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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
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Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to their new address as often as requested.

The mobilization of the Missouri mule ought to put on the finishing touch.

Liberty bonds bridge the stream of patriotism for the stay-at-homes. Come across.

So far as the real world's series is concerned, the Hohenzollern team is not in the running.

Incidentally, a Liberty bond would make a fine Christmas present. Do your shopping now.

With 3-cent letter postage coming back, the 1-cent postage program must go into the discard.

Just the same, it's a shame to blow \$20,000 of public money in a junket to Vicksburg at a time like this.

Cardinal Gibbons' talent as a booster of Americanism glows with undiminished vigor, despite his years.

It is not a question whether Germany will consent to giving up "a foot of imperial soil." The main source of worry is to prevent taking without asking.

Swelling ranks of Liberty loan subscribers effectively clamp the lid on the familiar jeers hurled at "bloated bondholders." Dig up and get in the ranks. Don't be a lonesome!

The Aero club of New York rolls \$10,000 into the comfort pot of American aviators abroad. Messages from home carrying the golden "pep" make flight and fight inseparable pals.

Culinary experts say the qualities of meat are reflected in many ways in traits of consumer. If so, the jackrabbit feeds for the Sammie fore-shadow record speed on the run to Berlin.

Medical and scientific faddists seek opportunities to try out their theories on cantonment soldiers. A society for the protection of soldiers against faddists appears a growing necessity.

On sober second thought, the South Dakota pacifists abandoned the public meeting scheduled at Sioux Falls. Governor Norbeck's proclamation impressed upon the promoters the value of safety first.

Herr Ballin, the master mariner of Germany, grows more pessimistic as the enemy takes over his interned ships. The ravages of war carry no keener thrust into commercial vitals of the saber rattlers.

Iowa votes this week on making its statutory prohibition a part of the constitution. As no very active campaign has been waged, the chances are it will be a light vote, but at that, it ought to register the present attitude of the people on "wet" and "dry."

A few years ago easy-going Americans stood in awe of a billion dollars. The spendthrift record constituted a campaign slogan. Now three billions in the pot is the minimum goal of a patriotic national hustle. Familiarity robs a billion of its fearsome size.

The federal swatter has not yet reached the hide and leather trust, but the blows felt in other directions induced restraint and shortening of reach. Commercial reports reflect wholesome fear in that quarter and a discreet tendency to let go and head off a well-earned tanning.

The steps by which the kaiser forced the United States into the war are plain enough. The chief offense was committed at the outset when his chancellor declared a solemn treaty to be nothing but "a scrap of paper" if it stood in the way of his world-conquest plans. Kaiserism in this country was an inexcusable during the early years of the war as it is today.

American Unity
-New York World

If the Frankfurter Zeitung were as closely censored as some other newspapers in Germany it never would have published the disclosures and confessions of Rudolf Kommer. Herr Kommer resided long in the United States, where he must have been saturated with the spirit of German propaganda. Writing now with information before him of American war preparations, he marvels at conditions so much at variance with all his former conclusions.

"The first half-year of war," he says, "has brought a tremendous and wonderful solidarity in the enormous crucible, and the uniform domestic front must be recognized as the greatest triumph of Americanism." In plain English this means that a shrewd observer knows and is able to say in one of the most important of German newspapers that the people of the United States are with one accord bringing their vast resources into the conflict against autocracy.

No more eloquent tribute has ever been paid to the substantial unity of the American people or to the well-recognized loyalty of the very important element among them having Germanic origin. All the hopes of Prussianism in this war, so far as we are concerned, were based upon the belief that through preoccupation with money-making, political and racial jealousies and, above all, the defection of citizens of German blood, the United States never could become an important factor in opposition to the ambitions of Kaiserism.

Every German dollar spent and every German crime committed in this country had that inspiration. When Herr Kommer speaks of our tremendous and wonderful solidarity he admits the failure of German intrigue and forecasts the collapse of the militarism that supports it.

