

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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A successful red revolution in Russia merely emphasizes the blues beneath.

"Keep cool," say the fuel regulators. But will they practice what they preach?

Every contribution to the soldiers' welfare advances the winning of the war.

Even the esteemed Dr. Muck finds much inspiration in the "Star Spangled Banner" as a curtain raiser. It makes for safety of the job.

The municipal pie counter of New York carries plain jobs totaling \$20,000,000 a year. The prospect explains the "smile on the face of the tiger."

The suffrage leaders declare their New York victory will in no way deter them from pushing for a national amendment. The law makers at Washington can't lose 'em so easily.

When a jury divides, not being hung by a stubborn recalcitrant, it is fair to presume there is a shadow of a doubt. Remember the ancient saw, "It is better ten rogues go free than that one innocent man be hung?"

Berlin papers announce a friendly reception for the Bolshevik peace overtures. That is putting it mildly. Berlin can be relied on to give the Bolshevik peace messenger the glad hand of a hungry man gripping a forlorn handout.

Impartial investigators pronounce Omaha morals above the average and improving every day. Omaha has been aware of the fact for some time, but shunned publicity, preferring to let strangers see for themselves and tell it. Thus its native modesty rewarded.

Friction in the Anglo-French cabinets over the new inter-ally committee may be justified on political grounds. On the main proposition of closer co-operation among all the allies there is no room for argument. Division and discord serve only the ends of the enemy.

Petitions signed by thousands of representative citizens of St. Louis urge the Board of Education to discontinue permits for use of the public schools on Saturdays for teaching German under private auspices. The request is under consideration. It is significant because of its source and as a growing sign of the times.

Our self-virtue-parading contemporary, the World-Herald, whose delicate stomach sickens at the very sight of a medical advertisement, regaled the readers of its Sunday issue with a cut-price offer of a constipation cure. Holy horrors! Send for a doctor, quick, quick, quick! Another "Apology to Our Readers" is due.

Mrs. Theodore W. Youmans, president of the Wisconsin Suffrage association, set forth a gripping truth in an address to that body. "The woman who can only see woman suffrage when her country is at war," she declares, "is not measuring up to a high enough standard either as woman or as citizen." Think it over.

On the land side of Venice a new lake of shallow water 12 miles wide interrupts the joyride of the allied Huns. Gondolas are not to be had at any price, and the moonlight serenades on the shimmering bay and grand canal are hushed or vanished. Should the invaders wade into the queen city of the Adriatic, looting a la Belgium will be the chief reward for wet feet, and that is entertainment enough for professionals.

The Western Laborer editor endorses The Bee's demand for responsible control of money solicitation for the different war activities, adding: "I hope The Bee will keep pounding on this until it brings home the bacon." The trouble is that if people once lose confidence that their contributions will reach the desired spot there will be nothing for the money-getters to bring home, no matter how worthy the cause for which they appeal.

War Deaths, 7 Per Cent

New York World

One of the tricks of pro-Germans is to whisper it about that for a soldier to be sent abroad is his death warrant. Fighting men sometimes unthinkingly add the deception by repeating inexact trench gossip that this or that command is "shot to pieces" with an incredible death list.

Secretary Baker sets such stories at rest in his letter to Senator Saulsbury, stating that of the total number of British soldiers in the expeditionary forces about 7 per cent have been killed in action or died of wounds up to June 1. "Improved tactics and the swiftly mounting Allied superiority in artillery" are still reducing the percentage of losses.

British losses in the retreat from Mons were heavy, though four-fifths of them were in the "wounded" and "missing" columns. Many French regiments have fared as badly. The fate of the Princess Patricia Canadians was a war tragedy that will long be remembered, but it was an unnecessary tragedy. We have come to different conditions, when commanders use artillery to save their men—and have it to use.

The American people, as Secretary Baker says, "are not children to be frightened out of the path of duty." Yet no one need fear that the path of duty is the sure path of death. When at parting the boy soldier says, "Don't worry. I'll get back all right," the chances are—unless the war lasts more than three years longer—fourteen to one that he will.

Effect of War on Credit.

Omaha, Nov. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: There are two questions I would like to have you discuss editorially. One is, Why is the American dollar quoted at Copenhagen as worth only 73 cents? Why should the American dollar be depreciated? Won't you please explain this?

