THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Over the Alps lies the valley of the Styx. Teutons are headed that way.

"The yellow peril," like other soapbox scarecrows, goes int othe scrap head of war.

A down-and-out revolutionist in the hands of his fellows stands less chance of saving his neck than a scrapped monarch.

If the drives against the enemy were all as successful as the drives for money here at home the war would soon be over.

Lincoln's potent edict to loaferdom, "Work or walk," may be borrowed and applied elsewhere without risk of infringement.

After that dazzling terpsichorean exhibition we may expect the next fad proposed for introduction into the public schools to be aesthetic dancing.

Not the least of Bolsheviki Bob's delusions is the expectation that libel suits will scare Wisconsin editors out of standing up for the country and calling a spade a spade.

Steel interests knuckle down to Uncle Sam's schedule of prices and plan to do capacity business. The action snaps a moving picture of industrial patriotism minus the usual kick.

Governor Harding of Iowa is mentioned as a presidential possibility. So is Senator Harding of Ohio. With a double-headed banner, a Harding demonstration ought easily to attract attention.

The real place to save coal, however, is in the household furnace. Careful firing and reasonable watchfulness will stop a great deal more of fuel waste and save more money to the men who pays the bills than shutting off the electric street signs for a few hours.

The acid test of loyalty comes with news of military reverses suffered by our Allies. Whoever enjoys the privileges of American citizenship and yet smiles gleefully at the Russian blowup or manifests signs of satisfaction over the Italian setback invites distrust and suspicion.

However standardizing the bread loaf may affect the price to the consumer on the whole, it should at least tend to equalize prices between different cities and sections. Bread ought not to cost more close to the wheat fields than it does at points to which the flour must first be shipped a thousand miles.

Three years of war has not altered the naval status of the combatants. Despite the boasts of Teutons the German navy will be accommodated any day or hour it comes out for a fight. What is more to the point, the German navy knows where to go in the open sea and find it.

Our worthy postmaster has instructions to count all the letters going through his office to find out the effect of the recent postage rate upon the number. If the department's policy is unchanged, the presumption is that, should the returns show a shrinkage, a few more clerks and letter carriers will be quickly chopped off before the patrons can get accustomed to increased postal efficiency.

The Greater Des Moines committee invites complaints of overcharges or profiteering upon the soldiers in the cantonment or upon their friends or relatives visiting them, with promise to investigate promptly and correct each and every abuse. This is a good move which our own Commercial club would well emulate. When we invite strangers to our city to be our guests, we should omit nothing to protect them from being imposed upon.

Y. M. C. A. and the War Work.

Another drive for funds for the Y. M. C. A. war work begins this week, and Nebraska is asked to contribute $250,000 of the $35,000,000 sought to be raised. This money will be used to support the activities of the association at home and abroad, in connection with the American army. The Y. M. C. A. is fullfilling a peculiar function, looking after the needs of the soldier in his time off duty. Under its plan, the men are not left to their own devices when not employed at soldier's work. This is quite a new note in army life, and one that is much appreciated by officers and men. The old-time suttler's tent and the "hog ranch" have been supplanted by rest rooms and gymnasiums, reading rooms, writing rooms and other places where the boys from home are surrounded by good influences. Men in high command enthusiastically endorse the work, and civilians who have witnessed its operation give it high praise. It tends to preserve the youth of our country who are under arms from the temptations and dangers that beset them, and already has shown its ability to serve by assisting in eradicating much of evil that used to be associated with army life. It does not tend to sissify the young soldiers, but brings out and strengthens their more manly qualities, and helps to make real men of them. Fathers and mothers are more than all concerned in surrounding their sons with safeguards for their moral as well as their physical welfare. The Y. M. C. A. does this, and it deserves support

Wanted—Protection for Givers.