Nebraska's Wonderful Corn Crop.
Nebraska has a corn crop for this year of at least 225,000,000 bushels. Our minds have come to be fixed on the billion point so much of late that they do not work well in millions, but for ordinary purposes the figures for our corn ought to be really impressive. In the first place, the cornfields of Nebraska this year have provided two bushels for every man, woman and child in the United States and some over. Allowing two pounds a day for the ration, which is far from stinting any, it would feed the entire population of the country for two months. To haul this crop to market it will take 225,000 cars loaded to a capacity of 56,000 pounds each. Coupled into a single train and moving steadily every minute of the time night and day at the speed of ten miles per hour, it would require four weeks for this train to cross the Union Pacific bridge at Omaha. As only half of the crop will be exported from the state, it will afford employment for 112,500 big box cars during the next few months. Finally, at prevailing prices, the crop is worth \$250,000,000 in the fields, or more than \$200 for each inhabitant of the state. And corn is only one of Nebraska's great crops.

"Smartness" in the Army.
One of the best lessons a soldier learns, coming close to those of discipline and orderly action, is that of "smartness." Indeed this may be set down as part of discipline and that for reason in all the great training camps for the young men, newly from civil life, are getting advice and instruction on the point. It means that the soldier must be careful of his personal appearance, avoiding slovenliness in dress or demeanor as he would the plague. The moral effect of this is direct and easily recognized. The "smart" soldier is a good soldier, and reflects in his bearing and attitude the lessons of his training. He is alert, resourceful, and in all ways dependable and efficient. The American army does not stress this beyond reason, for it is traditional to retain as much of the individual qualities of the men as is compatible with need for concerted action. This policy has been of immense value in developing self-reliance and initiative, the chief characteristic of the American soldier. Proper relaxation essential to personal comfort is always permitted, and the combination of this element with that of disciplinary routine produces the best fighting organization the world has ever known. European experts have stood aghast at some things permitted in our army, but they admire excessively results achieved.

Receding Prices Presage Relief.
Some signs are noted in the market reports of appreciable relief from sky-rocketing cost of living. In spite of government efforts at control of supply and fixation of prices, the cost level has mounted steadily, till the first week of October showed an index number the highest ever attained. Within the last week a considerable reaction has taken place. Quotations on cured and cold storage meats have generally been lower, and these in turn have been attended by a sharp break in live stock prices. Grains also have shown a downward tendency, final figures for the season's crops discouraging whatever of speculative interest had survived. All manipulation is not yet eradicated, nor has the general market been entirely divested of features that have turned public need to private greed. The change noted in the price of staples, however, should find some reflection in the general situation, and with plans for distribution properly carried out, people may reasonably look for a check to the rising cost of living.

Taking Over the Toll Bridge.
The purpose of the state to take over the toll bridge at Ashland or to build a free bridge over the Platte river there will meet with general approval, assuming it is on a fair basis of cost. This is with all due regard to the enterprise of the men who constructed and maintained the structure that now serves the traffic along the main highway between Omaha and Lincoln. The public highways are for the use of all the people, and we have always maintained that they should be kept at the expense of the people. Taxpayers of Saunders county have felt a natural disinclination to provide so expensive a bit of roadway for the use of outsiders, but since the state is going into the highway construction business on a comprehensive scale, it can well begin by removing such bars to free passage. Owned by the state, the upkeep will be borne proportionally by all, and private profit will not be served by needs of general traffic. Agreement between the owners of the bridge and the state authorities ought to be reached without much trouble, and a great step taken on the way to a better road system for Nebraska.

