

# THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

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Patriotic American heat partly solves the fuel problem in neighboring "little Germanies."

Rotation of police around the beats will not hurt any. A broom usually sweeps cleaner while it is new.

After a famine a feast. Bulldozing of Wall street almost in an hour packed its warehouses with bear meat.

It is different to see how our state banks can much longer defer vault expansion and safely accommodate the business.

Well, well, well! Has the Hyphenated editor started again at his favorite pastime of writing anonymous letters to himself?

Observe how over in England the head of the Navy department has been boosted into another job "for the good of the service."

Once more the kaiser admits his partnership on equal terms in the famous firm of "Me Und Gott." The announcement carries no increase in the rations of the famishing.

Prophecy on the outcome is premature, but it is permissible to meditate on the sur-passing advantages a director general of railroads might enjoy in directing a political campaign.

Accounts of cloud fighting on the Italian front rival the thrilling combats of flyers in Flanders and Verdun. Italy's progress in airplane work is one of the notable developments of the war.

Excess war profits taxes are to be levied on the excess of pre-war earnings, but railroad dividends are to be guaranteed on a basis of war profits average. There is a difference as well as a distinction.

"No annexations, no indemnities," as a peace foundation wins no applause in the Bulgar gallery. While history may condemn his policy, it cannot deny King Ferdinand credit for open-face honesty as a land grabber.

It is cabled all the way from Europe that the soldiers' Christmas mail from this side reached destination two days late. Why, compared with every day delays over here, this is a marvel of postal promptness and efficiency.

Sugar brokers threatened with diminished business train their artillery on the sugar division of Hoover's army. As things go the food administration isn't given time enough to take the first degree in a "Don't Worry Club."

The director general of all the railroads of the United States presumably continues to draw his cabinet officer's pay of \$12,000 a year. It stands to reason that subordinates are not long going to pull down more than the boss.

The argument of the mob is reprehensible, no matter how great the provocation. Still, people of alien sympathies who have lived in this country long enough to acquire a competence ought to know that straining American patience is risky business.

Pro-German reserves in this country will find food for sober thought in the report of the arrest in the fatherland of 300 socialists for obstructing government war plans. Admirers of German methods cannot justly object to the moderate doses of German treatment prescribed by Uncle Sam.

## Cerebral Congestion

New York Post  
We fancy that if a physician were asked to diagnose the trouble at Washington he would say that too much blood was going to the brain. The flushed face; the irritability; the restlessness; the headaches; the turning from one subject of attention to another—are tell-tale symptoms. The doubt arises whether too great labors are not being imposed on the central nervous organization. Are any set of men equal to them? Will not any administration show signs of breaking down, at one point or another, under the intolerable strain? We used to have in this country a strong feeling against over-centralization of power at Washington. Political students and party leaders predicted something like what we now see, if the process went on. The tasks would become too huge for mortal men. There would be confusion, delay, cross-purposes, inefficiency and general congestion of the public business such as used to curse St. Petersburg when a man in Vladivostok could not build a house without getting a permit from the capital.  
Something of all this was visible in Washington even before the war. Federal employees spanned like mushrooms. New commissions, new bureaus, grew up overnight. And, inevitably, the war intensified the tendency. Not only were the military activities of the government doubled and quadrupled. Every incidental difficulty that arose, every new form of control that seemed needful, was at once referred to Washington. "Let the government do it." Such became the universal demand. We do not say that it was unjustified or could have been avoided. Nor do we deny the fact that the administration has, on the whole, done wonderfully well. But it was impossible that all things could be done equally well. In the terrible pressure of business some affairs were certain to be overlooked or neglected, others to be muddled. The congressional investigations now going on have disclosed little beyond what in the nature of the case must have occurred. Little fathers at Washington were certain to give some of their children cause for complaint.

