

# THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to them. Address changed as often as requested.

Last call. Mail your packages early to soldiers across the water.

German spies and plotters in Russia certainly won ample excitement for the money.

Curfew toots for show signs at 11 p. m. A good hour for turning in and shunning the electric eclipse.

"Peace will come only when the war is won," says President Wilson. Prophecy is time wasted. Get behind the war roller and be in at the finish.

Ohio continues wet, but by an uncomfortably small margin. Ohio went strongly democratic last year, but there is no assurance it will do so next time.

As an evidence of courtesy if not esteem, the striking shipyard hands at Newark might have postponed the walkout until President Wilson finished his speech to the federation.

Express companies complain that they are not getting enough money for the service. In most cases the service is not up to the price. Possibly an increase of rates would diminish the business sufficiently to insure prompt and efficient service.

Bombing women and children and hospitals continues to mark the "heroic deeds" of Germany's "unconquerable heroes." It is more than "glorious work," as junker glory goes. It is a vivid painting by native artists of kultur in action and application.

The object of curtailing the hours of electric street signs is coal conservation, but what about signs for which the current is developed by water power? This is a pointed illustration of the necessity of making all these rules elastic enough to fit local conditions.

Our amiable hyphenated contemporary now admits that these incendiary fires in munition factories, meat-packing plants and cereal mills warrant suspicion of German procurement. The leaven started by the too long trusted Bernstorff has not ceased to work.

Theological seminaries like all institutions of higher education report material reductions in attendance. Youthful enthusiasm and conscription ages were manifested strongly in the colleges. Education is not halted, however. It goes forward with service in behalf of civilization and humanity.

The small subscriber looms large in the mass of Liberty loan backers. Out of the 9,400,000 subscribers reported 99 per cent took \$50,000 or less and in the aggregate account for \$1,296,685,000 of the \$4,617,532,000 subscribed. Numerically and proportionately the small subscriber stands firmly behind the man behind the gun.

"The trouble with this war," a German statesman is quoted as saying, "is that it will be 10 years after it is over before I can go to London, 20 before I can go to Paris, and 40 before I may safely go to Vienna." This schedule leaves a gratifying number of open dates for the destination Colonel Henry Watterson cheerfully provides for the Hohenzollerns and the Hapsburgs.

"Moral and religious supervision" for girls and women of Alsace-Lorraine pressed into army service by the Germans is the most interesting line of official camouflage that has come out of Berlin since Zimmermann hit the toboggan. "Moral and religious supervision." The awful records of moral slavery piled up in Belgium and France mock the official pretense of decency.

## A Real War Referendum

—Minneapolis Journal—

The number of citizens of the United States who subscribed to the Second Liberty loan is larger than the number who voted for Woodrow Wilson for president a year ago.

There were eighteen and a half million votes cast in the presidential election of November, 1916. There were nine and a third million subscribers to the Second Liberty loan. Thus the loan subscribers are more numerous than a majority of the total number of voters in that election.

The population of the United States is somewhere around 110,000,000. Thus in every dozen persons living in this country, including men, women, children and pigs, there is one buyer of Liberty bonds to represent the group.

These figures are suggestive. The Second Liberty loan may be considered as a great popular referendum on the war. Practically every buyer of Liberty bonds supports the entrance of the United States into the war. There are, of course, many others who for one reason or another were unable to buy bonds, but who nevertheless loyally support the government.

Could there possibly be a more striking and conclusive demonstration of where America stands? Before congress acted some of our visionary pacifists called loudly for a war referendum. Minneapolis' own pet congressman, Ernest Lundeen, even undertook to conduct a little private referendum of his own, carefully arranging it so that it would shoot in the prearranged direction.

But here is a nation-wide declaration by nine and a third million American citizens that they and their children and pigs are in favor of fighting, but are ready to lend the government nearly \$5,000,000,000 with which to wage war.