Another thing is: I am told that people who bought Liberty bonds are not holding them, but are using them as currency to pay their debts. If the Liberty bonds are going to be used as currency, aren't we going to have a great inflation of currency, with the resulting bad effects? AN INQUIRER.

Explanation of the fluctuation in rates on foreign exchange is rather difficult and not always satisfactory. Just now the Scandinavian countries are the principal neutrals of Europe and as such are in position to demand premium for services rendered in way of business. The quotation of the American dollar at 73 cents in Copenhagen is not to be taken as indicating that our currency has depreciated to that extent in value. It is rather to be considered an arbitrary valuation, such as that established by Mexico a few years ago, when our dollars were discounted by from 15 to 25 cents in that country in retaliation for the discount placed on the Mexican dollar on this side of the border. The act did not affect the credit of either government.

Quotations for Liberty bonds will be subject to market fluctuations and go up or down as the demand for them swells or recedes. In June, 1914, the only government bond issue in the world selling at par was that of the United States. No cause for alarm exists in the slight discount now carried against the Liberty issues by speculators, for our government is borrowing money at a lower rate of interest than any other. British "consols," once the standard investment issue, are selling around 55, while the British 5 per cent war loan is going at 99, the lowest point touched yet by the American 4 per cent loan. French 5 per cent war bonds are selling at 79 and Russian bonds of the same rate are going at 61. German and Austrian issues are not quoted.

The Liberty loan issue may tend to promote inflation; it is not money, but is the basis of credit, and as such capable of being introduced into the channels of trade, with the same effect as increasing the volume of currency.

Knights of Columbus War Work.

A "drive" is on this week, directed by the Knights of Columbus to secure funds for carrying on the war work of the society. This work is similar to and connected with that of the Y. M. C. A., providing for the needs of the soldiers in their time off duty. Experience has shown that the unoccupied hours of the soldier's day are the most dangerous, for it is then if ever he comes into contact with influences that undermine his moral and physical forces alike. One of the departures from tradition in this great war is to furnish the safe means for guarding against the possible lowering of the army's morale, and to give the men places where they can find opportunity for rest and healthy amusement in hours of idleness. The work of the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus along these lines has more than justified the effort. Comforts and conveniences await the men back of the fighting line, in the concentration camps, and wherever large numbers are grouped, established under influences that enable the boy fresh from home to preserve his manhood unscathed. Approval of the work by those in high command, and earnest commendation by all who have looked into the subject, or have witnessed the actual workings of the plan, is the warrant for asking for the fund. The Knights of Columbus should succeed in raising their needed funds, just as have the Y. M. C. A. leaders.

Patriotic Before Wifely Duty.

The act of a New York woman in setting government detectives on the trail of her criminal husband will attract attention momentarily. She placed her patriotism above her wifely devotion, and delivered him to justice because she felt her first duty to be to her country. Her sentiment will be applauded, as it should, but it does not transcend the sacrifice already made by many thousands of wives throughout the country. Women of America have with clear eyes and stout hearts watched their husbands and sons march away to war, making the sacrifice in sorrow, but with sublime courage because it is duty that calls. The New York woman joins her sisters, with more of sorrow, because her husband has brought shame and not honor to her. This war has put love to the extreme test, and well has it been met by our women. Above all sense of self they have set that high obligation of duty, and no finer exemplification of devotion was ever given the world than the wives and mothers of America are showing now. And in the trenches hearts will be stronger because the "boys" will know the home fires are burning, and that mother, wife, sister and sweetheart are working and praying for their success.

Fighting in the Stakeholds.

Urgent request by the navy for recruits for the fire rooms of the battleships brings out a point that has not been given enough attention. We have been very busy talking of winning the war in the wheat fields and elsewhere, overlooking one of the most important factors in all the list. Fighting in the stakehold is going to win the war. Not on shipboard alone, but all through every industry enlisted for the war the fireman is the man on whom success depends. He must boil the water to make the steam. His brawn is the medium on which depends the energy that moves the wheels of the world. "Down among the Johnson bars" labors the "black gang," heroes unsung, whose only knowledge of the battle's progress is the call for more steam. Whether four decks below the waterline or as many floors under the street curb, on the snorting locomotive or in the open boiler room, these men who sweat and struggle with slash bar and ash hoe, with shovel and poker, are winning the war in the stakehold. The world owes a debt to the fireman it has been slow to acknowledge.

Filled with the wine of victory and things New York suffragists propose an early revolution of empire state society. A dry state heads the list of reform projects which the women promise to bring about. In view of the fact that New York is the premier industrial state, containing the largest urban population in the union, the task of demolishing the trenches of the demon promises a record endurance test.