Never in all history were people everywhere so responsive and generous to every humanitarian cause that can make a plausible appeal to their sympathy. Nowhere is this more true than right here in Omaha and our very generosity and loyal support of the different war and war relief activities renders the field inviting and increases the number of calls for help. Our people, who cannot themselves do the fighting, are willing to give liberally. They want to do their bit in every way offered to them, but in all fairness they ought to have some protection against duplicated effort, against waste of their contributions, and above all against fraud and imposture.

It is no reflection upon the good people promoting worthy causes to say that the door is wide open for bad people to prey upon popular feeling and line their own pockets with money intended to provide comforts for the soldier, or to relieve suffering and distress. We ought not to have to be reminded the war has only begun and the need for contributions to finance philanthropic war activities is sure to become steadily greater as long as the war lasts. Furthermore we all know that to waste or misuse and abuse the spirit of giving now will only make it harder to arouse response to meet equal, if not more urgent demands later.

The obvious remedy is the organization of all the money soliciting campaigns under some effective supervision under some authoritative body from which permission must first be obtained upon a proper showing of responsibility before the solicitation is commenced. While this is really not a local, but a nation-wide situation, it still can be met, in the absence of other regulating machinery, by local action. A city ordinance requiring a license or permit to solicit money for any purpose of war activities, war relief, soldiers' comfort, hospital supplies, or charity, would to that extent help and inspire confidence in the givers that their contributions run the least risk of going astray. If Omaha would set the example in establishing a control over money getting movements, we have not the slightest doubt that it would be caught up and followed in nearly every other city in the country and quickly lead to the desired similar step by the federal government.

Enright, Gresham and Hay.

Three new names have added to the list of American heroes, those of Privates Enright, Gresham and Hay. These are the three young Americans who were first to die in the trenches in France, their lives given in redemption of their country's pledge to humanity. It is not likely their names will long remain fresh in the minds of busy people; events of the day will overlie them, but they will not be entirely forgotten. Somewhere a record of their sacrifice will be made, and men will honor them for what they have done. The eloquent eulogy pronounced at the side of their graves by a French officer will be preserved in our annals as expressing the sentiments of a brave man speaking for a gallant nation. Other names will be added to the roll headed by Enright, Gresham and Hay, whose honor is secure, while Americans will ever recur to them with pride because of what they represent. Their graves in France mean more to us now than a shrine in the Invalides, or a tablet at Westminster, for

"There Honor comes, a pilgrim gray,
To bless the turf that wraps their clay,
And Freedom shall a while repair
To dwell a weeping hermit there."

Enright, Gresham and Hay sleep in France, but the spirit that took them thither burns brightly in their home land, and human rights are safer because they and others like them see no self in the duty of democracy's defense.

Importance of the Potato.

Last winter witnessed the apotheosis of the potato. The humble spud was lifted from the lowly position in which it had rested for ages, and elevated over night to eminence lofty, if not exactly regal. Its presence on every table in profusion at all times, a never failing accompaniment of meal time, led to such familiarity as gave no notion of its importance to the dietary. Only when a shortage developed and the tuber began to disappear from the market, with prices mounting until potatoes took a place among the luxuries, did the public awaken to recognition of the fact that an important food article was hard to get. The lesson was practically applied, and comfort comes with assurance from the Department of Agriculture that the current season's crop exceeds by 13,000,000 bushels any previous experience, the total yield mounting to 420,000,000 bushels. This is exclusive of the millions of bushels raised in back yards and on vacant lot patches, where individuals fought for liberty with the spade and hoe. Experience had taught us the need of care, and with this to guide us, the toothsome, mealy spud will shed its radiance over the table morning, noon and night in America, nor is it likely again to be neglected or unhonored because of its humility.

Color Blindness and Disability.

The Nebraska supreme court has ruled that color blindness constitutes "complete and total disability" within the meaning of a railroad trainman's contract of insurance with his union. This ruling puts a new phase on "disability," and if it stands may require considerable revision of ordinary insurance contracts. It will also have the effect of increasing the rigor of physical examination to which prospective employes will be subjected before engagement.

