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DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Goodbye, old 1917! Take keer o' yerself!

Will the new "morals" squad bring any better morals?

As a speedy war ender even the kaiser must admit the submarine is a dismal failure.

Lincoln is down in history as the rail-splitter. Wilson is qualifying as the rail-joiner.

But it isn't the war that is making it a drinkless New Year eve for the inhabitants of the dry belt.

One Omaha business man refused to contribute to the Red Cross fund. He is lonely as well as unique.

Over in England and also in France, they have had several secretaries of war since the conflagration started.

The United States is still at peace with Turkey and Bulgaria. Perhaps there's a reason, but, if so, no one knows it.

Tammany again hits the high spot by re-gaining control of New York's city government. You can't lose Tammany.

Breaking its own building record would have well satisfied Omaha, without setting up a new mark for low temperature.

San Antonio is showing Omaha that losing balloons is a game two can play at. It is not so hard, once you have the balloon to start with.

Patriotism seems to have been considered as synonymous with profits in the minds of some of the ship builders. Names are withheld for the present.

Attributing coal shortage to transportation inefficiency is not at all helpful to the householder, who views his diminishing store these snappy December days.

Maybe those wrangling lawyers may find some comfort in the fact that a little later the people will determine who are to be candidates for the supreme bench in Nebraska.

Ferdinand of Romania found the pace a little too fast for him, but he can console himself with the thought that other Hohenzollerns will be out of the game in a good season.

Food administrators are wrestling with the problem of how to get the citizens to conserve as promised. It is hard to do, but keeping at it may wake up the thoughtless before it is too late.

The strangest thing of all is how, after his beautiful job of camouflaging a \$9,000,000 post-office surplus, Burleson managed to escape being drafted for the job of director-general of all the railroads.

Small calibre politicians in Britain differ little from the American variety. Antipathy to newspapers, excepting campaign times, manifests itself in ridiculous ways. The small bores in Parliament resented criticism and intimated that the London profession as a whole dodged fighting. London newspapers answered the slur by showing a total of 1,096 men out of 1,643 men on the staffs are in the army service. The record squelched the sneers but could not extract an apology from small souls.

Our Future Commerce

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce became so enthusiastic over the marvelous expansion of American commerce and the enormous inflow of gold that it felt moved by the spirit of prophecy to predict in its annual report that our commercial and financial supremacy will go on forever. We have a good start. The first increase of our exports was a strict war demand. This was attended by a general decrease in imports of manufactured articles and an increase in imports of raw materials. The new demand for war materials proper and the abnormal demand for other articles, on account of the war, were at first restricted to Europe. It was only after the war had gone on for nearly two years that we began to heed the clamor of countries elsewhere. We have now greatly increased our business with other parts of North America, with South America, with Asia and with Oceania, although much of our exports to Asia were really designed for Russian war uses.

There is bewildering speculation as to just what will happen after the war. The bureau predicts that reconstruction work in Europe will cause a greater demand for certain materials than at present. But there will be a complete and instantaneous cessation of exports of all war materials. We shall not feed and clothe millions of soldiers and furnish them billions of dollars' worth of stuff to shoot away. They will be back at work, producing useful articles in competition with us. Every nation will buckle down to intense production and economical living, with the hope of reducing its debt. Russia, as we have frequently remarked, would offer the finest opportunities for American trade and investment of any European country, after the war, provided Germany does not swindle the Russian government into granting it a practical monopoly. The question of rehabilitation is debatable. The zone of war destruction is not geographically large and there is no assurance that all things will be restored to the pre-war condition.

After we have taken sensible steps to preserve our home market, our chief concern should be the retention and expansion of our trade on this hemisphere and in Asia and Oceania.

Steadying the Stock Market.