### Young Girls in War Work.

Washington has been informed officially that the German under-secretary of war admits the practice in the kaiser's army of compelling young girls to work at the front. These girls are employed in the building of fortifications and other defenses, sometimes under fire and at all times exposed to the hazards of a soldier's life. However, the under-secretary adds, they are "under moral and religious influences." The quality and advantage of this protection may be imagined. Its nature will be well understood by those who are familiar with Dr. Flexner's report on moral conditions in Europe, published just before the war began. Women have long been accustomed to doing heavy labor in all European countries, but the enforced labor of young girls on the actual battle line is far beyond reason. It is another of the brutalizing elements of "kultur" and an insult to civilization. Militarism has presented some astonishing spectacles of its methods lately, but none that surpasses this. How fortunate the land to which the German army has not penetrated may be understood by a realization of the treatment accorded these girls of France and Belgium.

### Protecting Auto Owners.

A correspondent of The Bee offers a suggestion for the protection of automobiles against theft that is in line with a proposal made by this paper long ago. A better method of identification and proof of ownership is the surest safeguard. The tag system is simple and properly adjusted could be made an effective means of protection against loss of machines by theft. Prevalence of the practice and the ease with which the loot is disposed of is convincing proof that something is wrong. It may not be possible to entirely prevent stealing, but means might be adopted that would make the theft more dangerous, both for the thief and the man who buys his plunder. Auto owners and insurance companies should be more active in this matter, as millions of dollars are lost each year in America through theft of machines. Measures to compel buyers of "used" machines or parts to exercise greater care in making their purchases might also help. A stolen machine is of little use to the thief, unless he can sell it, either intact or piecemeal, and this brings in the purchaser as well as the dishonest dealer. This "industry" is not beyond control if more vigorous co-operation between all concerned is adopted.

### China's Protest on American-Japanese Pact.

Dr. Wellington Koo, Chinese ambassador at Washington, has filed on behalf of his home government a formal protest on the pact recently sealed between America and Japan in regard to relations with China. The basis of his objection is understood to be that the agreement affects Chinese interests and has been adopted without regard to the disposition of China in the premises. While the proceeding on part of China may be natural enough and in keeping with traditions of a race whose statesmen look continually to the necessity of "face saving," it is unlikely that the protest will result seriously.

America's attitude and policy alike in China have at all times been benevolent and will not be changed by this new agreement. Japan has declared that it holds no sinister designs towards its great neighbor and could scarcely violate its frank understanding with America without incurring a displeasure far more serious than any China could evince under present conditions. The Chinese undoubtedly resent the "peculiar interest" phrase of the convention as embodying some notion of Japanese ascendancy approaching suzerainty. This phrase is scarcely open to such interpretation, any more than is the language of the Monroe doctrine capable of being construed into an assumption of control by the United States over all American governments. It does imply what is most obvious, Japan's present superiority in organized strength and power for control, but does not specifically limit China's freedom of action.

Chinese politicians just now are jealously watchful of any move that smacks of encroachment on the political or territorial integrity of their country. Closer study of conditions will convince them the agreement has the purpose of fostering China's interests, rather than sacrificing them in any way. And Japan has quite as much at stake in retaining the good will of the United States as the Chinese.

### Releasing Interned Food.

Federal authorities in New York have seized considerable quantities of food in storage, owned or controlled by the German government, and it is announced that a country-wide search is to be made for similar stocks. At the beginning of the war the statement was frequently made that Germany was buying supplies in large lots in this country and elsewhere, not so much with the idea of transporting them to the fatherland as to head off purchases by the enemy. Among other forehanded deals of this nature was the purchase in 1915 of the entire wool clip of Argentina. With relations severed between the two governments, this much-wanted supply will likely become available for use now.

The extent of the accumulations of German-owned supplies in this country is unknown, but the government is justified in seizing all it can discover for its own use. Private rights in this will be thoroughly protected, as in the case of impounded money due German citizens, which has been invested in Liberty bonds. In this instance the alien owners of the bonds are actual gainers, for they will have the benefit of a better investment than they could obtain at home, their capital will not be idle and they will have a neat little sum to resume business on when the time comes.