That a color blind man is unfitted for railroad train service is true, but many other vocations are open to him. Although his earning capacity as an engineer, fireman, conductor or brakeman has been cut off, he is still available for employment where his ability to distinguish color is not a condition precedent. Disability here would seem to be confined to the difference in earning power. What line of reasoning the court followed is not known, but it is possible that relief was granted because of disqualification for the particular vocation from which the victim had been barred, and which was covered by his insurance.

The accepted method of determining the extent of injury rests on the impairment of earning ability. This factor should be fully considered by anybody in deciding cases involving compensation for industrial injury. The point here is whether a man unfitted for following his chosen vocation, but able to work at other employment, is to be reckoned as "completely and totally disabled." This Nebraska decision is one of utmost importance, for it may easily be extended to other than railway employes and for other causes than color blindness.

Rochester and Schenectady sampled socialism in local affairs, as did Milwaukee, but one trial was enough. Subsequent elections emphasize the unwritten motto of the voters, "Never again."

Views, Reviews and Interviews

By Victor Rosewater

I LISTENED to a discussion the other day growing out of the elevation of Pershing and Bliss each to the rank of "General" giving us for the first time two men in our army establishment bearing the highest military title at the same time, and of others who have carried the same grade. Few people realize how rarely the rank of general has been conferred upon an American soldier. I had occasion once before when the same subject was up to inquire into it, especially to answer the question, who was our first "general," the common impression being that it was George Washington. The records at the national capital show that this impression is not correct. While Washington was in command of the continental armies during the revolutionary war, he became a private citizen upon their disbandment, and afterwards commander-in-chief only by virtue of being president. From the promotion of the union—until July 1798, the American army was under direct control of the senior major-general. At that time, on account of a threatened war with France, George Washington was summoned to command the army with the title of lieutenant-general and he never held the higher office of general. This I verified from the nominating message still to be seen in the office of the secretary of the senate reading thus:

"Gentlemen of the Senate: I nominate George Washington of Mount Vernon, to be lieutenant-general and commander-in-chief of all the armies raised or to be raised in the United States.

"United States, July 2, 1798. "JOHN ADAMS."

Washington never exercised the duties, as the expected hostilities fell under, and he therefore died the next year while holding this rank.

Again the army was under control of the senior major-general, even through the war of 1812, down to the appointment of Winfield Scott as lieutenant-general, in recognition of his brilliant campaign in Mexico. At the beginning of the civil war, Scott retired and for three years that war was carried on by officers with no higher rank than major-general. The transfer of Grant to the Army of the Potomac elevated him to the lieutenant-generalship and the close of that campaign brought him the title of general, at the same time raising Sherman to the vacated place. With his election to the presidency, Grant's military career was broken, and Sherman and Sheridan each promoted. The winter before his death Grant was restored to the office of general and placed on the retired list.

With the retirement of Sherman the grade of general was abolished and the army was commanded by Lieutenant-General Sheridan. During his final illness, a bill was brought before congress and passed abolishing the rank of lieutenant-general and restoring that of general, which was to cease at the death of the next incumbent. Sheridan was immediately appointed by President Cleveland, but he never exercised the functions up to his death.

Command of major-general was re-established and continued, according to the best information I have, through the Spanish-American war and until the appointment in the year 1900, of Nelson A. Miles to be lieutenant-general, who retired with that rank in 1903. The same honor was conferred by appointment of John C. Bates to be lieutenant-general in 1906, presumably to let him have that title upon his retirement two months later. Both Miles and Bates are still on the retired list lieutenant-general, but we have no living general except the two just commissioned by President Wilson.

When my friend, Clarence Hough, was here from Chicago for our Nebraska Red Cross state convention, he related the story about the naming of the town of Pullman.