One of the first effects of government operation of the railroads has been its influence on the stock market. A stronger tone and an upward movement in prices followed immediately on the announcement of the plan of the president for dealing with the transportation system of the country, and this has been well sustained. Shareholders and security owners were facing a doleful prospect. Depression of prices was general and no reason to expect any improvement existed, until the government took charge of the railroads. How much of the situation was due to artificial control is hard to estimate, although good economic causes were responsible for much of the decline. "Industrials" had ruled as favorites in whatever dealings were had, but had shared with "rails" in the general drop. Not a little of the falling off was ascribed to the liquidation incident to the purchase of Liberty 4s. The end of the year saw stocks and bonds of all kinds on the toboggan, with holders marking off huge losses. Much of this gloom has been dispelled by the action of the president, whose railroad proclamation sounded like emancipation for Wall Street. Closing days of the year have seen a general recovery in prices as well as greater activity in trading, a very hopeful sign. Financial nerves sadly needed a bracer, and a better tone in money affairs has followed its administration. Not only has the commerce of the country, but the means for carrying on its business been helped by the move.

Professional Standards Here and Abroad.

By none has maintenance of professional standards been insisted on more than by The Bee which, in season and out, has preached the need of upholding higher ethical levels. The professional codes are essentially the same here as abroad, but there is altogether too great a difference in the matter of their enforcement. In this country, the tendency is almost general to overlook offenses in violation of ethical standards and to permit the offenders to continue with impunity to bring odium not only upon themselves but upon their innocent associates as well. In other countries the reputable and high-minded members of the professions constantly exercise a jealous guard against such infractions and have no hesitation whatever about imposing the deserved penalty.

Two striking examples have just come to notice illustrating what happens in Great Britain when the black sheep turns up. A divorce was granted on application of the injured husband after a sensational trial in one of the courts which also entered up for him an award of \$10,000 against the co-respondent, a physician carrying a commission as captain in the military establishment. On the very next day, the general medical council ordered the name to be struck off the medical register for unprofessional conduct, although the doctor's defense was that he was in the complainant's home only as a friend and not in his professional capacity.

In another case it was developed that a woman, arrested for stealing jewelry, set up the excuse for the theft that she was driven to it to satisfy a drug habit for which she was being supplied by a physician who was furnishing her heroin at exorbitant prices. The physician tried to put the blame upon his confidential assistant who admitted supplying the drug several times without the doctor's knowledge, but that did not go with the council, which forthwith ordered his name erased from the medical register.

Would not occasional drastic action along similar lines conduce to the elevation of professional standards over here? Would not the profession as a whole gain in influence and public estimation if membership were promptly forfeited for flagrant abuse of its privileges?

Buy the "Baby Bonds."

A systematic canvass of the city for the sale of war thrift stamps impends, and, gauged by experience in other drives, this is certain to be a success. And it should be. These war thrift stamps are devised to enable anyone to contribute to the financing of the war. Whether our people have fully realized the stupendous task on which our country has entered may be doubted but the demands made by the government for money will impress them more and more with the magnitude of the job. The entire circulating medium of the country is less than \$5,000,000,000; in other words, a single Liberty loan calls for all the money in the country. Big appropriation bills now before congress contemplate expenditure within two years of four times the amount of money in use in the United States. Federal taxes for the current year will take half of it. Nobody can fully comprehend the meaning of these huge sums, but all can appreciate the need of everybody helping to raise them. Liberty loans, war taxes and the like give those of means full chance, but the thrift stamp reaches down to the multitude, and offers opportunity to contribute to all. Each of the "baby bonds" is well secured, having back of it the credit of the entire government; a liberal rate of interest is allowed, and they are sold on the installment plan, for payments of as little as 25 cents at a time can be made. Possession of a thrift stamp does its owner double credit. It shows a disposition to help the government in its need, and to help the individual by laying up even so small a sum against the future. Buy a "baby bond."

Lesson in Applied Conservation.

Accompanying pleas to housewives for the conservation of fats and meat refuse, illustrations of what might be accomplished are familiar enough, some of them appealing to the imagination quite strongly. From the British army comes a report that gives support to about all that has been asserted by Mr. Hoover and his associates on the point. Graphically, it may be, the report shows that glycerin enough is secured from army camp waste to provide propellant for 17,000,000 shells per annum. On another way of stating the fact, the British government receives now the tidy sum of \$400,000 a month from sale of camp refuse. The system whereby the formerly wasted material is thus taken care of is being extended to all British army camps, and to the grand fleet, and both revenue and benefits are expected to correspondingly increase. Housewives should be encouraged in their conservation efforts by knowing that the great war machine of the allies finds time to do just what they are asked to in the matter of saving fats.