A contributor to our Letter Box has compiled some interesting figures on real estate values designed to show the inequities of assessment at four-year periods as applied to certain city lots in Omaha's congested business district. We would like to see some similar figures on Nebraska farm lands involving the same amount of investment. It's our guess that the city lot owner has not much on the farm owner.

Farms for Soldiers

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Nov. 16.—When the war is over, and an army of somewhere between 2,000,000 and 5,000,000 is discharged, what will be done with these men?

The man who is now leaving his job to go to war may be told, with some assurance, that when he comes back his government will do its best to help him make a living, and that in all probability he will be offered an opportunity to get a piece of land to become a farmer. In any case, the Department of Agriculture is unofficially known to be studying the problem of how to put the returned soldier upon the land.

Fifty and even 25 years ago the problem would have been easy; for the American people owned an immense body of public land, most of which was arable. There is a law which provides that if a soldier takes up a homestead, the time which he serves in the army counts as time of occupancy toward giving him ownership of the land, provided he lives on the land one year. That law will be of little benefit to the men who have been drafted for this war. The only public lands remaining are a few arid tracts in the west. The free grant which many generations did more than anything else to make the American citizen a free man, is a thing of the past.

The scientific experts in the employ of the government, who commonly retain their places while administrations come and go, have seen the growing importance of the land question for some years, and have gathered some facts and figures as to the amount and ownership of land in the United States. This data now has a new significance and interest.

There is a widespread popular belief that a "land monopoly" exists in the United States. It is notable that the breaker of this monopoly is a plank in the platform of a new political party, more radical than either of the now dominant ones, which was recently organized in Chicago. The figures which have been gathered show that such a monopoly does not exist, in the sense that it is probably most often imputed to it, in that there are few large bodies of land held for speculative purposes and not adequately cultivated. But there is a monopoly in the sense that nearly all of the arable land in this country is now in private ownership, and is therefore to be purchased only at competitive prices, which are generally high. You can buy a piece of land in almost any part of the country, but you will have to pay a price which is based upon a speculation as to what the land will be worth in the future, as well as upon what it will produce, and you will have to take such a tract as you can get, with such improvements as chance to be upon it, rather than a tract of the size you want and are able to pay for. In a word, you must be something of a capitalist to become a farmer. This means that the classes of people which have most need for land cannot get it.

The land area of the United States is about 1,903,000,000 acres. Of this, 879,000,000 is in farms, and 478,000,000 of the amount in farms is improved, according to census figures of 1910. An estimate of the area actually in use at about the same time placed this area at 318,516,000 acres. Of the area which was in farms but not in crops, about 291,000,000 was in pasture, including both woodland and grassland. There remained, it will be seen, large areas in farms that were not improved and large areas that are not included in farms at all. Of course, much of this land is not arable, but it is estimated that in 1910 there were 457,000,000 acres of arable land which had not been improved.

The existence of this large area is the basis of the charge that there is a land monopoly—that with the country facing a shortage of food-stuffs, millions of acres are held uncultivated for speculative or other reasons. But a further analysis shows that the 30,000,000 acres of irrigable land had not been under irrigation, that 80,000,000 acres of drainable land had not been drained, that 127,000,000 acres of the arable land were to be classified as "dry-farming" lands, the cultivation of which is a somewhat uncertain venture, and that 35,000,000 acres of this land is included in cities and villages.

The total arable land remaining unaccounted for is 185,000,000 acres. Some of this is held in great tracts by railroads and lumber companies, some of it in private estates; but the total controlled in all of these ways is not large enough to be an important factor in the problem. Most of the lumber companies are offering their cut-over lands for sale, and if the sales slow it is generally not because the price is unreasonable, but because the cost of removing the stumps and brush is high. Most of the arable land not under cultivation is in relatively small farms. Many southern farms contain an undue proportion of land lying fallow and of woodland, while many western farms have large tracts of open land that might be cultivated. So the arable land of this country has not been developed to capacity, but the increase of production, and of ownership of land, must be an intensive rather than an extensive process.

The outstanding fact is that our national wealth in land is not as great as many of us have probably imagined. And it is the task which the government will face in providing for its returned soldiers a difficult one and nothing authoritative can be said as to how the problem will be attacked. It is known, however, that Secretary Houston believes much might be done by the government in helping the people to purchase land, and to put their farms on a paying basis. It is further evident that the lands which could be made arable by irrigation and by drainage present an opportunity for government reclamation, as perhaps do also some of the stump and timber lands of the northwest and the south.