Consolidating Food Control.
The food administrator's plan to license middlemen dealing in staple food supplies, just announced, undoubtedly is intended to secure closer control of the distribution of supplies. Nothing is said about prices, although room is left for the inference that in some way the cost of living will be lessened. The tendency of the markets today is downward on grains, live stock and packed meats, and this may soon have its reflex on the prices charged the consumer. One of the greatest obstacles to be overcome is the variations in ways of doing business in different communities. Retail traffic in foods is neither stabilized nor standardized. On one day recently prices were obtained from a number of widely separated centers of population, which showed a surprising range, to a great extent unaccountable on the basis of natural conditions. For example, sirloin steaks sold in Denver at from 17 1/2 to 25 cents per pound, in New Orleans at from 55 to 60 and in Los Angeles from 25 to 28. On that same day pork chops were retailed in Washington at 45 cents per pound and in Aurora, Ill., at 34. Other articles showed similar variations, which justify the conclusion that natural conditions are not wholly responsible for the cost of living everywhere.

The food administrator may effect considerable improvement through control of distribution under license, but the task of standardizing prices is too great to be finished in a short time, and therefore it is not probable it will be undertaken, further than what may be achieved through establishing the stability afforded by oversight of supply. Responding to the spirit of the times the patriotic American hen collectively put 20,000,000 dozen more eggs into cold storage warehouses than were sequestered a year ago. Still, record prices prevail. "High living in the henneries," explain the speculators in public. Whereat they cackle privately.

Pardons for a few of the White House pickets thrilled the free militant suffs, says the report, and hats were flung into the air "in an ecstasy of joy." Reckless extravagance? Hardly. Lids of

Washington, Oct. 4.—American cities are beginning to solve the problem of play. It is only in the last few years that the United States has become a country predominantly urban instead of rural in its population, and this urban population has had a hard time getting the outdoor air and exercise it needs. The solution of the problem seems to lie in the municipal playground and athletic field, which has come to be a feature of the parks of almost every progressive city in the last few years. The federal census bureau has just completed an investigation of the parks and playgrounds of every city in the United States, which contains some interesting facts. For the purpose of this work the census bureau takes account of all cities of 30,000 inhabitants or more. There are 213 such cities in the United States—a measure of the rapidity with which the balance of population is moving from the country to the city. Neither the country nor the country-dweller needs any outdoor recreation facilities; he has only to step across his threshold to be in an out-of-door that affords the sports for which games are only a substitute. Much attention has been given to the problem of furnishing country dwellers with intellectual and artistic recreation in an attempt to keep them from moving to the city in too great numbers; but there has so far been little attention paid to providing them with outdoor sports within average means after they arrive in the city. But the movement is under way and it is growing steadily.

Teaching the Cities to Play
By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Oct. 4.—American cities are beginning to solve the problem of play. It is only in the last few years that the United States has become a country predominantly urban instead of rural in its population, and this urban population has had a hard time getting the outdoor air and exercise it needs. The solution of the problem seems to lie in the municipal playground and athletic field, which has come to be a feature of the parks of almost every progressive city in the last few years. The federal census bureau has just completed an investigation of the parks and playgrounds of every city in the United States, which contains some interesting facts.

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City parks are increasing in numbers and size, and the idea of the city park is changing completely. Not so long ago it comprised a green, shaded by stately trees and traversed by winding walks and drives which lived under the rule of "Keep off the grass." Nowadays the tendency is to urge the public to stay on the grass as much as possible and to play everything from football to croquet thereon. The census bureau classifies the facilities for outdoor games maintained by American cities into playgrounds and athletic fields, according as they are intended for children to use or for adults. The 213 cities included in the investigation maintain their municipal funds 2,200 playgrounds. In the case of the children something more than a mere outdoor space marked off for games is required. The children need a leader, when what may be called the "tradition of play" is broken as it is among many city children.

In the small town and the country the small boys pick up their knowledge of the national games from the boys a little older and an unbroken tradition of the seasons and rules for all games from generation to generation. In the big city this is not the case. As the president of the Playground and Recreation Association, America puts it, "Children inherit an instinct of play, but they do not inherit a knowledge of base ball."

Out of this need for leadership in children's games has grown a new field of opportunity and a new profession—that of recreation supervisor and leader of games. American cities today employ 3,800 men and women in this new profession and the demand is greater than the supply. The task of the play leader is to put himself at the head of the group of children to teach them the rules of the games and the underlying spirit of fair play and sportsmanship that is the foundation of the best American athletics. There is no teacher who has a greater opportunity to form children's character than this leader of play.