Remember all those terrific onslaughts on The Bee for upholding the republican platform declaration favoring exclusive federal control of railroads and the fervid appeals to vote the democratic ticket to save the country from this awful menace? What about it?

Washington That Was

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Dec. 29.—"Other times, other lobbyists," remarked the Old Timer, as he sat in the cafe of a leading Washington hotel and watched the crush of dress suits and powdered shoulders that formed at the door and slowly among the crowded tables. It was an essentially metropolitan crowd—close-lipped, smooth-jowled, shrewd-eyed as to the men; perfectly trimmed and polished as to the women. A long-haired, frock-coated legislator from a southern state somberly sipping ginger ale in a corner, looked almost archaic.

"By lobbyists I mean all of those gentry who come to Washington in an extra-official capacity for what they can get. They've always been with us, and they have always been the obvious and unavoidable figures in the picture, but in other ways they've changed. Fifty years ago they were all majors and colonels and judges. They foregathered right in this hotel, one floor down, in what used to be the bar. There was a long leather-covered seat, you remember, along the west end of the room, and it was always filled with whiskers and dignity. From the way those old boys sat there, solemnly conferring, you would have thought destiny hung upon their words. And they were discussing a question problematic in the extreme, and important to them. Would the latest congressman or senator to enter the room buy a drink for the crowd? A favor of a congressman or senator he had induced to a science; he seemed to know just how far he could go without provoking a man to homicide. He also had more ways of hinting at the propriety of buying a drink than any other man I ever met and by the spontaneity with which that courtesy was performed he gauged the size of the 'loan' which it would be safe to solicit—he never asked for more than a quarter.

"There was considerable discussion up on the hill in those days as to what would be a suitable office for old Judge Brown. The position must fulfill two requirements: First, its duties must be such as could be performed by a gentleman of a certain age who was never wholly sober, and its scene must be far away.

"James G. Blaine, then in the senate, is credited with the idea of naming Judge Brown as our diplomatic representative to the Island of Zanzibar. It is said that the appointment was confirmed by the senate in record time, and without dissent. At any rate, in due course the judge sailed for the scene of his new duties, and in about three months he came sailing back. The story which he told over many little red glasses at the familiar hotel bar made it quite plain why he had not stayed longer.

"The judge's residence at Zanzibar, it appeared, fronted upon the beach, and was not far from the royal palm-thatched palace. On the morning after his presentation at court, which in itself had been a strain upon the sensibilities of a southern gentleman because of the extremely doubtful color of the royal family ('I don't say black, but high yaller at best, suh'), the judge was surprised to see a woman disrobing at the edge of the water and right before his door. A closer inspection revealed the sensational fact that this woman was none other than the sultana, and that her evident purpose was to conceal nothing from the diplomatic representative of these great United States.

"As intimated above, the judge was a southern gentleman, with a southerner's conception of what a lady should be and do. With stern determination he got out his muzzle-loading shotgun, which he had brought along on the off chance that there might be a bit of quail shooting in Zanzibar, loaded it with a handful of high grade beach sand and unerringly peppered the erring sultana upon that part of her anatomy which should have been occupying the throne.

"A merciful instant must be drawn over immediately subsequent proceedings. Suffice it to say that by act of impulsive Americanism the judge was rendered persona non grata at the court of Zanzibar, and that, like the cat which is supposed to be drowned, he reappeared in his ancient haunts, not in the least depressed or discouraged and heavily freighted with reminiscences of his diplomatic career.

"Once more grave statesmen put their heads together and considered the case of Judge Brown. It was again solemnly proposed that Judge Brown be given the post of minister to Zanzibar. The judge, upon being informed of his appointment, said to have been perceivedly flustered for the first time in his life; he was a man of delicate and chivalrous feeling wherever a woman was concerned. After a few days, however, he recovered his composure completely and shortly thereafter took his departure.

