

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Give thanks!

A thankful spirit denotes the true heart.

Go slow! Festal moderation pays. Remember the morning of the day after.

Turkey, both whiskered and feathered, gets it in the neck and elsewhere. Give thanks!

One more scrimmage on the gridiron and then the curtain. How stale and tiresome books will look!

The kind of democracy the Bolsheviks work is that which cracks every head capable of thinking differently.

For today the eagle must stay in the background while the turkey struts the boards as the great American bird.

Russian reds placing reliance on German promises gleams a fresh bunch of patriots in the act of being miked.

Berlin is not thundering in the bulletins these later days. When Berlin is mum or works the soft pedal, affairs are not moving as Berlin planned.

Thankfulness is not a form for one day, but for every day. The oftener practiced the larger becomes the heart and the cheery hopefulness of life.

The vaccination requirement for State university students invites our medical freedom friends to transfer some of their activities from Omaha to Lincoln.

A reduction of 25 per cent in the consumption of wool measures the latest war drive. The order does not affect the grade of wool pulled over confiding eyes!

Democrats who consider non-partisanship a mighty good thing for the country ought to show their sincerity by pressing it on the folks at Washington.

The going and the coming governor each have good reasons for plunging into the spirit of the day. Both answer duty's call utterly indifferent to consequences.

So "silly" is the placard already pinned on Governor Howard by Senator Hitchcock's hyped-up World-Herald. For a starter "silly" is mild enough. Just wait for the high explosives!

German submarines send to the bottom ships of the northern neutrals whenever chance offers. Sea going losses impose on the neutrals the painful duty of soaking Germany for higher food prices, if they expect to break even.

The kaiser does not have to ask captured American soldiers why the United States is in the war. All he has to do is to read over again President Wilson's proclamation which contains the answer in plain and unmistakable language.

The greatest meat order in the history of the world is said to have been placed with Chicago packers. Well, when it comes to filling the order, we may be sure our Omaha packing plants will be requisitioned for at least their proportionate share.

Of the boys at Camp Funston, and presumably also at the other camps, 10 per cent have been accorded leaves for Thanksgiving and an equal number for Christmas and for New Year. It is too bad we do not have 10 holidays so all of the soldier boys could draw home furloughs.

After careful canvass in the cabinet of the railroad transportation situation it is given out that government operation of railroads during the war will not be attempted unless the managements of the roads fall down on their jobs. If Mr. Bryan were only still in the cabinet he might have made a stand for immediate government ownership as a vindication of his famous Madison Square Garden speech.

Budget or Pork Barrel?

New York World

Members of congress returning to Washington by twos and threes after election predict a fight in December for a better knowledge of what has been done with the huge war appropriations.

This is good news for the country—if it means that congress is to take the logical means to inform itself upon money matters. Congress has a right to know how money is spent. It ought to direct in advance how money shall be spent, allowing some leeway for exigencies in war time. The way to know is to prepare a proper budget. In doing this congress will meet not opposition, but active co-operation from President Wilson. Like Mr. Felt, he has urged the adoption of the budget system.

There is probably no member of congress so dull as not to know that there should be a scientific budget estimate system governing appropriations accurately based upon needs foreseen. The only reason why a budget is not established is that it would interfere with pork-barrel projects, which are best promoted by log-rolling arrangements in a financial go-as-you-please system, or lack of system.

Congress must choose between the budget and the pork barrel. With the one it can never know what money is used for. With the other it can never know until after the money is spent, and seldom will know even then.

Latest Developments in Russia.

The operation of German influences is manifestly discernible through the latest developments in Russia working toward a separate peace. Whatever moves are made by representatives of the Bolsheviks may be taken to be prompted by German agencies and will rightly be regarded with distrust by us and by all our allies. In a word, the Russian peace emissaries are doing just what the kaiser wants them to do, they are in all probability pursuing a pre-arranged plan as a prelude for which the recent proclamation that the Germans would refuse to treat with any but a recognized constitutional government in Russia, was intended to be a cover to screen the intrigue behind it. It goes without saying that the kaiser is willing to treat with any government in Russia that he thinks can take the Russian bear off his back and keep it off, just as he was treating for peace with the late deposed czar to the latter's discomfiture and final dethronement.

Whether the kaiser succeeds or fails in coming to terms with those for the present in power in Russia (more strictly speaking we should say in Petrograd because Petrograd is by no means Russia) cannot materially alter the situation with the other countries upon whom he has been making war. Russia went to pieces months ago so far as being an active factor in the combat. While we must not underestimate the advantage to Germany of a settlement with Russia, neither should we let anyone overestimate it. When the terms come to be fixed to form the basis of permanent peace, they will have to satisfy the demands of Great Britain and France, of Belgium and Italy, and last but not least, of the United States.