## Peace Terms That Mean Nothing.

Acceptance by the German delegates to the conference at Brest-Litovsk of the peace terms laid down by the Bolsheviks is the veriest mockery of the spirit in which the Russians approached the subject. Final adoption of the program is made contingent on the acceptance of its terms by the entente with whom Russia lately was allied. This acceptance is impossible because of the nature of the conditions on which agreement depends. Peace without annexation or indemnity, leaving Germany where it was before the war, with the addition of the "corridor" from the Baltic to the Persian gulf fully established, does not comport with the Allies' demand of "restoration and reparation." A burglar scarcely could ask for immunity if he consented to restore a portion of the plunder he had gathered.

Most remarkable of the several extraordinary proposals contained in schedule submitted by the Bolsheviks and subscribed in principle by the Germans is that which contemplates payment of damages sustained by private persons out of a common fund to which all belligerents will contribute. In effect this would include the United States as responsible to its citizens for losses sustained through U-boat activities. Moreover, we would be requested to pay on a pro rata basis to reimburse Belgians of all classes for the treasure seized by the Teutonic invaders! In no capital outside of Petrograd can such a suggestion receive serious consideration.

It is easy to see how the shrewd politicians representing Germany in the council could agree to the program presented by the simple representatives of the Russian extremists. But the peace so offered, even as elaborated by Count Czernin, does not approach the requirements of the allied democracies. The wily schemers of central Europe may deceive the proletariat by pretending to accept an offer seemingly made in sincerity, but they are not entitled to the advantages that would come to them under the plan now submitted. The comedy has its tragic side, and that is that the Russian peasant, seeking for land and liberty, has acquired both, but is in danger of losing them again to a conqueror more terrible than any his country has hitherto known.

## What Might Have Been.

Railroad men, now that they have entered government employ, are already suggesting changes in service that will result in much saving in cost of operation with little or no inconvenience to the public. Chiefly these take the form of reducing or abandoning duplications, such as costly uptown ticket offices, independent passenger stations and the like. These institutions, they tell us, are an outgrowth of competitive operation, convenient in their way, but not absolutely necessary. But really they are the least of the evils that have sprung up through long years of uncertain development and erratic control. Serious blunders on part of lawmakers and managers of great transportation systems are now coming into view, mistakes that arose primarily from a lack of sympathy and a failure to approach the whole transportation question from the point of service rather than of selfish advantage. Sadness still clings to thoughts of what might have been, but the fat is in the fire for the present. Physically, the great railroads of the country will not suffer much under the new rule, and morally they may be much improved. When, if ever, their owners are restored to control, it is likely they will be chastened by the new experience, and will take up the work of managing their own business again with a healthier regard for its own importance as well as the rights of the public.

## New Disease Is Not Popular.

Discovery in New York of a new disease, labeled "knitting nerves," arouses only mildly curious comment throughout the country. The story from Gotham involved the breakdown of a considerable portion of the feminine population through an ailment superinduced by too close attention to knitting. Out west we have a homely phrase on which much genuine success depends, that one should "attend to his (or her, as the case may be) knitting." There is nothing in this to indicate that nervous depletion follows on its application. Quite the contrary, for it will ensure safety as well as prosperity. New York women may have peculiar susceptibility, and, if so, they are to be commiserated. Hereabouts needles will continue to fly, and tons of khaki yarn will be turned into comforts for soldiers. The nerves of our women will sustain a much more severe test than comes from making garments so prized by the boys in camp and trench. If New York wants to get serious attention into this way it must come through with something better than "knitting nerves."

## Some Change of Front.

It is interesting to note the change in front of the democratic leaders of the United States on the railroad question. Only a little more than a year ago, particularly in Nebraska, democratic spellbinders and democratic organs were vociferously declaiming against the plank in the republican platform that called for nationalized control of the railroads. Take for example this from an editorial in the hyphenated World-Herald on October 9, 1916:

"The transfer of the power of state regulation to a federal body located at Washington would set back the clock of progress in a number of western states. It would be a step highly desired by the railroads, of course, but it would make it impossible for the people to have intimate contact with this department of government."