"Nothing more is known of the diplomatic career of Judge Brown except that friends frequently met him in New York, where he was always just stopping for a few days. Whenever inquiry was made of him as to the health of the sultana of Zanzibar, he would always gravely reply that it was of the best and propose a toast to her highness on the spot.

"Judge Brown is gone and so are all the other picturesque figures of his time. Gone is the leisure, the large expansiveness, the jest and story of the old-time hotel bar. The lobbyists of those days told their stories and their business to all comers over the drinks, and made the walls shake with their laughter. The modern lobbyist sneaks in like a chicken thief, secretly bribes the waiter for a seat, in a guarded whisper orders a lemonade."

The War Won't Wait

New York Times

President Wilson has set the stamp of his approval upon a timely injunction addressed by Secretary Redmond to his bureau chiefs. It is to be circulated, posted up, and made a guiding rule in the transaction of all war business. It should be a golden rule, a precept always to be heeded:

"Forget how things were done before the war, eliminate red tape. We must learn with the Germans that 'the war won't wait.' Delay is the kaiser's ally."

It is hard for subordinates bred up in precedent to forget what they have learned and practiced. Red tape, routine, and customs are evasion of responsibility. Seldom can an old dog be taught new tricks. There are mastiffs in the departments that fetch and carry the livelong day in the same old way. They can be reformed only from the top and by peremptory command. They will pay no attention to Secretary Redfield's injunction, or to the president's endorsement of it, unless somebody blazes the way. No one is too high up to practice what he preaches. The cabinet officers must forget how things were done before the war and cut the barbed wire known as red tape.

General Leonard Wood cut red tape with shining shears when he bought 20,000 overalls for his men at Fort Funston, who had no togs to work in because none had been supplied by the quartermaster general. That colored commanding at Fort Ethan Allen who seized several thousand pairs of blankets at a Winoski woolen mill working on a government contract and carted them out to the reservation was another full-sized man who stood in the breach and accepted responsibility.

Preparedness is impossible with reactionaries on guard. Eliminate them if they can't be cured. Certainly they can't be endured. Take the short cut. When in doubt assume responsibility. Read the "Message to Garcia" over and over again. Do it yourself. Thus the war won't have to wait. Thus delay, the kaiser's ally, will be abolished.

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

General Tasker H. Bliss, United States army, who reached the age of retirement today, has been filling the high post of chief of the general staff since last October. Born at Lewisburg, Pa., 64 years ago today, he studied at Bucknell university before entering the West Point academy, from which he was graduated in 1875. He has had a varied career in the service, serving on important federal commissions as well as in the more distinctively technical work. He saw distinguished service in Porto Rico and the Philippines, acted as collector of customs during the American occupation of Cuba, and went through several Mexican border campaigns. In addition, he has taught in the Naval War college and has been president of the Army War college. In view of his marked attainments as an administrator and strategist, it is expected that the services of General Bliss will be retained by the government and that he will be employed in some important advisory capacity during the period of the war.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Rimnic-Sarat was occupied by the Teutons.

French cruiser Gaulois torpedoed and sunk.

Berlin claimed that British force operating near Kut-el-Amara was repulsed.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Articles of incorporation of the Alfred Meunier company were filed with the county clerk. The incorporators are A. M. Meunier and Will W. McBride.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

There will be a grand New Year's supper at Seward Street Methodist

Episcopal church. Oysters, turkey and roast beef 19 cents.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodworth left on the fast train for California on their way to old Mexico City. They expect to be absent two months traveling in the south, after which they will return to make Omaha their permanent home.

The Bee will issue a superb New Year supplement, illustrating the new buildings erected in Omaha during the last year.

During the present year the fire department has been called out to 178 fires. The total amount of loss and damages to buildings in these fires is estimated at \$66,158, and the loss of stock \$89,495, making a total loss of \$155,653.