"After it was decided to build a model workingman's town along with the new plant the company's architect, S. S. Beman, was commissioned to draw the plans and supervise the construction. As the work neared completion Mr. Pullman is said to have brought up the question of the most suitable name. 'You have carried out my idea magnificently,' said he. 'You are entitled as much as I am to the credit and the name chosen should make it stand as a monument to both of us. I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll take the first syllable of my name and the last syllable of yours and we'll call it Pullman.'"

"Well," said I, "that is clever indeed! But Mr. Beman could have had no reason to feel slighted. He was the architect also for our beautiful newspaper building here in Omaha, which is likewise a monument to his genius and in naming it we honored him by using the other syllable of his name and called it The Bee building."

"I wasn't aware of that before," exclaimed Mr. Hough. "That makes it satisfactory all around."

People and Events

A directory of war relief funds published by the Boston Transcript shows 87 separate objects with headquarters in Boston and New York. The list might be extended to 100 without exhauting all the "touches" in action.

Four Illinois counties voted good roads bonds to the amount of $2,250,000, Cook county leading with $1,000,000. An equal amount of state and federal funds will put the four counties in the forefront of road improvement next year.

Baltimore follows Providence in refusing to hear the Boston Symphony orchestra while the kaiser's admirer, Dr. Muck, wields the baton. Anticipating the outcome of a public indignation meeting the manager of the theater engaged cancelled the contract for the performance. Gathering American dollars and flouting the Stars and Stripes is a precarious business in this country just now.

The meanest liar of all the liars in action just now left a trail of tears and anxieties on some of the phones of Chicago last week. Some one familiar with the names of families having soldier sons called up several families and told them of the wreck of American transports carrying soldiers, adding the names of ships and other invented details likely to strengthen the malicious story. So far efforts to trace the liar have been fruitless.

"A wineless Washington!" Center the powers of imagination on that claim for a moment and measure the strain belief involves. A dry Omaha is comprehensible even to an outsider. A dry Chicago would not overtax credulity. But Washington is different. Texas reformers say it is dry. Newspaper correspondents point to the law to prove it. Police say it is as dry as a pacifist speech. So it goes. Doubters are welcome to hike for the District and sample the capital dust.

In the northwest corner of Mexico, hard by the San Diego trail, lies a string of pulque dispensaries and gambling dens designed to trim, if not paralyze the transient with the price. A bunch dodging the draft got the glad hand in that section two months ago and all hospitality they could buy. Soon out of money they sought work—nothing doing. Work is a crime where robbery is a profession. Last week the slackers walked into the United States, half-starved, weary and down at the heel, ready to serve Uncle Sam in any way in return for the privilege of breathing in God's country.

"Wanton waste makes woeful want," sang a philosopher of the wet belt. That was before Georgia went dry. Efforts have been made in the courts to save for a useful purpose some 20,000 gallons of wine made by the late J. L. Hand out of his own grapes. Executors of the Hand estate wanted to ship it out of the state for sale and turn the proceeds into the treasury of the state university. Nothing doing. The demon extracted from the grapes had to go and into the sewer went the 20,000 gallons of 15-year-old renovator of conversation. It is said the sheriff conducted the execution unmoved. Possibly, but the witnesses are not saying a word

TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Count Adam Tarnow von Tarnowski was appointed Austrian embassador to the United States.

Germany and Austria called on the Poles to enlist in the army and fight Russia as first duty of new kingdom.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

The Home Circle club gave the first party of the season at Masonic hall. About 40 couples were present.

The Omaha Turners are making grand preparations for the annual

convention of the Missouri Valley turnbezirk, which is to be held in this city in the near future.

Mattie Vickers opened at the Grand last night to a large and appreciative audience, the bill "Jacquine," on the whole presented by the strongest support Miss Vickers has ever had.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rosewater left for Boston for a brief visit.

James Murphy, who for some time has been connected with Bell's drug store, has withdrawn for the purpose of attending the commercial college.