Contrast this utterance with what the same sheet has to say about the action of the president in wiping out every vestige of state control of the railroads. Be sure lines operated by the secretary of treasury will not pay much heed to orders issued by "Vic" Wilson or "Tom" Hall in the future. But this is not the only point on which the democratic party has changed front since its "He kept us out of war" slogan won for it an election.

"Perfidious Albion," long esteemed the champion heavyweight intriguer, voluntarily passes the dubious laurels to Germany. Diplomatic perfidy made in Germany belt the world, exhibiting the cloven hoof from center to circumference. Albion's brand of perfidy invariably exhibited intellectual skill and smoothness. Diplomatic kultur, on the other hand, displays the crude brutality and egotism characteristic of its source.

Official returns underscore the fiscal year as the richest the bankers of the nation have had in their business history. Profits aggregated \$667,400,000, an increase of 13 per cent over the previous year and equal to a net of 17.96 per cent on the capital stock. As model exemplars of thrift the bankers run away with the blue ribbon.

## What Books Mean to Soldiers

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—Magazines that reach the front in France are frequently cut into sections, so that several men may read them at once and they are so thoroughly used that they soon wear out. Even newspaper wrappings from parcels are carefully smoothed out and read. When a supply truck with books arrives at the trenches there is a wild scramble for the contents and if there are not enough books to go around the unlucky soldiers set up a demand that some of the others read aloud.

These are some of the facts given by Theodore Wesley Koch of the Library of Congress, who has spent much time in London and Europe since the war began, to illustrate the urgent need that soldiers have for reading matter. In former wars many of the fighters have been illiterate, but this is a war of educated men, of moderns who have lived by print as much as by bread, and miss nothing so much as the morning newspaper and the evening magazine or book. In England there is a famine of the cheaper editions of books caused by the insatiable demand from the front.

What the soldier wants is something to make him forget what he is going through. He often prefers magazines published before the war to the more up-to-date ones which are filled with accounts of what he is daily living. Fiction, of course, is what he wants most of all, and modern war adventure stories have the most ready sale. He wants to read, while the old masters of story telling, like Scott and Dickens, are reported to have a vogue in the trenches which they seem to be losing at home.

But fiction is not the only thing in demand. Many of the men who are interned or wounded have a chance to study for the first time in their lives and are inclined to make the most of it. Thus one private was made supremely happy by a book on gas-fitting and was confident that when he came back to civilian life he would be better equipped for his trade. A musician, who had never read much, got a hold of a copy of Brothing and discovered that his training had given him a keen appreciation of the music of words. He is now reading Keats and Shelley and always has a volume of standard poetry sticking out of his pocket.

The first organized attempt to supply the British forces with books was made by Mrs. H. M. Gaskell, who secured the use of a great English mansion for the purpose and got the co-operation of the newspapers. Books came in by the million, filling the halls and stairways. A professional librarian had to be called in to sort and catalogue them. There was everything among the contributions from standard works of the rare bindings to the merest rubbish. "Hints to Mothers" and "Meditations Among the Tombs," "Talks About Dressmaking" and barrels full of odd sermons were among the things that some people thought the soldiers might like to read. Or maybe the owners wanted to get rid of them. Drays had to be requisitioned to haul away this junk. Persons who want to send books to soldiers are urged to send things they themselves have enjoyed. Kipling, Jack London, Conan Doyle, Florence Barclay and Hall Gaire are among the well known authors that are "sure fire" in the trenches.

Travel and history also take. Men at Salonika wanted histories of Greece, for example. The soldier's travels often inspire him with a new interest in the wide world. Text books of languages are also welcome. "I can talk pretty good Russian now," wrote one sailor, "but with their grammar."