Some interesting light is thrown on the popularity of various games by the figures collected by the census bureau. Tennis would seem to be the game that is coming forward most rapidly. There are 3,368 public tennis courts maintained by the cities of America. The facts that the game can be quickly learned, that it furnishes an excellent outdoor exercise not too violent, that it can be played by people of any age and of either sex, seem to guarantee that tennis will always stand near the top among municipal games. Its popularity is undoubtedly growing rapidly. Equipment is not expensive, which is a point of first importance, for the municipal athletic field is intended for people who do not belong to country clubs.

The question of the expense of equipment accounts partly for the relatively small place occupied by golf in municipal athletic fields. Another point which tends to keep golf down in the large space required in proportion to the number of people who can enjoy the sport at a given time. Especially in the east, where park room is at a premium, the municipal golf course occupies a disproportionately large part of the park space. There are only sixty-six municipal golf courses among the American cities. Polo, the rich man's game par excellence, is represented by only nine grounds in the 213 cities. Base ball, traditional leader of American sports, is represented by 1,334 municipal diamonds. Considering that eighteen men can play on a single diamond, while a tennis court takes care of four at most, the facilities for base ball may be said to be greater than for any other sport. It is a question, however, whether the tennis courts are not in more continuous use. The 213 cities also maintain 331 foot ball gridirons.

Besides these major sports, there are a host of others whose devotees are provided for in the municipal parks of the nation. Outdoor basket ball fields are numerous and the two popular Young Men's Christian association games, hand ball and volley ball, are beginning to be recognized on municipal athletic fields. A few aristocratic cities provide cricket fields for those who would emulate our English allies and cousins. Northern cities provide toboggan slides, skating rinks and hockey rinks. Here and there some city turns up with an advantage peculiar to itself. Cleveland boasts the only municipal ice cross field and Des Moines the only municipal rifle range.

Another municipal recreation facility which is probably the most popular of all, judging by the number of people who patronize it, is the swimming pool or bathing beach. There are 237 such main bathing beaches in the United States. The total was over 26,000,000. In the hot waves of the east and middle west they are godsends and life savers. The whole playground movement, which brought into it the athletic field for adults, is of very recent growth. The last decade has practically seen its development. Boston is generally credited with being the pioneer in this field, since the first organized outdoor playground was established in that city in 1886. Bostonians are fond of tracing their tradition in this matter back to colonial days, when a party of Boston boys playing on the common were chased off by a group of British soldiers. The boys with true Pilgrim spirit carried their case to Governor Gage, who gave orders that the children of the town should be protected in their play.

All in all, the results of the census bureau's investigation are illuminating. They show great progress in the municipal recreation movement. They show that there is room for much further progress in the future. The aggregate of tennis courts and base ball diamonds and other facilities is not unimposing, but, compared with population of the 213 cities of the richest nation in the world, it is clearly only a beginning. The entire value of the municipal park property of these American cities—all the park property, not the athletic fields and playgrounds alone—is \$121,000,000. This is only about 6 per cent of what the United States could appropriate for war purposes in one year. Considering the wealth of the communities interested it is a safe prophecy that this figure will be increased many times as the movement for municipal play takes wider root.

Henry Ford's only son failed to make good his draft exemption claim and must go into service like the rest of the boys. The appeal board at Detroit denied his claim and certified him as adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard instead of active service. Young Ford was adjutant general of the state guard before it was mustered in.

OLYMPIAN
Right in the Spotlight.

Duncan U. Fletcher, who is to preside over the sessions of the Southern Commercial congress, which is to meet in New York City today, is the senior United States senator from Florida. Senator Fletcher has long been prominent in various movements aiming at the commercial development of the south. In addition to his activities in connection with the Southern Commercial congress he is president of the Atlantic Deeper Waterways association. He is a native of Georgia, but has resided at Jacksonville, Fla., since his graduation from Vanderbilt university in 1881. In his early public career he served in the Florida legislature and as mayor of Jacksonville. In 1908 he was sent to the United States senate and is now serving his second term.