The foresightedness of Germany in endeavoring to secure control of certain war materials, adverse to the interests of the Allies, is in strange contrast with the recklessness that drove the United States into the war. It is another example of peculiar workings of the German mind, so much commented upon of late. It does not so much concern us, though, as does the fact that the government will be able to secure some help through releasing food interned by the Germans.

It is all right for the suffrage enthusiasts to rejoice over their victory in New York, but is it not premature for them to figure on next spring's election in Omaha? Before women have a vote in Nebraska that referendum must be disposed of or our state constitution amended, neither of which jobs can be tackled at the polls until November of next year.

Amusement caterers in Chicago take a leaf from the patriotism of Mayor Thompson and go him one better. While Big Bill knocks on sending soldiers abroad the box office boosts the war tax and knocks down a 50-50 split and some over. Dollar patriotism rarely overlooks a chance.

## Confessions of 4-Minute Man

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Nov. 11.—"Ladies and Gentlemen: I introduce Mr. John Smith, who will speak briefly for the second Liberty loan."

Sometimes Smith lived up to the promise and quit in four minutes and sometimes he staid and quit in five. But he never quit. He talked Liberty loan until he got all the Smiths and Browns and Joneses among the millions in his audience talking the same thing and the windup of the great campaign proved to be nothing short of a roaring patriotic jubilee.

The four-minute speaker has a hard job. I speak from the fullness of experience. Either I am a very gabby person or else I have no idea how little time there is in four minutes. Just as I began to warm up I would invariably have to quit and go somewhere else. There were a whole lot of mean things I might have said about the kaiser except for the constant restraint of that four-minute rule. But I am resigned to the limitations put upon me when I think what would have happened to the public if the managers had failed to keep the swarm of orators and narrators under rigid control. But for this constant vigilance undoubtedly the great cause would have been drowned in an overwhelming flood of words.

I worked in the schools in the morning, in the movies in the afternoon and in the theaters at night. I never before realized the wide range of the screen drama. It covers the whole of history. It encompasses the entire gamut of emotion. It overlooks no phase of human activity. I followed Eliza as she crossed the ice and I went on ahead of the performing lions. At least a dozen times I narrowly escaped being shot by Douglas Fairbanks. I saw so much of funny Charlie that I had to constantly watch my step to keep from making my entrance with the Chaplin walk. After a few days I felt that I was simply pursuing little Mary. Again and again I got there just in time to witness the return of the stolen papers and to see this gentle little favorite restored to the arms of her waiting lover.

Ahead of everyone else in the world the movie folks understood and make use of the old saying that everything is well that ends well. The sheriff never fails to get there in time to nab the villain and the great wrong is always righted.

At one small movie house I was talking in the dark when there was a great commotion on account of a fire near by. From the noise I was aware that some of the audience had gone out, but I thought it best to go. Afterward, from the silence in the place, I felt reassured. It seemed like I was receiving the close attention of such of the audience as had remained. But I was hardly prepared for what developed when I finally concluded and the lights were turned on. There was only one person left in the hall. A woman was sitting quietly in the center of the house and I thought it would be appropriate for me to tell her how much I appreciated her courtesy in sticking it out with me. I started down the aisle toward her, but I did not stop. She had her eyes closed and was humming softly as she rocked slightly to and fro—she was completely engrossed in nursing her baby.

Doubtless the work in the schools was the most agreeable to the average speaker. The teachers always lead in patriotic service and they used their influence with the children to pave the way into the confidence of each family. Thousands upon thousands of the little people who are to be the future owners of America were assembled to hear explanations about the Liberty loan and what it means for their welfare, both now and hereafter. They were quite a reality the simple truth that this money was being raised not alone for the protection of the present generation of Americans, but to guarantee them the same advantages of liberty that their elders have enjoyed before them. When asked to pledge themselves to work for the loan they answered with a whoop and father knew no peace from little Willie or sister Susie until the family name had been entered on the long roll of honor.