"The British Prisoners of War Book Scheme," which is also described by Mr. Koch, is perhaps the most remarkable educational movement that has grown out of the war. It was started by three Englishmen who were interned at Ruhleben in Germany. They wrote to some of their friends in England asking that they be sent books which would enable them to put in their time in serious study. One of the friends to whom this appeal was addressed was Mr. Alfred T. Davies, permanent secretary of the Welsh department of the board of education. He set out to organize a system for supplying educational books to Englishmen interned in Germany. The problem he faced was a difficult one, since the men interned included all sorts from day laborers and jockies to professional men and technical specialists. An appeal to the public for books, however, brought an enormous assortment of material.

Within the first year 9,000 books of an educational nature were sent to Ruhleben, where 4,000 civilians were interned. The whole camp was organized into an educational institution. Among the prisoners 200 lecturers on a great variety of subjects were found. The pupils were roughly grouped into three classes; those who had been preparing for some examination when they were interned, whether for the civil service, the merchant marine or for a college degree; those who already had entered upon a commercial or professional career; and those who were bent on following some form of learning for its own sake, such as antiquarians and scientists. This particular camp has subsequently won the sobriquet of the "University of Ruhleben," and the claim is made that as much solid educational work is going on in this camp of prisoners as in any university in the British empire. This certainly seems to be an idea worth promoting.

Thus the subjects taught at Ruhleben include such diverse ones as farming and Hindustani, water color painting and architecture. The British board of trade is now working out a system by which a man may obtain credit in schools and universities when he comes home for studies pursued in the training camps. A man who wants to take a master's degree at Oxford can make some progress toward it at the camp and when he wants to become a first mate in the merchant marine can pursue studies that will help him toward getting his certificate when he reaches home. Surely the existence of such a democratic and useful university as this cannot fail to have an effect upon the methods and ideals of universities in general.

## Working for Militarism

New York Times

Ex-President Taft stated the case exactly when he told a Boston audience that "if the United States did not win the war the only alternative would be to make militarism the dominating policy of the government." Not only must Germany be prevented from winning the war, but we must win it. A drawn battle, a return to the status quo ante, will as surely impose militarism on the United States as will a German victory. Every so-called pacifist who is working to bring about an inconclusive peace is working tooth and nail for militarism in this country, militarism of which this generation and the next would see no end.

Not even the pacifists deny any longer the sinister ambitions of Germany. There is no longer any debate about what she would do if she could. Suppose all the nations were to do as Germany would like to have them, call the fight off on the basis of "no annexation and no indemnities." Germany's ambitions would remain the same; she would merely have been thwarted in her first attempt to realize them, thwarted by certain miscalculations she made and which she would not make again. Every nation in the world would begin immediately to prepare for Germany's next attempt to realize them, this country above all. We should have to install militarism on a German scale, and keep it standing through whatever years of peace Germany might allow us, ready to defend ourselves at any instant.

War taxation in time of war is not agreeable, but is borne because it is necessary. How would permanent war taxation in time of peace be enjoyed? This country does not want to become militarist. It wants to lay down the sword as soon as its unwelcome but necessary task is done. Who are they who would thwart this desire and force militarism on her forever, make the sword cleave to her hand? The pacifists, and those who would have us shake hands with an unbeaten, unrepentant, and still lusting Germany.

## TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

General Armando Diaz, who recently succeeded General Cadorna as commander-in-chief of the Italian armies, although comparatively unknown outside military circles, has had a distinguished career. A Neapolitan by birth and 55 years of age, his ancestors fought in the Napoleonic wars. He greatly enhanced his reputation during the Libyan war, the plan of campaign of which was largely his own device. At the beginning of the present war General Diaz was a junior major general. After brilliant successes achieved in the leadership of a division operating in the Carso hills he was promoted commander of an army corps. To his solid talents as an organizer he joined great personal pride and volcanic energy.

## One Year Ago Today in the War.

Norway, Sweden and Denmark set out peace appeal to belligerents. Berlin reported that the Ninth Tenth army, under General Krafft von Dellmensingen, had arrived within 12 miles of Rinnic-Sarat.