One Year Ago Today in the War.
Germans prepared to attack Russian lines southeast of Lemberg. Allied forces occupied Athens, seized entire Greek navy and took over railroads, forts and other military works.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.
Henry Yates took out a building permit for his new residence, to be erected on Davenport street between Thirtieth and Thirty-first.

The Omaha City mission is maturing arrangements to secure a home for the homeless newsboys and bootblacks. An amusement hall will be provided in the home and still later a night school started.

Heyman & Delches will open their cloak and ladies' furnishing emporium at 1518 and 1520 Farnam street in the new Paxton block next Wednesday.

The old veterans of the Omaha fire department have called a meeting at the office of Chief Galligan for the

purpose of organizing an old veterans' association.

A mass meeting of the republicans of this city is to be held at exposition hall Tuesday evening. Addresses will be made by General Manderson and Charles J. Greene.

Rev. J. K. Reid has moved into his new residence just north of Dr. Mercers'.

Mr. and Mrs. George White Knight have returned from their wedding journey and are now at home at 224 North Nineteenth street.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Metz have returned from their wedding journey. The county commissioners opened bids for grading the Cannon hill road yesterday afternoon.

The attractive Mrs. Boyd's this week are "Romeo and Juliet," "Maggie, the Midget" and "Turned Up."

This Day in History.
1812—Theodore Dehon was consecrated Protestant Episcopal bishop of South Carolina.

1832—John Clarke, a lieutenant in the continental army, died at the age of 16, and afterward governor of Georgia, died. Born in North Carolina in 1766.

1840—Attempted assassination of Louis Philippe of France by Darnes.

1852—Governor Vance of North Carolina appealed for shoes and clothing for Confederate troops.

1858—First state legislature of South Dakota convened at Pierre.

1897—Edward Langtry, husband of Lily Langtry, the actress, died in England.

1905—Swedish Parliament passed a bill repealing the act of union with Norway.

1914—The allies advanced between Lens and Arras.

1915—Great Britain officially declared war on Bulgaria.

The Day We Celebrate.
John O. Yelzer is celebrating his fifty-seventh birthday. He was admitted to the bar at age of 17 and came here from southern Nebraska.

William H. Lawery was born in Iowa City, October 15, 1858. A graduate of Iowa university, he has since 1910 practiced law in Omaha.

Vice Admiral William S. Sims, U. S. N., who is in charge of American naval forces in Europe, was born in Canada, fifty-nine years ago today.

Brigadier General P. E. Traub, U. S. A., in command of the Fifty-first infantry brigade, born in New York fifty-three years ago today.

General Robert Nivelle, field commander of the French armies, born at Tulle, France, fifty-nine years ago today.

Helen Ware, popular actress and motion picture star, born in San Francisco forty years ago today.

Dr. William W. Guth, president of Goucher college, born at Nashville, Tenn., forty-six years ago today.

John L. Sullivan, former champion pugilist in the world, born in Boston fifty-nine years ago today.

The Bee's Letter Box

Howell's Profit on Coal.
Lincoln, Oct. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: There is nothing like keeping the records straight, hence this communication:

Several newspapers have erroneously printed the statement that the board of control awarded to E. E. Howell & Son, Omaha, a contract for supplying coal to nine state institutions, from date to June 1, 1918, on the basis of 5 per cent of the cost of the coal. The facts are that the board let the contract to Howell & Son for a fixed price of 5 cents per ton commission, and not 5 per cent of the price paid for the coal. This makes a material difference. In other words, the board has contracted to give Howell & Son a contract for coal purchased by them for state use, the state taking care of the cost at the mines, freight, etc. The bid of the Omaha firm was one-half the price bid at Lincoln.