The Swedish Library association gave their eighth annual ball last evening at the Hotel de Ville. The orchestra furnished some excellent music and 24 numbers were given.

A Kensington tea was danced by Mrs. Judge Wakeley.

The marriage of Mrs. Mae Black and Dr. J. M. Sweetnam took place at 622 North Nineteenth street, Wednesday evening.

This Day in History.

1783—General Joseph G. Swift, one of the first two graduates of the West Point military academy, born at Nantucket, Mass. Died at Geneva, N. Y., July 23, 1855.

1815—General George G. Meade, who commanded the Union forces at Gettysburg, born at Cadiz, Spain. Died in Philadelphia, November 6, 1872.

1817—James T. Fields, noted publisher and author, born at Portsmouth, N. H. Died in Boston, April 24, 1881.

1833—First successful reaping machine patented by Obed Hussey.

1862—Beginning of the battle of Murfreesboro, or Stone River, Tenn.

1864—George M. Dallas, vice-president of the United States, died in Philadelphia. Born there, July 10, 1792.

1872—Germany severed diplomatic relations with the pope.

1892—Henry P. Baldwin, governor of Michigan and United States senator, died in Detroit. Born at Coventry, R. I., February 22, 1814.

1914—Russians heli the Carpathians from Bulwina to Usok Pass.

1915—Austro-Germans troops shifted from Salonica front to meet heavy pressure of Russian advance in Bukovina.

The Day We Celebrate.

George T. Morton, real estate, is 40 years old.

Dr. Charles H. Newell was born right here in Omaha, December 31, 1882.

Dr. R. E. Marble was born at Cornell Bluffs, 35 years ago today.

Lord Ashton, the world's richest linoleum manufacturer and one of Britain's richest men, born 75 years ago today.

Harry S. New, United States senator from Indiana, born at Indianapolis, 59 years ago today.

George McLean Harper, professor of English literature at Princeton university, born at Shippensburg, Pa., 54 years ago today.

Emile Loubet, former president of the French republic, born 79 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Adieu to the Old Year, which has been one of the most eventful in American history.

General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the United States army, today reaches the age for statutory retirement.

The "Billy" Sunday tabernacle in Washington will be formally dedicated tonight with a community "watch night" service.

The initial muster of all national army organizations at Camp Dodge, Des Moines, upon which will be based the permanent government record of each man, will be held today.

The Bee's Letter Box

Says Complaints Go To Exceptions Only.

Callaway, Neb., Dec. 26.—To the Editor of The Bee: I was in Camp Funston in October when the heat was turned on, so I know they are not without heat in most of the camp at least. Soldiers from here are home on furlough, and none of them have frozen. My wife was in the camp December 13 and the dust was thick, so the camp is not all "swamp." Our returned boys show no evidence of mud nor mire on their boots.

The facts are unexcusable, they say they are well cared for, and are getting fat, one boy increased 40 pounds in weight, they all say they have first class food, well served.

Sickness there will be anywhere among 40,000 human beings. Contagious diseases were there before cold weather came on.

The exception is not the rule there, and your Mrs. McConnell or whatever her name is seems to enlarge on the exception and fails to understand the value of adjectives to the extent that her writings are so perverted that they convey wrong impressions, and ones that should not be conveyed in such a paper as you publish.

H. H. ANDREWS.

Amends to Mr. Rankin.

Omaha, Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: In printing my letter in The Bee suggesting the appointment of Roosevelt as secretary of war, you made me say "one A. C. Rankin." I did not say that way. I wrote "Mr. A. C. Rankin." I consider the writings of Mr. Rankin as being of a very high class and it is not likely that I would refer to him in any such way as you have it in The Bee. I think it is due to Mr. Rankin that this explanation be printed.

F. A. AGNEW.

Effect of Prayer.

Omaha, Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have been very much interested in letters printed in your paper concerning "Answers to Prayers," and want to express my sentiments on the subject.