Enough to Feed the World.

Secretary David Lubin of the International Institute of Agriculture, with headquarters at Rome, sends out his annual statement of the crop yield for 1917, which makes a very encouraging showing. Plenty to eat for everybody exists in the world, the only question being to handle the food without waste and to secure its proper distribution. Seventeen countries, not including the central powers, report a wheat yield of 1,868,000,000 bushels, 85.6 per cent of the average for the five-year period, 1911-15. As conservation methods already adopted assure the saving of considerably more than 15 per cent, the yield is to be valued at terms of the normal crop. Corn exceeds the five-year average by 14.1 per cent, while oats, rice and potatoes all run about the same above the average. Rye and barley fall a little below, while sugar beets and tobacco are well above the normal. This leaves the only serious shortage in the meats, and this can not be made up in a single season. With governmental control and co-operation, it may be safely assumed that hunger is not going to add its terror to the other features of war in regions to which it is possible to penetrate with food caravans. Unfortunates behind the lines will suffer, but only because it is impossible to reach them with relief from the world's store of eatables.

Oh, What a Mare's Nest.

The publication in Omaha papers of the advertisement put out over the name of the United States Brewers' association is seized upon for exploitation as a great discovery by a sensational sheet (which didn't get the advertisement), furnishing in its eyes proof conclusive of a diabolical conspiracy to upset our Nebraska prohibition law. The labored effort is made to impress the public that this is the start of an advertising campaign with that object in view, although the announcement plainly defines its purpose to be to dissociate in the public mind the idea that an intimate and indissoluble union exists between the products of the beer industry and of the distillery. Anyone harkening to these alarms would naturally infer that the advertising campaign started by the brewers' association was particularly directed at Nebraska, or at most at this and other dry states where it is desired to get away from prohibition legislation, whereas the fact is these advertisements have been appearing in all the principal newspapers throughout the country—first in newspapers published in New York City, which is densely wet territory, and in wet states as much or more than in dry states. Perhaps the eagle-eyed editor who has turned up this mare's nest here does not see newspapers from other cities and therefore is ignorant of this fact; but that being the case takes away all the point of his wonderful discovery.

The Bee has no doubt the brewers would be glad to have a way reopened for the sale of their product in states that have gone dry, but their present appeal is clearly aimed at persuading the people and their representatives in congress to retain in any coming national legislation the distinction between beer and light wines on one side and distilled spirits on the other that has now for the first time been made in recently enacted war measures.

Communal Kitchens.

Agitation has already been commenced over in England for "communal kitchens" as one of the obvious ways of effecting imperative household economies and reducing food waste. Hitherto the neighborhood kitchen and common dining room has figured chiefly in utopian novels, although the tremendous expense and wanton wastefulness of individual household cookery has been generally recognized. In the matter of fuel alone, maintaining a score or more of kitchen fires, for which one good commodious range and oven could be substituted with better results measured in terms of properly prepared food, the proposed communal kitchen offers a convincing argument. Of course, the pressure of the war has not become anywhere near so acute in this country as abroad, nor is it likely to be; nor is the merger of household activities in our more sparsely populated country feasible in the same way that it might be in the closely inhabited and congested areas of England. But whatever experiments may be tried out abroad in developing communal kitchens will be worth watching and may furnish us some valuable lessons for our future guidance.

Speed in government shipbuilding is vital, and the principal means to that end is standardization of plans. Henry Ford repeats and emphasizes the advice of practical men. In urging standardization and sticking to it Mr. Ford speaks with the force of a master demonstrator.

Some day later on when the Hohenzollerns sober up and seek useful jobs, Crown Prince Rupprecht may recall Cambrai and bend a lance of appreciation to General Byng. The prince owes it to the general for giving him the finest tank show ever staged.

The list of county food administrators for Nebraska, as just promulgated, includes among other names this: "Frontier county, ex-Lieutenant Governor James Pearson." O, yes, that's so.

A Gathering of the Great

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, D. C., Nov. 27.—During the early days of the civil war when the union army was being organized here a local paper solemnly printed the news that a boy throwing a stone at a dog on Pennsylvania avenue had hit three brigadier generals.

Washington, which was then really nothing but a country town with the capital somewhat incongruously superimposed upon its provincial quietude, had never seen such a gathering of military and political talent as the great crisis brought together here, the foreign missions, to begin with the ante-bellum capital of '61 was nothing that which has been wrought in the past year. If that same archon could cast his missile today and hit nothing more than a few brigadier generals it would be a poor day for notables. He ought, at the very least, to bag two or three titled commissioners from foreign countries, a couple of admirals, with perhaps an American millionaire and a famous writer thrown in for variety.