The watchmakers and jewelers of this city have decided to establish an association for their mutual protection and benefit and for this purpose will meet at Rosenmunds' next Monday night.

Commissioners Smith and Kennedy with Chief Seavey have returned from Lincoln, where, with about a dozen members of the council, they were in attendance upon the supreme court.

This Day in History.

1775—The British fired on American vessels in Charleston, S. C., harbor.

1807—Napoleon issued a decree restraining the trade of Holland, by which the commerce of that country was totally ruined.

1811—General Benjamin McCulloch, noted confederate commander, born in Rutherford county, Tennessee. Killed at battle of Pea Ridge, March 7, 1862.

1813—Marshal St. Cyr and 25,000 French troops surrendered Dresden to the allies.

1855—Thirty thousand lives lost in an earthquake at Jeddo, Japan.

1902—Roland B. Molineux was acquited at New York on a charge of poisoning Mrs. Adams, on a second trial.

1914—Dixmude was captured by the Germans.

1915—British government closed the Suez canal to merchant ships for military reasons.

1916—The duke of Devonshire, the new governor-general of Canada, was installed in office.

The Day We Celebrate.

J. Ogden Armour, head of the great Armour Packing company, is 54 years old today.

Ernest H. Hoel, buyer for the Carpenter Paper company, was born in Omaha 44 years ago.

King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, whose armies have made an heroic stand against the Germany onslaught, born 48 years ago today.

Maude Adams, one of the most popular actresses of the American stage, born in Salt Lake City, 45 years ago today.

William R. Webb, noted educator, and one-time United States senator from Tennessee, born in Person county, North Carolina, 75 years ago today.

David I. Walsh, former governor of Massachusetts, born at Leominster, Mass., 45 years ago today.

Rt. Rev. Theodore DuBose Bratton, Episcopal bishop of Mississippi, born at Winnsboro, S. C., 55 years ago today.

Hudson Stuck, archdeacon of the Yukon and one of the great pioneer figures in the recent history of the Protestant Episcopal church of the United States, born in England 54 years ago today.

Hazel Dawn, noted actress and motion picture star, born at Ogden, Utah, 25 years ago today.

"Rabbit" Maranville, shortstop of the Boston National league base ball team, born at Springfield, Mass., 25 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Today is Martinmas, or St. Martin's day.

Today is the 30th anniversary of the execution of the Haymarket anarchists in Chicago.

Birthday greetings to our ally, the king of Italy, who is 48 years old today.

The Young Men's Christian association today will inaugurate a national campaign to raise $35,000,000 for association work among the soldiers.

A centennial celebration of the first Presbyterian church west of the Mississippi having continuous services for 100 years, will be inaugurated today by the first church, St. Louis.

Acting in the belief that the present time is most appropriate for the encouragement of home manufactures, Governor Bamberger of Utah has designated the week beginning today for the celebration of Utah products week.

Storyette of the Day.

Lord Northcliffe at a Washington luncheon was talking about the British premier.

"Mr. Lloyd George is the idol of the nation now," he said. "It is hard to believe how unpopular he was, at least among the Unionists, once. Among the many stories circulated about Mr. Lloyd George's unpopularity at that time there was one which concerned a rescue from drowning. The heroic rescuer, when a gold medal was presented to him for his brave deed, modestly declared:

"I don't deserve this medal. I did nothing but my duty. I saw our friend here struggling in the water. I knew he must drown unless someone saved him. So I plunged in, swam out to him, turned him over to make sure it wasn't Lloyd George and then lugged him to safety on my back.'"—Saturday Evening Post.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

In Sandgate, Vt., the proceeds from the sale of ice cream once in two weeks are being used to pay the minister's salary.

An alienation suit dating back to 1880, in which the plaintiff and defendant have become grandparents, was recently dismissed in New Jersey.

The number of children naturally left-handed at birth has been found by statistical research to be about 4 per cent of the total born.

