

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Get ready for the thrift stamp drive.

Kaiser Wilhelm tell the Poles he is the greatest living champion of human rights. If anyone doubts this, let him ask a Belgian.

Trotzky believes his peace plans will help the Allies of Russia by removing his country as a possible liability. He may be right.

German editors do not like Lloyd George's speech, so what will they say to President Wilson's few remarks on the same topic?

Pro-German activities in Argentine have wrought war between that country and Brazil very near. This is right into the kaiser's hand.

New rules for unloading freight cars ought to help some, but will trouble a lot of shippers who have persisted in using box cars as storehouses.

Our oil wells produced a record number of barrels for the last year, and consumption took 21,000,000 barrels more than came out of the wells. This may explain to you why the price remains high.

U-boat attacks on hospital ships have been renewed, despite pledges given by Germany that this form of frightfulness would cease. It is hard for the Hun to resist when he has a chance to hit something that is helpless.

Delegates to the British labor convention insist on the abolition of the House of Lords as part of the new political program, thus laying out material for considerable future campaigning. "End or mend the lords" is an old cry in England.

A Boston sugar refiner says if it had not been for Hoover's action sugar would have soared to 50 cents per pound, yet Senator Reed insists the food administrator is in league with the sugar trust. It would be unpatriotic to print what most folks say of Reed.

A coal pool, under which economy in use of fuel is to be enforced, will solve the shortage problem in one of its phases, but it does not meet the real question. More efficient use of coal is the better way to conserve the supply. Every smoking chimney is an evidence of waste to that extent, and until these are cured we are open to the charge of unwarranted extravagance.

New Danger for the Soldier Boy.

Arrest at the instance of an army officer of a young woman who had committed bigamy in order to secure the allowance granted to soldiers' dependents gives color to the warning issued against this new type of "vampire." Young soldiers are picked out by these women and deliberately led into marriage, the one purpose being to secure money from the government. The game is not a new one, nor does it exhibit much modification in its details. It is reported from some of the southern army camps that as many as three and four soldiers have been wedded to the same woman. Omaha has developed but the one case so far as is reported, but it is sufficient to mark the danger and put the boys on guard. The young men who are away from home for the first time, wearing their country's uniform, should be warned that marriage is not merely an enlistment for the war, and therefore to be approached very seriously. Romance is part of a soldier's life, but it may have consequences that will embarrass him in after years. The "vampire" is one of his chiefest dangers, and one against whom it is difficult to guard. How to protect the young men in the army is a puzzle for the authorities as yet, but a way will be found to minimize the danger now that its existence is realized.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

Tommy Miller, in his coming fight with Ike Weir at Minneapolis on the 23, will be backed and handled by Dan O'Keefe of St. Paul. Fred Wilhelm presented a numerously signed petition to the council of South Omaha, asking for an appointment on the police force. William M. Lorimer, of the firm of Lorimer, Westerfield & Manley, is back again after a short absence from the office. The 11th meeting of the Railway Surgeons Society of Nebraska was called to order in the Hotel Barker by Dr. Galbraith, the surgeon of the Union Pacific railroad. There were about 25 surgeons present. William A. Paxton has decided to call the structure at the southeast corner of Fifteenth and Farnam streets the "Ware Block."

"Over the Top for His Country."

"My son went over the top for his country," said an Omaha father when he got the news that his boy had died in an army camp. Truly he spoke, too, for that boy died for his country just as manfully as if he had fallen in a desperate dash across "no man's land," or had kept his rendezvous with death on a "wind-swept hill." He is but one of the many strong and lusty lads who have gone out from good homes, called by duty to answer to their God for the safety of humanity. Into some of these homes comes the message that brings sorrow for a son taken in the glow of his youth, but with that sorrow comes the consolation that the boy has given the full measure of devotion to the cause of liberty. For the parents all hearts yearn with sympathy, unselfish and sincere, realizing fully the extent of the sacrifice made and silently admitting the obligation of the living to the dead who have died for the great cause of all. "Over the top for his country" is an epithet any man may envy and one that only a soldier can deserve!

Trade After the War.