The real secret of the overwhelming success of the second Liberty loan was that the masterful campaign of publicity reached the understanding and sympathies of the people to such an extent that it became everybody's business. While the sum of money raised was a veritable avalanche of wealth, greatly outstripping anything of the kind ever known in the world before, the flotation of this loan has a value that cannot be measured by tons of gold or hales of currency. It means that America is aroused, that our people are becoming aware of the great danger that really threatens them and their free institutions, that they will become more and more united and consecrated to the task of preserving for themselves and posterity the priceless rights of freedom.

## An Awakening Giant

—Wall Street Journal—

It requires perspective, and a long perspective, to estimate the results of a revolution. Russia is a great, unwieldy, awakening giant, unconscious of her strength, groping towards the light, and being by experiment and pain, a tremendous force for good if rightly directed, and incomparably greater than those who are directing her in the present or have directed her in the past.

That the nation as a whole will prove loyal to her pledges is the sincere belief of those who know Russia. It is a simple problem in physics to say that the larger the mass the more difficult the task of moving it, and, above all, when the movement is once started, the more difficult the task of arresting it. Allowing that those who know Russia best believe in her most, it is still true that she is inarticulate, incapable of a pledge because, so far as any representative of the nation itself is concerned, virtually without a voice.

It is a time for courage and patience. We forget how slow revolutions are. It was acutely remarked by a French statesman that it took 82 years to establish the French republic. Obviously he alluded to the time between 1779 and 1871, and a moment's thought will show the justice of his conclusion. The revolution in England developed somewhat in the manner of Cromwell and the subsequent restoration, in which it deceptively seemed that the fruits of liberty had been lost. We easily forget how long our own revolution was held in suspense, even though the heart of the English people was not in the fight, and the best men amongst them regarded their stupid German king with contempt.

And yet George III once said a wise thing. When Bishop Watson wrote his "Apology for the Bible," the king said that the Bible needed no apology. Perhaps some of our writers on Russia, admitting that we are all up in the air as to the developments there, might usefully realize that in the truest sense Russia needs no apology. She is not only a fact, that, but, allowing for the magnitude and importance of the war, she is perhaps the greatest fact in current history. What Russia needs is sympathy and understanding. To criticize her in the throes of her awakening is like criticizing the gulf stream or the equator. She will work out her own salvation somehow; and if, for the moment, her experiments in government tend to the German side we may be sure that they will ultimately reflect the true spirit of the Russian people.

## People and Events

The president of Portugal spells his name Machado. The original way would look more American and less Portuguese.

New York's telephone company floats a service flag with 1,009 stars, one for every employe of the company in the service. A majority of the employes are in the signal service.

Down from the old Kentucky home women are esteemed sensible, gracious, generous and beautiful, of course. So say the gallants. But suppose they succeed in giving effect to feminine demands for smokeless and hairless dyes, will the men revise their views of Blue Grass woman-kind?

# TODAY

### Right in the Spotlight.

Miss Alice Paul, now doing a seven months' sentence in jail for picketing the White House, is the chairman of the Congressional Union for women's suffrage. She is a native of Moorestown, N. J., and a graduate of Swarthmore college and the University of Pennsylvania. On a fellowship from Swarthmore she resided in England for some years, studying at the universities of London and Birmingham. Returning to New York, she became prominent as a social settlement worker. Later she took the leadership in organizing the radical wing of the woman suffrage party. Among her fellow workers in the cause Miss Paul is known as a tactician of much fertility and resource, and a tenacious contender for ideals in which she believes.

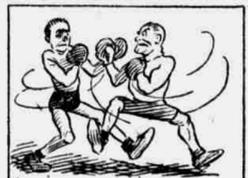
### One Year Ago Today in the War.

Germans advanced through the Transylvanian Alps into western Roumania. British captured fortified village of Beaucourt in their advance in the Aeneur region.