A number of leading American railroads are at present conducting a publicity campaign which has for its object the warning of the public not to trespass on railroad tracks.

England has found it advisable to resort to the gathering of garden herbs and weeds for medicinal purposes. This old-fashioned industry had fallen into disuse until the drug supply from Germany was cut off.

The library of the School of the Sons of the Empire, an ancient Chinese university which, it is said, was in existence a thousand years before the Christian era, comprises 182 tables of stone, whereon are carved all the "13 classics," the essence of Chinese culture.

AROUND THE CITIES.

St. Paul proposes to spend $1,000,000 on river terminals. The prospect sets off alarm clocks in Mnineapolis.

Two St. Louis factories have pulled down government contracts for 1,560,000 pairs of army shoes, at an average of $4.65 a pair.

The University of Utah war gardens produced crops which netted $1,688, half of it from ground hitherto covered with weeds.

St. Louis proposes to extend provision market facilities and bring consumer and producer in closer touch. Two or more market places are projected, in addition to those already in operation.

Denver's municipal coal yard is going at high speed and doing a land office business. Three yards are in operation and 40 teams delivering fuel at $4.15 a ton. Purchasers are limited to two tons to a family.

Inquisitive solons of Kansas City stood right up in meeting and said things about the nerve of the gas company which sent in its October bill for $6,107.62 without shaving it a single cent for 20 nights which there was no gas to burn.

Crusaders against cabarets in Chicago are gaining in speed and vigor, and results are evident in numerous silent feederies with dance hall attachments. The slogan of the crusaders is: "The Cabaret—the Devil's Incubator—Must Go!"

Minneapolis closed its war garden record of 1917 and put a large ledger for 1918 in its place. The past harvest did not come up to expectations, due to a late start. It is now proposed to make the coming year a bumper one by systematizing business in advance of the spring plowing and digging.

COMRADES.

Elias Liberman, in Everybody's.

He was society's lily pet,
Some parlor doll of high degree
That flirted around with the uppish set;
Now we're tent-mates, him and me.
I was a grocer's clerk before
My fate got mixed with the infantry;
But they don't need a visitin'-card for war
In the home o' the brave and the land o' the free.

He used to sneer at me for a simp;
"Lizzie" I called him the first few days;
We didn't get on till, worn and limp,
We found we wus game in different ways;
Marchin' full kit for thirty miles
With the sun full glare on him and me
Just leveled us stiff, and it counted piles
For the makin' o' true democracy.

So us two guys are comrades now;
I swear at him and he swears at me;
We're gettin' fit for the little row
That's goin' on across the sea.
Uncle Sam drew lots and called us two,
And he ain't so very partial when
There's lots o' work for all to do
And a deuce of a famine in fighting men.

He was society's lily pet,
But now we bunk in the same tepee.
He used to dance with the gilded set;
And it's drill and beans for him and me.
He don't give a darn what I was before,
And I don't give a whoop what he used to be;
All that we know is we're in a war
Hittin' it up for democracy.

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DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

Mrs. Malaprop, giving a dinner party: "Are you going to invite Mrs. Standoff?" asked her niece.

"I should say not," answered the old lady. "I entertained her once and she never recuperated."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"I made a mistake at the start by telling my wife that I have always been accustomed to a cold bath every morning."

"Why so?"

"She got very enthusiastic over the cold idea. Thinks it ought to include a cold breakfast as well."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Have you ever noticed how many people talk all the time and never stop to think?"

"Oh, yes," replied the philosophical man. "I do most of my deep thinking while people like that are rattling along, because I know I won't miss anything if I don't listen."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"You're under arrest," exclaimed the officer with chin whiskers as he stopped the automobile.

"What for?" inquired Mr. Chuggins.

"I haven't made up my mind yet. I'll just look over your lights an' your license an' your numbers, an so forth. I know I can get you for something."—Washington Star.

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