At any rate, the man who returns from war is a government responsibility. He must be taken care of. And if he knows what is good for him he will insist that this care take the form of a real share in the country which he has defended, rather than of merely a job or a pension.

"Tied to the Post of Wrong"

Edgar Howard's Columbus Telegram

I do wish I might write something to induce the Omaha World-Herald to sometimes look at things from the Nebraska viewpoint, and not always from the viewpoint of the big interests. This war situation is serious. We shall need the aid of all the interests in America to win the war. I am not asking government to penalize any of the big interests. All I ask is that the farmer must not alone bear the burden of price-fixing. But I fear my efforts to win the Omaha World-Herald to look at things through Nebraska eyes, instead of Wall street eyes, will avail nothing. Sometimes I think the World-Herald would be right if only it had a chance. But it has no chance to be right. Its name and its reputation are "Tied to the Post of Wrong." In the springtime it covers the Nebraska farmer with a sweet taffy spray. In the harvest time it lures him to the lair of its own spoiling masters. And so I must conclude that always and forever as long as the orders from steel trust, copper trust and Standard Oil shall be sent as far west as Nebraska, the farmers of this agricultural commonwealth may confidently rely upon the promulgation of the orders through the medium of the Omaha World-Herald.

People and Events

Overseer Voliva of Zion City developed a unique method of punctuating a peroration which will interest orators. Usually an audience watches in mute wonder, sometimes in admiration, the winding of a peroration and reserves applause for the finish. Voliva hit a new tack. "I'll tell you," he shouted at the conclusion of a food sermon, "there is a time a plate of hot soup tastes fine." "Amen!" Hot and sharp came from an elder in the front row. "That's the way to talk," answered Voliva. "I've been working a long time to get an 'amen' and now I know how to get it."

TO DAY

Right in the Spotlight.

Rev. "Billy" Sunday, the famous evangelist, now conducting a great revival in Atlanta, today enters upon his 55th year, having been born at Ames, Ia., November 13, 1863. The death of his parents necessitated his leaving school at an early age. At 14 he had become self-supporting. At 20 he entered the field of professional baseball, in which he won celebrity as a player with the Chicago, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia teams of the National league. It was a little band of resolute workers on a Chicago street corner that they brought Sunday out from the listening group of five or six ball players one evening, and started him along the road in which he has won world-wide fame. For several years, after quitting baseball in 1890, he was engaged in Young Men's Christian association work. Then he embarked on his career as an independent evangelist. In 1904 he was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in Chicago. During the last 15 years, during which he has appeared in many cities, he is estimated to have made 500,000 conversions. In this work he has been greatly aided by his wife, familiarly known as "Ma" Sunday, to whom he was married in Chicago in 1888.

One Year Ago Today in the War. Allied army in Macedonia entered Monastir, the first city to be reconquered from the Germans and Bulgarians. German troops completed their passage through the Transylvanian Alps and entered the plains of western Roumania.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago. A. U. Wyman and family left for Washington, D. C. The first ball of the Overland lodge, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, was held in Exposition hall.

A charming masquerade party was given Friday night by Miss Amy Bark-



er at her home, Twenty-second and Davenport streets.

Articles of incorporation of the Grammercy Park Loan and Investment association were filed with the county clerk. The incorporators are Albert Chalm, first city to be reconquered from the Germans and Bulgarians. S. J. Jensen, C. A. Albee, S. Goetz, Louis J. Nedd, Martin Cahn, R. J. Montgomery, D. A. Hurley, I. Kaufman, F. M. Ellis, J. C. Woodward, C. O. Rinehard, Edward E. Howell, Frank L. McCoy and S. Oberfelder.

The marriage of J. I. Dennis and Mami K. Green took place at the bride's home, Rev. Mr. House of Bethesda church officiating.

The Third Episcopal Euchre club met at the home of Mrs. Leonard at 1115 South Seventh street. Mr. D. I. Thornton is president of this club, Miss Hattie Byrly, secretary; Daniel Yates, treasurer, and Miss Josie Leonard, superintendent.

This Day in History. 1811—Admiral John A. Winslow, who commanded the Kearsage in the battle with the Alabama, born at Wilmington, N. C., first city to be reconquered from the Germans and Bulgarians, September 25, 1873.