### In Omaha Thirteen Years Ago.

Durant Hosiery company has passed a vote of thanks to C. N. Dietz for his liberality in giving \$100 as a reward for their efficient services in helping to check the fire at his lumber yard recently.

Two local springs had a lively mill at Sulphur Springs and a number of



local sports were present. The battle lasted 4 minutes, both men remaining in good condition.

"Adonis" Dixey was serenaded at the Millard by Frank's orchestra, after which a reception took place. The board of county commissioners paid a personal visit to Florence to look into an application made by the residents of that neighborhood for the opening of a new roadway.

The work of putting in the double track and curve of Stephenson's property on the corner of Tenth and Harney streets is being continued with a great deal of energy. The tramway people have put a large force of men at work and the job will be finished in a few weeks.

The Puget Sound Co-operative colony had a well attended meeting at 1114 Farnam street. Matthew Sampson, president, and Mr. Norman V. Smith delivered a long address on the future of the colony.

Articles of incorporation of the Omaha Marbleizing Mantel and Casket company were filed with the county clerk. The general office and place of business will be in this city. The incorporators are S. H. Calhoun, C. E. Roth, W. R. Vaughn, R. E. Lee, and J. H. Lamar.

### This Day in History.

1828—General James B. McPherson, who succeeded Sherman in command of the army of the Tennessee, born at Sandusky, O. Killed near Atlanta, July 22, 1864.

1831—George William Frederick Hegel, celebrated German philosopher, died of cholera in Berlin. Born August 27, 1770.

1851—The Young Men's Christian association organized the United States Christian commission for service with the armies.

1862—General Burnside issued an order for the advance of the federal army on Fredericksburg.

1881—Charles J. Guiteau, the assassin of President Garfield, was placed on trial in Washington.

1905—Prince Charles of Denmark was chosen king of Norway.

1910—Marriage of Prince Victor Napoleon, Bonapartist pretender to the throne of France, and Princess Clementine of Belgium.

1914—Field Marshal Earl Roberts died while visiting the British armies in France.

1915—Sixty persons in Verona, Italy, killed by bombs dropped by Austrian aviators.

### The Day We Celebrate.

Charles A. Bennett was born at Tecumseh November 14, 1839.

Dr. W. H. Mick, physician, was born at Schuyler, Neb., 40 years ago.

James A. Leidy, lord advocate in the British ministry, born 54 years ago today.

Bishop Luther B. Wilson, of the Methodist Episcopal church, who has been doing good in Christ, a Christian association work in the European war zone, born in Baltimore, 61 years ago today.

Charles Denby, wealthy Detroit manufacturer and former congressman and diplomatist, now serving in the marine corps, born at Evansville, Ind., 56 years ago today.

Count Johann Bernstorff, former German ambassador at Washington, now serving his government at Constantinople, born in London, 55 years ago today.

M. Auguste Rodin, famous French sculptor, painter and etcher, born 77 years ago today.

### Timely Jottings and Reminders.

The National Consumers' league begins its annual convention today in Baltimore.

New Orleans is to be the meeting place today of the annual convention of the Association of Fire Marshals of North America.

Sturdy farmers from all sections of the country will round up in St. Louis today for the golden jubilee convention of the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry.

The National Undertakers' association, with a membership extending throughout the country, meets for its annual convention today at Jacksonville.

War topics are to have a prominent place in the program of the seventh annual convention of the National League of Compulsory Education Officials, which is to begin its sessions today in Chicago.

### Storyette of the Day.

There are more ways than one of revealing one's convictions, as may be seen from the following, from "Somewhere in France."

"When's the bloomin' war goin' to end?" asked one North-Country lad.

"Dunno," replied one of the South Shires. "We've planted some daffodils in front of our trench."

"Bloomin' optimists!" snorted the man from the north. "We've planted acorns!"—London Chronicle.

### A BATCH OF SMILES.

"Yes, sir, I belongs to de army of de unemployed."

"I can give you a week's work."

"Would you have me desert de army?"