Some Miracles of Healing.
Omaha, Oct. 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: Apropos the "Power of Healing" recently discussed in your columns:

Mark Twain relates of a farmer's wife near his boyhood home who had great faith in a faith-doctor; that sufferers came to her from all around, and they went away well of their ailments. "Faith" was all that was necessary, she said. He also relates of a peasant in Austria who had a great trade in that sort of industry, who had patients high and low in society. That in Bavaria was a man who performed so many great cures that he had to retire from his profession as carpenter and became rich by his miracles. He pretended to have no religious faith, but supernatural power in his hands, there is something in his make-up which inspired the confidence of his patients, and that it was that confidence which did the work and not some mysterious power issuing from himself.

Mark Twain also tells of a "miraculous" cure of a paralytic whom all the best medical science of New York failed to help. A traveling quack (so they called him) from the Jordan region came to the city and after successive mornings and lifted the patient out of bed and said, "walk!" and he walked thereafter for forty-one years.

I have an old friend, a pioneer of Nebraska, who tells me that he cured a man crippled with rheumatism. That he proceeded in a biblical manner by pouring oil on him and praying so fervently that as his limbs were straightened out, cracking in the bones could be heard on two sides.

In the city of Karlstad, Sweden, some twenty-eight years ago, I saw what purported to be evidences of healing of all sorts of cripples, as results of the activities of a preacher and healer named Boltius, a member of the large hall in which he held his meetings were shelves about eight feet long, and on those shelves laid all sorts of bandages and against them leaned crutches by the score. It is left by former cripples who had been healed and had gone away rejoicing. This man Boltius had attained national fame, even having been called on for help by members of the royal household of King Oscar II for absent treatment.

In chapter 5, II Kings, we find the story of how the Syrian captain, Naaman, was healed of his leprosy by dipping himself in the river Jordan on advice of the prophet Elisha; and in Psalm 103 we find David says: "Bless the Lord, O my soul—who healeth all thy diseases." From this we discover that the curing of cripples and healing of diseases by other means than medicine has been in practice for thousands of years. It did not originate with Jesus and was no discovery of Mrs. Eddy. Even Mark Twain admits "they all achieve some cures, there is no question about it."

In view of all this, and more could be added, he that believeth might remove a mountain without subscribing to the Christian Science faith or believing in the non-existence of souls, matter, evil, pain, diseases, etc.

DAVID OLSON.

Many Dogs Are Useful.
Omaha, Oct. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: Replying to the letter of T. Heist of Shenandoah, Ia., I will say that, of course, I do not think that there are measly curs among dogs and there are also measly curs among men. But because there are some bad men I do not think it is reasonable for condemning all of them as being worthless.

Mr. Heist may hold his hands up in holy horror at my saying it, but I have had dogs that I would rather associate with than with some men I have seen, for at least one of them exhibited more than human intelligence many times. I had one dog for more than ten years and he was more valuable than any dog I have had in his time he caught at least 100 rats as well as skunks, moles, cats and other varmints. Then, besides being an extremely handsome dog, he was intelligent, smart and affectionate. He always knew when I meant to go home and would come two blocks many times to meet me and would always hold up his right paw to shake hands with me. Scores of men, women and children would stop on the street and shake hands with him, for he would hold up his paw to shake their hands and they did not consider they were lowering themselves to shake hands with a dog that was so smart. He was smarter than most men I have seen in my time. I saw men vote here last fall when I was inspector of elections, that did not have any more conception of what they were voting on, or for than that dog had. If a dog had been placed in his paws. My old dog on two different occasions barked furiously when he saw houses on fire, even before the fires were discovered by the owners of the houses. There are numerous instances of dogs saving the lives of people and of their value in many other ways. Any man who says they should be exterminated, is simply showing his ignorance of what they are worth.

It is probable that tens of thousands of men who have been sorely wounded on the fields of battle in Europe, owe their lives to the aid of the numberless dogs all the armies have with them. Thousands of dogs have been trained to rescue and to discover the sorely wounded men. They must be considered as much more than dogs. They are the best of the best of the animal world.