For the mighty of the earth have flocked to Washington since war was declared, in a way that has made it a veritable museum of greatness. Of course there are the foreign missions, to begin with, who have come for the most part on financial business connected with our foreign loans. These emissaries of international co-operation have added a touch of variety to the Washington scene with their strange uniforms, have made some excellent speeches and given the society editors of the local papers some difficult stunts in spelling, but numerically they are nothing to the array of native talent which has gathered here from all parts of the country. It has long been a favorite plaint with critics of our system of government that it does not bring to its service the really first class brains of the nation. Congress, we have often been told, is merely a gathering of mediocrities—of lawyers who didn't make good at the law—though so well qualified an observer as "Uncle Joe" Cannon of Illinois has testified to the contrary that success as a congressman demands unusual qualifications. In general, however, those who hold that the men of greatest ability prefer business to politics seem to have won the argument. The organization of each succeeding administration has brought forth the lament that men of "larger caliber" could not be found for the cabinet portfolios and other positions upon which the destinies of the nation largely depend.

Whatever of truth there may have been in this contention in the past it has certainly lost all force now. Every variety of talent, genius and distinction in the country has offered its services to the government. Each new committee, commission and board that has been organized for war work has had an embarrassment of riches in the way of proven ability from which to choose. The small salaries paid by the government, which have often been referred to as the reason why men of capacity would not enter politics, apparently have no influence in the matter. Millions are working for a dollar a year, or some other nominal sum, are with us literally in crowds, and many of them sit at unimportant desks. When the second Liberty loan was being sold a committee went about the government departments soliciting subscriptions from all the employees. A certain very minor clerk was overlooked until the last because he had such an exceedingly modest position, and an equally modest man it seemed a shame to ask this man, who was probably struggling to support a wife and six children on the stipend of a clerkship, to invest his scant savings in bonds. But fearing that he might feel injured if he was overlooked entirely, one of the committee finally approached him on the matter.

"What can you really afford, Bill?" was his conciliating question.

Bill took out a bank book and did a little figuring.

"I guess I can take \$300,000 worth now—maybe a little more later on," Bill explained.

Of course the traditional seedy government clerk is still with us, although his secdiness has been somewhat mitigated by raises of salary; but in many of the war organizations there is plenty of material evidence that "secdiness" is no object. Such indispensable enterprises as the Red Cross, and others which have been organized without aid from the regular government machinery, have an especially prosperous look. Nor are they undermanned. Even the corridors of their establishments are crowded with well groomed and industrious volunteer workers. It might be added that neither are they undermanned. The seeker after information often finds that the incumbent of some desk with an imposing title is a member of the organization, who keeps a surprising number of facts and ideas under a hat of the very latest style.

The part that big business is playing in the organization of America for war is now well known. The public, after a momentary shock, has become accustomed to the idea that one of Wall street's most spectacular plungers is engaged in patriotically cornering what the government needs in the way of metals; that a railroad president, trained in long warfare with the Interstate Commerce commission, is now one of the most trusted allies in solving the problems of traffic to which the war has given rise; that one of the greatest retail merchants in America has placed his expert judgment in the matter of unshrinkable woollens at the disposal of the president.

Everywhere in the government world it is the same; talent, not to say genius, is there in force. It is always well to ponder over the name of an official with whom you have business, and perhaps look it up in "Who's Who," for it may be a household word, and to betray ignorance of the fact would be most unbecoming.

Brains are indisputably having their innings in the business of government. Above the grade of stenographer, mediocrity has become almost rare enough to constitute a distinction, and whatever mistakes may be made certainly cannot be blamed upon it.

Diplomacy and Clothes

Philadelphia Ledger

Now is the time for all serious dressers to come to the aid of the country. Diplomacy has intervened to secure a great saving of material both in men's and women's clothing. Appealed to by M. Jusserand, the distinguished French ambassador, at Washington, the dictators of fashion at Paris have promised that the new styles shall call for the use of a quarter less cloth than the old. Specific information as to the method of carrying out this project is lacking. The surmise of tighter and shorter skirts for women is not authentic. But obviously they can hardly be looser and longer, despite the recent demand from Chicago that ankles should be terra incognita. Science has not yet discovered how to make three yards do the work of five. Nor is it easily conceivable that material added to the skirt could be taken from the upper portion of the garment. This has already reached somewhat tenuous proportions. Into these matters it were vain to endeavor to penetrate. They could be fully discussed only by Hermione and her little group.