President Wilson's program for peace contains a definite demand for the "removal of all economic barriers and establishment of equality of trade conditions among nations consenting to peace and associating themselves for its maintenance." The literal interpretation of this means that free trade is to be established after the war. This is not in line with other declarations of the program, which contemplate the full establishment of "self-definition" for all nations.

If the president means that the United States will not engage in the economic warfare proposed by the Paris conference between the Entente Allies before we entered the war, he will have support. But if he means that all the nations included in the peace agreement are to abandon the principle of protection for home industry through tariffs, he will undoubtedly meet with great opposition. Germany, France, Russia and Canada, as well as the United States, were committed to the protective tariff before the war. President Wilson himself confessed that certain features of the Underwood bill, aiming at free trade, were mistaken in purpose and recommended to congress that they be repealed.

Readjustment of commerce after the war will certainly be on the basis of competition among the nations, and will involve an effort on part of each to retain and hold its own home market. To the manufacturers of the United States this is a vital point, for our home market is and has been for many years the most attractive in the world. It was developed under the republican policy of protection, and will be maintained under that policy. That Americans will enter more largely than ever the field of world commerce is assured, but prestige in this direction should not be gained at the cost of sacrifice of domestic institutions.

Competition and rivalry between nations in commerce will be more keen than ever after the war, and business will be on new lines in many regards, but this does not justify abandonment of any advantage now held in the purely commercial field. Unrestricted use of the ocean highways and equal opportunity for carrying on trade everywhere should not be interpreted to include opening our doors wide to every foreign manufacturer to the detriment of our own people.

Kenyon's Call to the Country.

Senator Kenyon's warning to his countrymen against the dangers of a patched-up peace should be given closest heed. It is the solemn and deliberate statement of a man of sound judgment, who has recently made personal inquiry on the spot as to the needs of the Entente Allies with special reference as to what is required of this country. His conclusion that German peace offers and stories of exhaustion are but camouflage to hide the real situation is supported by testimony of others. Our people must not be misled by these reports, nor lulled into inaction or delay by hope that an early peace is probable. Moreover, we must work harder than ever, give more, and do more if we are to win in this war. "It is not enough to do our bit," says Senator Kenyon. "We must do our best. There is too much grandstanding and limelighting; too much patriotic posing and not enough sacrifice." Until we have put forth our utmost effort we have not fairly met the situation. It is good for our people to keep this advice in mind, in connection with the statement of war aims and tentative proposals for peace. The Germans are losing, but they are not beaten yet, and have shown no sign of willingness to accept any form of peace that will be acceptable to the United States and its Allies. Therefore there must be no slacking in resolution, no checking of preparation, for we have a hard fight ahead if we are to win by arms the peace the world wants.

Cutting down the traffic to fit the cars is the biggest job the new railroad dictator has to face. It is becoming evident to everybody that our transportation system was not equal to the demand.

The Nebraska potash lakes have also provided considerable employment for the lawyers. It is a mighty poor industry that does not afford some pretext for a lawsuit.

Canada's Treatment of Returned Soldiers Wounded Are Only a Fraction of Those Who Leave the Front

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Out of 13,826 soldiers that have returned to Canada from her overseas forces, only 3,514 are classified as wounded in a report of the Canadian Military Hospitals commission. The report is especially interesting to Americans because Canada's war problem is in many ways similar to our own.

That those actually wounded should be only a fourth of those who return from the front is not only an indictment of the layman. "Over-age" is the cause which brought home another 1,286, and this includes not only men over 45, but all those rendered unfit for service by reason of their age. Those returned because they were under age numbered 580, tuberculosis rendered 670 unfit for service and 180 were insane. But by far the largest group of those returned are the 7,066 labelled "other causes." Some light is shed on this classification by an analysis of a group of 816 men who were returned for other reasons than medical unfitness. "Stoppage working pay," is given as the reason by nearly 400, and this includes not only some got commissions in Canada; some were sent home to complete their studies; and some were classified as undesirable. The proportion of the sick and wounded may be gauged from the fact that 9,124 of those 13,826 were sent to hospitals or convalescent homes.