## In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

F. R. Munday, manager of the Pacific Express company, has returned from a trip to the west. The ladies of the Ruth Rebekah degree lodge of Independent Order of



Odd Fellows gave a very pleasant social at Odd Fellows' hall, corner Fourteenth and Dodge streets. A large number of persons were present. The ladies of the Ruth Rebekah degree lodge of Independent Order of

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## The Bee's Letter Box

Greeks and Liberty.

Council Bluffs, Ia., Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: Greece was the first nation to fight for freedom and liberty. Our Greek forefathers fought and died almost to a man through the centuries before and after Christ to keep the barbarous people of further Asia away from the European soil. In fact, they have been fighting the last 500 years against the friend and ally of today's German Kaiser, Turkey. Now when the United States is in war with these enemies, it is a great opportunity for the Greeks under the glorious flag of the Stars and Stripes to do their duty, their bit for the great republic.

Every one of these men should go to the war show and fight like their forefathers did at Thermopylae, Marathon and Salamis. Like they fought in 1821-1828 A. D. and 1912-1913 at Janina, Kilkis, and so many other places. This country is our country and everybody's who has come from abroad. PETER S. LADATES, 748 W. Washington Ave.

## Turning of the Worm.

North Platte, Neb., Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: For some time H. L. Pennington, junior member of Leopold & Pennington, hay and grain shippers and retail dealers in coal at North Platte, has been airing firm complaints of the car situation before the railway commission. The Union Pacific filed a complaint with the commission Monday morning charging them with holding two cars of coal, one for 19 days and one for 11, one being held for assignment, but it turned out that the railroad had again got in bad by turning in a car that Leopold & Pennington had nothing to do with, also that they did not do a coal jobbing business and did not come within the scope of the commission's complaint. The other car they admit holding, but they have now filed a complaint before the commission charging the railroad with unreasonable delay of cars in transit, they having just received two cars of cotton cake which had been in transit from Kansas City, 29 days and 28 days, respectively, and a car of flour from Omaha 15 days. They also called the commission's attention to a car of automobiles that had been in the yards for 35 days and they think it is so necessary to get the equipment for the movement of coal, as the company claims to be doing, that some effort to co-operate with, rather than hinder their patrons and could easily bring into service several hundred stock cars for the movement of coal as they have in the past, but which are now stored in the North Platte yards. E. S. DAVIS.

## Regarding Cabinet Changes.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: Frequent suggestions are made that President Wilson take such men as Roosevelt into his cabinet.

The president has wisely shown a liberal attitude toward republicans in appointing them to high and honorable places, but there is no reason why he should divide his cabinet responsibility with them.

In congress, with the exception of a few bigoted partisans, the members are doing patriotic service for America. They are compelling partisanship to take a back seat. At such a time as this it has no place in the patriotic mind in the legislative branch and in the judiciary this is the correct attitude, and should be so at all times. Big men always rise to it. In the executive branch, however, the chief executive should hedge himself about only with those who are in political harmony with him—otherwise chaos. The demand that he do otherwise springs more from partisanship than from patriotism. Neither Lincoln, during the rebellion, nor McKinley, during the Spanish war, ever thought of taking men of the opposite party into their cabinets.

I wish to be recorded as one standing solidly with Wilson in all things he is doing. Time will vindicate them all. I wish the president to include admiration and loyal support of his great secretary of war, Newton D. Baker will never be found on the side of those who would fustian militarism upon the American people. That is the secret back of these vicious attacks upon him. The same attacks were made against Daniels, as secretary of the navy. Both these men have shown a most remarkable capacity in their places. Never in our history has such stupendous work been equaled. The puzzling thing is not that everything has not been perfect, but that we have accomplished so much. It is a testimony not only to these capable men, but to democratic institutions as well. L. J. QUINBY.

## THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

R. A. Leusser, secretary of the Omaha Street Railway company, is 51 years old today. George R. Turkington is celebrating his fifty-fifth birthday today. Wilbur L. Burgess, gas and electric fixtures, is 48 years old today. George A. Sargent was born December 29, 1870, at Milo, Me.