Even more difficult, to the eye of the unskilled, is the problem of reducing by 40 per cent the amount of goods in men's clothing. A hint as to the solution is given by the reference to unnecessary belts and trimmings, which include, we may assume, the much-derided trouser-cuff. Probably, too, the loose-fitting coats and topcoats will go. Specific information as to the method of carrying it out, however, is wanting. They could be fully discussed only by Hermione and her little group.

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TODAY

Right in the Spotlight. Joseph E. Davies, who is prominently mentioned for the United States senatorship in succession to the late Senator Hastings of Wisconsin, celebrates his 41st birthday anniversary today. Mr. Davies is a native of Wisconsin and a graduate of the state university at Madison. He first attracted attention by his successful prosecution of business monopolies while serving as district attorney of Jefferson county, Wisconsin. On the record thus made, and because of his service to the democratic party, he was selected to be its first chairman in the early part of the Wilson administration to become commissioner of corporation, and when the Federal Trade commission was organized two years later he was selected to be its first chairman. Mr. Davies is regarded as a man unusually well versed in law and economics.

One Year Ago Today in the War. Admiral Sir David Beatty appointed to succeed Sir John Jellicoe as commander of the British grand fleet. Berlin reported that in latter part of October two Russian transports carrying a regiment sunk by mines off Heligoland.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago. G. F. Swift, the Chicago packer, is giving his personal attention to building a cattle market here.

On account of the extreme cold weather the pupils in both rooms of the Park school were dismissed at 10:30 o'clock.

The clerical force of the freight department of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad moved into their new quarters in the new freight house on Webster street.

W. J. Hamilton, E. superintendent of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad arrived in this city in his private car. He was accompanied by E. W. Winter, general manager.

The basement of the new county hospital is almost completed. Sixty-five thousand yards of earth has been excavated and nearly all the rock and brick work required for the foundation has been placed in position.

Omaha is working hard to secure the republican national convention and is encouraged to believe that there is a good chance to success.

This Day in History. 1759—Jeremiah Smith, congressman and governor of New Hampshire, born at Peterborough, N. H. Died at Dover, N. H., September 21, 1842.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Colored Passengers on Street Cars. Omaha, Nov. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: In your Letter Box of today is an article by William McKinley, 1215 South Sixteenth street, in reply to an accusation that colored men usually sit while women are standing in street cars. I take it that Mr. McKinley is a colored man, and since he has opened up the subject I would like to point out to him that in order to gain respect the colored race ought to first respect itself.

On more than a few occasions I have gotten on the Crosstown cars at certain hours in the evening, going north, and found as high as six of the double seats occupied by colored laborers—one in each seat—and then talking to each other over the backs of the seats. If they object to sitting with each other how can they expect white people to respect them enough to sit beside them?

Any Crosstown street car conductor can verify this statement. I. J. C.

Negroes and Politeness. Omaha, Nov. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: Dear Sir:—The article in the woman's section by Adalard Kennedy in regard to politeness of men is far fetched and far from being poetical or sentimental or intelligent. When she asserts that a negro never gives up his seat in a street car to a lady, she is decidedly wrong, and must be from the south, where they have the idea that negroes are supposed to stand when white people enter a car or public conveyance, by colored laborers—the negro always shows intelligence or politeness by giving up his seat to a lady or elderly person, irrespective of race or color, without thanks from the opposite sex, as they often take as a matter of course because they are white.

MRS. ROSA BOLDEN, 2307 North Twenty-seventh street.

Proud of Them. Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 26.—To the Editor of The Bee: In the November 24 issue of The Bee I see the familiar names of Maurice and Leslie Johnson, 1627 Locust street, who have just been promoted to captaincy. Deeply did the words of their father move me: "Are you proud of our boys? Well, who would not be?" And it seemed to me I also saw quiet tears of pure personal feeling and loss trickle down the kindly countenance, a moving symbol of true patriotism: "The sacrifice is there, poignant, almost crushing. But the offering is elevated into a lofty joy, the almost incomparable joy of patriotism, next to Christian faith the grandest expression of human life, unless perhaps maternal love, patriotic, religious faith and love, what a trio!"

So brutal are the accidents of war in this age that we shall utterly faint and fall in the midst of din, carnage, lust, fiendish hatred, unless we catch a vision of the issues at stake, of the ideals fought for, and of the great nobility of a victory fraught, for us, with such big meaning. When we say of the men who go: "We are proud of them," we mean no mere boast. The simply personal expression of a patriotic and maternal sacrifice. Mother's love, patriotism, religious faith and love, what a trio!"

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