I cannot understand how anyone can doubt the possibility of their prayers being answered. Without that faith, life for me would be very unsatisfactory. I like to feel and know that by trusting God the difficult tasks can be made easier, through prayer. Not all my prayers are answered, but by close observation I have learned that had most of them been answered the way I was asking, it would have been a lesson to learn to make them broader and stronger.

That only strengthens my faith, for it convinces me that God sees much farther into the future than I.

My sister lost her health sometime ago, but through faith in God and prayer, has regained it. I had had so many prayers answered that I cannot help but feel sorry for those who do not believe in prayer. I know that if they go to God with their troubles and pray, they will be helped in a doubtful way, but with faith and confidence, knowing that He loves and cares for them, they will be convinced that He does answer prayer and that their trial was only a lesson to learn to make them broader and stronger.

MRS. J. A. MURRAY.

Wages of Carpenters.

Omaha, Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: There seems to be a general supposition that the carpenters of Omaha receive very liberal wages, the figure set by the union, being usually \$7 per day. In justice to

the carpenter, it might be well to know the truth of the matter, for there seems to be a deliberate attempt on the part of some sinister influence to misrepresent the wages of this craft, either for the purpose of forestalling any attempt to procure an advance, or for the purpose of discouraging the prospective employer of labor, from having work done which would involve employment of this craftsman.

The carpenter's scale is 60 cents per hour, or \$4.80 per eight-hour day, or \$26.40 per 44-hour week. The carpenter's employment is not steady, is subject to the weather at all times, waiting on brick laying, pouring of concrete, delay of material, etc. The work is hard and sufficiently dangerous to be classed as hazardous. The work is such as to wear out clothes and shoes very rapidly. The carpenter is required to keep up an elaborate kit of tools, which represents a considerable investment. In view of these facts, which are known to all, it would seem that the carpenter of Omaha is far from being an overpaid man. The uncertainty of employment is such that the average yearly wage in Omaha is not above \$900 per year, at a liberal estimate.

Not an excessive wage on which to raise a family in accordance with the American standard of living, whatever that is.

FAIR PLAA.

Plenty of Seed Corn.

Silver Creek, Neb., Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: Today there is being shelled on my farm 1,200 bushels of corn—huskers' measure—which was grown by a seedman and is now being delivered.

One-half bushel of ears of this corn, picked at random over the field, tested at the seedhouse 72 per cent. When this corn is cleaned and graded the test will doubtless be much higher.

This corn is of the variety known as "Golden Glow," which is perhaps a week or 10 days earlier than ordinary field corn, but it was planted in the very last days of May and first days of June.

This goes to show that what I have all along contended is true, namely: that there is plenty of good seed corn in every locality all over the state of Nebraska, and that all this seed corn agonizing and belly-aching on the part of our sapient professors and professional patriots of the council of offense at Lincoln is "incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial."

And then again this delectable council of offense went into hysterics over the corn crop, said there would be enough help to husk it, and wanted the schools dismissed all over the state so that the school ma'ams could don overalls and go to work in the fields to "save the corn." But again, as I publicly stated at the time, it was a false alarm. Not only was there no lack of help, but men actually went begging for jobs. More than a dozen have called at my place only to be turned away.

Don't worry about seed corn for next spring; there will be enough for all and farmers will have sense enough to provide themselves with it without being told.

It ought to be enough that we have to fight Germans in our front, without having a lot of cackling old women to ball things up in our rear.

CHARLES WOOSTER.

WINTER IN

Every day during this season of the year the four palatial daily trains of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry. between Omaha and Chicago are veritable clubs of travelers journeying to Florida, the Gulf Coast, Cuba and Panama. An anticipated feature of the trip is always the incomparable service of the "Milwaukee."

"Longer-higher-wider" berths—steel cars—electric block safety signals—double track.

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry.

Through ticket and sleeping car reservations at 407 South 15th Street, Railway Exchange Building EUGENE DUVAL, General Agent

THE SOUTH

What a pity she doesn't know

Resinol

would clear her skin

"She would be a pretty girl, if it wasn't for that pimply, blotchy complexion!" But the regular use of Resinol Soap, aided at first by a little Resinol Ointment, would probably make it clear,