Clarence Ousley, recently named as assistant secretary of the Department of Agriculture, born in Lowndes county, Georgia, 54 years ago today. Prof. Thomas Sewell Adams of Yale university, now a member of the board of excess profits advisers, born in Baltimore, Md., 47 years ago today. Meyer London, the only member of the house of representatives to vote against the declaration of war with Austria, born in Russia 46 years ago today.

Dr. William P. Few, president of Trinity college, Durham, N. C., born at Greenville, S. C., 50 years ago today. William J. Fields, representative in congress of the Ninth Kentucky district, born in Carter county, Kentucky, 42 years ago today. Jess Willard, world's champion heavyweight pugilist, born in Pottawatomie county, Kansas, 30 years ago today.

## Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be distributed by American employers among their employees today as year-end bonuses to cover the increased cost of living. A notable wedding in New York today will be that of Miss Louise Gardner and Frederick Rodgers, son of the late Rear Admiral Frederick Rodgers.

Prominent society folk of Washington, Philadelphia and other cities are expected in Baltimore tonight to attend the Bachelor's Club, the principal social event of the season in the Monumental City.

A thousand guests are expected at the "Maccabean dinner," to be given tonight at Columbia university, in New York City. The number to include Jacob H. Schiff, Julius Rosenwald of Chicago, Bernard H. Baruch, Ambassador Abram Elkus, and members of the French and Serbian missions now in this country.

## Storytette of the Day.

Two army doctors, while ballooning, lost trace of their whereabouts and, wishing to know over which part of the country they were passing, saw a rustic at some distance working in the fields, and gradually descended.

When nearly overhead one of them called out: "Hi, there, Johnny, cat you tell us where we are?"

The rustic merely gazed up in much amazement. Thinking he had not heard, one of the officers again shouted out, louder than ever: "Where are we?"

Just as the balloon drifted past came the answer: "Why, ye be in a balloon, bean't ye?"

What the officers said when they heard this is not recorded.—London Chronicle.

## INES TO A SMILE.

Judge—Now, sir, tell us about your marital history. Billy—Yes, where one woman will keep a secret 29 will give it away.—Judge.

## SIGNPOSTS OF PROGRESS.

One American concern is now turning out indigo at the rate of a ton a day, and will be in position to start new manufacturing it after the war, in the face of German competition.

The government is reported to have reached a decision that live nails, or wooden pins, used in ship building must be of least or equal quality. The black locust will be the particular species used.

Danville, N. Y., a village of 4,000 inhabitants, closed all stores, banks and factories recently to get in the potato crop from surrounding fields for fear the early snow and wet weather would cause it to rot.

The Philippine hat industry, which boasts hand-made products akin to those of Panama, in 1916 more than doubled the value of its 1915 exports and established a new high record with a trade exceeding \$500,000 in value.

American manufacturers have built one-handed plows for use in Latin America. Tests have proved the worth and popularity of these implements. Farmers in these countries cannot be induced to use a plow having two handles.

Danish manufacturers are using nettle fiber extensively in the making of yarns, cloth and knicker-tweeds. The nettle used grows wild in Denmark, and after the fiber has been removed, the leaves and tops are utilized as cattle fodder.



55c Per Gallon  
A Heavy, Viscous, Filtered Motor Oil.

The L. V. Nicholas Oil Company  
M. Nicholas  
GRAIN EXCHANGE BLDG., President



Ability to conduct a modern general in a fitting manner is an accomplishment of which we are justly proud. At all times we strive to carry out the exact wishes of those who employ us.

N. P. SWANSON  
General Parlor, (Established 1888)  
17th and Cuming Sts. Tel. Douglas 1000.

## Cuticura Clears Face Covered With Itching Pimples

Burned and Face Looked Awful. Tumbled Eight Months. In Two Months Cuticura Soap and Ointment Healed.

"At first I was troubled with a few pimples and I never thought about them, but later my face became covered. They came to a head, some were large, while others were hard, and the skin was red. The pimples itched something terrible and burned