"Yes, Scott! You're entitled to a furlough now and then, aren't you?"—Boston Transcript.

Tired Tompkins—"Won't you give a veteran something to eat, mam?"

Lady of the House—"You're a veteran? You were never a soldier, I'll be bound."

Tired Tompkins—"Lady, you do me an injustice. I was in the army, but soldier all my life."—Boston Transcript.

"Gladys Twobiss has joined a canning club."

"But Gladys can't cook. She hasn't spent 15 minutes in a kitchen since the day she was born."

"Maybe not, but that won't prevent her from reading a learned paper before the club."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

## The Bee's Letter Box

### Camouflage Taxation.

Omaha, Nov. 10.—To the Editor of The Bee: For use against the school bonds I wanted the figures as to increase of real estate values in Omaha during an eight-year period, but they were not to be had short of going through the summaries of 86 books and adding them. This I did and the figures are worth preserving by those who wish to know why taxes are mounting every year. The figures are for the city of Omaha only and do not take in South Omaha or other annexed suburbs. Land and buildings are given separately, which was just what I wanted. A fair average is given in an eight-year period:

Year	Land Improvements	Buildings
1908	\$43,427,300	\$49,950,000
1912	60,345,200	55,264,800
1916	73,700,000	66,390,000

From 1908 to 1912 there is thus an increase in land values, inside our 15,500 acres of Omaha proper, of \$16,918,900, in round numbers, or \$4,230,000 a year, on an average. In 1908 the tax is levied on the full amount of \$43,427,300 and it stands at this figure for the three years following. In 1909 the sum of \$42,000,000 escapes taxation; in 1910, \$8,460,000; in 1911, \$12,690,000. The amount the city and county lose runs to \$66,000 the first year, according to the levy; \$160,000 the second and \$218,000 in 1911. The new valuation is made for 1912, when we again become honest.

From 1912 to 1916 the total increase is \$13,355,000, or less than for the other quadrennial period. This I assume was because of tenderness of the assessor to downtown property, but, taking the figures as they stand, we have an average increase of \$3,339,000 a year. In 1912 city and county receive taxes on the full amount; in 1913 they lose \$60,000; in 1914, \$109,000; in 1915, \$163,000, and decency is again reached in 1916.

We know how real estate values in the business part have been soaring of late, as witness the corner of Ninth and Douglas, the Schiltz corner, the Rose, or Security, building corner and the Merchants hotel. I presume that we lose in taxes this year about \$700,000, probably \$130,000 in 1915 and \$250,000 in 1916.

As in all cities we see that the site value is higher than the improvement. In Omaha it should run higher than it is listed. I glanced at three corners. The Rose is taxed at \$500,000 and leased, according to common report, at \$600,000. This means that in addition to the increase in value, which is so great that it should please any human, a yearly tax of about \$1,000 is evaded. The Schiltz is said to be leased on a basis of \$700,000 value; the assessed value is \$425,000. In 1918 each \$1,000 actual value will pay about \$21 in tax for county and city. If all business property is assessed in this fashion no wonder the small property owners have to suffer. They are taxed up to par value each year, for their property never increases in value, but their taxes do. In plain unscriptural language, they need to raise hell in Omaha. While looking through the mess I thought of a good name for it. It should be called camouflage taxation. WILLIAM ARTHUR.

### "SOME FELLOW'S MOTHER."

Bido Dudley, in Friars' Epistle. I walked down the street with a prosperous man—

A fellow put up on the big-hearted plan. A little, old woman came hobnobbing along. A pitiful pight in the hurrying throng. She held up some pencils and asked us to buy.

The throng had no time for her; neither had I. My friend bought a dozen and patted her head.

"She's some fellow's mother," was all that he said.

"She's some fellow's mother!" The words seemed to sink straight into my brain and I started to think.

"She's some fellow's mother!" I wondered if mine.

A little old woman who's now 69. Would ever sell pencils to pay for her bread. A dozen such thoughts worked their way through my head.