Many of our American troops may be saved by dogs.

The talk about dogs carrying disease has been indulged in so much that they would not be allowed to come near such rot at all. Any one who will practically approve of poisoning dogs, simply a proves of what is a criminal offense, for that is just what it is. Those who poison dogs do not pick out curs to kill. They always pick out valuable dogs that do not harm anybody. Those who have measly curs never lose them. They are not worth the effort of the poisoner to kill. Property owners seldom poison dogs.

There is nothing in existence so valuable as a good dog. The dog is always steadfast and true to his master. He is a friend who never fails you when all other friends desert. We could all learn the lessons of kindness as some people claim to despise them, they would be better to follow the instincts of a faithful and true old dog. The world is not advancing very rapidly, when the most ruthless and inhuman wars of our history of the world has involved all nations of the earth. I favor exterminating the kaiser but not all dogs by a good deal. Dog poisoners as a general thing are those who own no property and have no interest in the community where they live. FRANK A. AGNEW.

Democratize Ak-Sar-Ben.
Omaha, Oct. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: I wish to suggest an idea which I have had in mind for several years to the Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben. Why should we, the foremost advocates of democracy in all the world, continue to perpetuate, even in mimic form, the old, decrepit and tyrannical form of government known as a monarchy? Why not, at this opportune time, have a peaceful revolution in Quivera and elect a president by vote of the Ak-Sar-Ben membership? This could be done at the close of the present king's reign, and in all probability without bloodshed. Let the present kingdom of Quivera be divided into states and let us have an annual inaugural ball, at which the president would take the oath of office, administered by the chief justice of the supreme court. The same Board of Governors could easily be changed into a cabinet for the management of the affairs of Ak-Sar-Ben. The inaugural ball could easily be made even more brilliant and enjoyable than our so-called coronation balls. Diplomats from all the leading nations could be invited to the ball, could be selected, army and navy officers of high rank could be invited or appointed for the occasion; all the various branches of our own government could be represented, the supreme court, the senate, the house of representatives, the Red Cross, etc. The scheme is susceptible of wonderful possibilities, and I believe it would arouse a great deal more enthusiasm and interest in the Ak-Sar-Ben than the present scheme of going through with a mock ceremony of a system that the American people look upon with disapproval.

The thought that prompted me to make this long-contemplated suggestion was the spectacle of a group of men on one of the beautiful floats in the parade of this year, imitating the revolutionary fathers in pulling down the statue of King George, and at the end of the parade came another beautiful float upon which we had King Ak-Sar-Ben triumphantly and gorgeously exalted. I was impressed with the inconsistency of the ground plan of Ak-Sar-Ben, more than ever, and for this reason I submit the foregoing.

The people of Omaha and Nebraska should wake up and show more enthusiastic appreciation of the magnificent electrical pageants provided by the Ak-Sar-Ben each year. Generous and well-timed applause from the great concourse of people watching these wonderfully beautiful parades would lend zest and spirit to the occasion and would certainly be inspiring to the men who assist so loyally in the preparation and presentation of these splendid spectacles every year. I doubt whether one can witness in any other city in the country so magnificent a pageant as we have in Omaha last week with so little applause. It will do everybody good to loosen up and express enthusiastic appreciation of the Ak-Sar-Ben parade.

J. M. GILLIAN.

OCTOBER SMILES.
"Do you consider it a good idea for a bank to send every depositor a statement once a month?"

"Well, some might be glad to see it. Others might not like to be reminded so constantly of how little money they have."

—Louisville Courier-Journal.

—Jones—A man's luck is never so bad that it couldn't be worse.

—Brown—For example?

—Jones—He might be married to a White House picket.

—Wyses—My dear, there's no use for you to look at those hats, for I have only \$2 in my pocket.

—Mrs. Wyses—You might have known when we came out that I would want to buy a few things.

—Wyses—I did.—Boston Transcript.

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