1826—William C. Endicott, secretary of war under Cleveland, born at Salem, Mass. Died in Boston, May 8, 1905.

1835—General Fitzhugh Lee, soldier and governor of Virginia, born in Fairfax county, Virginia. Died in Washington, D. C., April 28, 1905.

1867—Fitz-Green Halleck, author of the stirring martial poem, "Marco Bozaris," died at Hartford, Conn. Born there July 8, 1790.

1871—The Grand Duke Alexis arrived at New York, accompanied by a fleet of Russian warships.

1904—Colonel William C. P. Breckinridge, brigadier general, died at Lexington, Ky. Born near Baltimore, in 1838.

1914—United States government demanded explanation from Turkey of Tennessee incident.

The Day We Celebrate. Hugh T. Cutler, paying teller of the United States National bank, is 31 years old today.

Thomas R. Porter, newspaper correspondent, is celebrating his 48th birthday.

Brigadier General Robert K. Evans, U. S. A., retired, who was recalled to active service at the beginning of the war, born at Jackson, Miss., 65 years ago today.

Major General William H. Carter, U. S. A., present commander of the Central department, born at Nashville, Tenn., 66 years ago today.

Everett Scott, shortstop of the Boston American league ball team, born at Bluffton, Ind., 35 years ago today.

June Caprice, one of the youngest and most popular of photoplay stars, born in Boston 18 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders. The annual congress of the American Prison association will have its formal opening in New Orleans today, the sessions to continue through the week.

The trial of Mrs. Bianca de Saules for the murder of her husband, "Jack" de Saules, whose name was David, in the supreme court at Mineola, L. I. Brigadier General Charles Austin Coolidge, U. S. A., retired, and Mrs. Coolidge, who were married at Tallahassee, Fla., November 13, 1867, are to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary today at their home in Detroit.

The Methodist Boards of Foreign Missions and Home Missions are to meet in joint session in Philadelphia today to confer on the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the organization of the parent society, the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, formed in 1813.

Storyteller of the Day. A person in a country village sent his lad of all work on Sunday morning to the butcher, whose name was David, to inquire as to the nondelivery of some meat which ought to have arrived the previous evening.

When the lad returned his master had gone on to church, so he went to the sacred edifice, too. Just as he arrived the person was giving out the following text: "What did David say?" Great was his surprise and also that of the congregation when the reply came from the lad: "He said that he won't let you have the meat until you pay for the last lot."—London Chronicle.

The Bee's Letter Box

"Color Blindness and Total Disability."

Council Bluffs, Ia., Nov. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: In an editorial of your Sunday issue the readers' attention is called to a recent decision of the Nebraska supreme court which was that "color blindness was a complete and total disability."

I have, as yourself, no way of knowing what line of reasoning the court followed that led to such a ruling, but, as I hold a policy issued by the same union, the ruling does interest me. And if, as you state, it will probably affect the insurance contract business as a whole, it should be of interest to almost everybody.

If there ever was a method of determining the extent of one's disability that is unjust it is the accepted one of impairment of earning ability. It is obvious to anyone that when a man's ability to discern or distinguish colors becomes impaired he is totally disabled so far as the transportation department of a railroad is concerned. This point you understand.

The brotherhood's membership consists of those engaged by the department exclusively. At least they were all engaged in that department when they made the contract of insurance. You pass two physical examinations before you ever can have a trainman's policy issued. One by the railway examiners, before you are employed; another by the examining physician of the lodge. Any who have taken either in recent years will not doubt that it would be impossible for a man color blind to pass.

We will presume one passed both. He is examined for service as a trainman. He pays a high premium for his insurance, account of the hazardous nature of his work. One by the railway examiners, before you are employed; another by the examining physician of the lodge. Any who have taken either in recent years will not doubt that it would be impossible for a man color blind to pass.

Some say we are not warring on the German people, but on the German government. I insist we are fighting both, and will continue to fight both. The German people arise and, from their sense of right and justice, and from the cause of human liberty, push from its pedestal, Prussian military autocracy.

Newspapers whose editorial departments are given over to the writing of apology for the invidious conduct of our government and nation, whilst wearing the garb of American citizenship, and who, in their columns, try to mitigate the crime of profane Germanism, should be condemned by the reading and advertising public who place patriotism, and sacrifice above personal money gain.

ED WALSH.

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THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU

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