunch room, where nourishing food is served at bare cost, and, when needed, milk is served two or three times a day to patients. The products made by these people are thoroughly disinfected, so that there is absolutely no danger in releasing them to trade.

Purifying Influences of War

New York Financial World

Terrible and devastating as grim war is, the one into which our country has entered will undoubtedly have a beneficial mental and physical influence on American life. It will do away with the crass materialism which has taken hold of our natural life, and which is development in any free people who have enjoyed a long era of peace, rapid business expansion and accumulation of enormous wealth. The refining influences of a nation that devotes its energies to money-making are liable to become demoralized and dulled. In war, however, with its terrors and sacrifices of lives and treasure, a people always attain a sterner conception of life and duty and awaken to ideals long dormant.

The actuality of the war has at once created a democratized spirit of getting together. It has brought capital and labor, art, science, religion and politics, men and women of all classes, the rich and the poor, closer in a common cause—the cause of the country. In face of grim necessities and common danger American democracy has become rejuvenated. It is teaching the masses that capitalists are not cruel and oppressive and corporations not soulless. No element has contributed more lavishly of work more unselfishly or sacrificed so much time, labor and money for the success of the Liberty loan than that community derided as the center of heartlessness—Wall Street. It was Wall Street from which started the call for a \$100,000,000 Red Cross fund and for extra dividends by the rich corporations for the benefit of that fund. This noble work especially will give the lie to the claim that we are only a nation of dollar chasers and money grinders.

It seems as if Providence works through crises for the mental, moral and physical uplift of the children of man so as to awaken in them the better angels of their nature-patriotism, the spirit of sacrifice and the noblest conception of the right spirit of natural concord.

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TODAY

Proverb for the Day. Dropping water wears a rock.

One Year Ago Today in the War. Medina reported captured by Arabs.

British patrol attacks and bombardment increased on western front. Dr. Karl Liebknecht, German radical socialist, sentenced to thirty months' imprisonment for attempted treason.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago Today. J. G. McClure, who lives in Ambler Place, is minus a strawberry roan pony with white hind feet, which was unhitched and driven away from in front of his premises.

A squaw band of Indians are encamped above the fair grounds and are tall, wiry, antiluvian-looking buck is working the begging racket throughout the city.

The real estate property owners in the neighborhood of Thirteenth and Jackson are complaining of the horse and hay market, stating that it blocks up the street.

The funeral of Joseph Crawford took place from his late residence, 723 Pierce. He had worked for a number of years in the shops of the Union Pacific and out of respect to his memory the funeral of the shop was closed.

Owing to the illness of Janish, the Boyd opera house will not be occupied by that actress or her company and the season will close with the presentation of Harrigan's "Leather Patch."

Fred Higginson, the little son of Mrs. Selma Higginson and grandson of St. A. D. Balfour, 610 North Twentieth, accidentally broke the small bone of his right leg.

The old Buckingham theater has been overhauled and rechristened the Olympic. It will be opened as a first class variety theater by Cole & Parish.

A meeting of the Nebraska fish commissioners was held in B. E. Kennedy's office. Lew May attended the meeting with all of the members of the National American Fishery society, an honor conferred upon him and Nebraska at the last meeting of the association.

This Day in History. 1776—State constitution adopted and colonial government ceased in Virginia.

1778—"Molly Pitcher" commissioned a sergeant at Washington for bravery in battle of Monmouth.

1864—Last engagement fought by the Prussians and Danes in the war over Schleswig-Holstein.

1812—America adopted its first ambassador in audience for foreign time by the emperor of China in Peking.

1892—John W. Foster of Indiana was appointed to succeed James G. Blaine as secretary of state.

1902—Germany, Austria and Italy renewed the triple alliance.

1914—Austrians began the bombardment of Belgrade.

1916—Senate adopted a resolution empowering the president to draft militiamen into federal service.

The Day We Celebrate. General George W. Goethals, chief engineer in the building of the Panama canal, now head of the Emergency Fleet corporation, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., fifty-nine years ago today.

Commander David W. Todd, U. S. N., director of naval communications, born in California forty-three years ago today.

Lieutenant Colonel James W. McAndrew, member of the general staff corps of the United States army, born in Pennsylvania fifty-five years ago today.

William E. Borah, senior United States senator from