The Hospitals commission has also made an effort to tabulate in percentage form the seriousness of injuries received in war. Thus of the total returned, 7,418, or about half are either unimpaired or only 25 per cent disabled. Those disabled from 26 to 50 per cent are 2,923; those disabled from 51 to 75 per cent are 927; while those disabled from 75 to 100 per cent are 1,975. This is getting the statistics of war down pretty fine. By taking the total number of men sent overseas by Canada for a basis, a man going to war might calculate by the law of probabilities exactly what the chances are that he will be partially or completely disabled.

An interesting light on the war spirit in Canada is shed by a table which classifies the returned soldiers according to the year of their birth. This shows that only 5,233 of the 13,826 soldiers were native Canadians; while 7,418 of them were born in the British Isles. It is well known that the native French-Canadian is not going to war if he can help it; but this table also illustrates the fact that the native of English blood has not hurried to enlist. It is the transplanted Englishman who has made up more than half of Canada's army.

The report strongly reflects the generosity with which Canada has treated her soldiers. No soldier who has been so severely wounded as to be rendered almost completely disabled, and who has been so abundantly supplied with tobacco and other luxuries, so enthusiastically sent upon his way and received home again, as the Canadian volunteer. The recruits have been relatively few, and the country young, wealthy, and prospering as a result of the war.

United States Crop Values a Record Notable Showing of Production in New and Old World

New York Journal of Commerce Annual Review.

The agricultural experience of the country for the year just closed is without precedent. Some phenomenal records have been made in production, such as in corn and in oats, and, while many of the minor crops have exceeded those of last year and the preceding five-year average, there have been some disappointments, particularly in regard to wheat and cotton. In money value the result has been stupendous, being estimated at \$21,000,000,000. In other words, the farmers have taken out of the ground enough wealth to pay the year's war budget; but such a comparison is only of casual interest, for anything less in the way of production would have been serious in its relation to the war. Financial ideas have to be revised with a nation that has increased its expenditures in the ratio of 20 to 1. All the resources and energy of the nation are being mobilized to win the war and values may be judged only in such a relationship. Hence there is cause for gratification in the increased production of various items, but there is also cause for grave concern in the items that fell short of expectations, the principal one being wheat. This crop showed some increase but fell far short of the heavy production of the preceding years and of the needs of this country and our Allies.

Cotton production was estimated at 10,949,000 bales, a 500-pound bale, a reduction of more than 1,000,000 bales from the last preceding estimate. The final production estimates were: Corn, 3,159,494,000 bushels; winter wheat, 418,077,000; spring wheat, 232,758,000; all wheat, 650,828,000; oats, 1,587,286,000; barley, 208,975,000; rye, 60,145,000; buckwheat, 17,460,000.

Rice, 36,278,000; potatoes, 442,536,000; sweet potatoes, 87,141,000; hay, tame, 1,952,800,000; hay, wild, 15,402,000; tobacco, 196,451,000; beans, 15,701,000 bushels; kaffirs, 75,866,000 bushels; onions, 13,544,000 bushels; cabbage, 502,700 tons; hops, 27,778,000 pounds; cranberries, 245,000 barrels; apples, 58,203,000 barrels; peaches, 45,066,000 barrels; pears, 13,281,000 bushels; oranges, 12,832,000 boxes.

The world's crop situation cannot be gauged with the accuracy of pre-war years. The statistics of the central powers naturally are unobtainable and would be of little concern if they were, except as an indication of the possible resistance of the enemy nations. Hence, the only available data is the estimate of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. This report, just issued, gives the 1917 production of wheat in Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Ireland,

The Bee's Letter Box

Also for Roosevelt.

Omaha, Jan. 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: I notice with interest Mr. Agnew's articles in your paper regarding the appointment of Mr. Roosevelt to the position of secretary of war. Undoubtedly Mr. Agnew is voicing the sentiment of a large majority of the people of this country, irrespective of party preferences, as he is one of the ablest men of the United States today, a man of large experience in public affairs, especially in military matters, and a most intelligent American.

At this critical time in the country's history it is the bounden duty of every one in authority to see that every place is filled with the best talent available, and that this move may continue to grow and spread until the appointive powers at Washington will recognize the necessity for the country's good of such a man at the helm of military affairs. In such crises as the present the administration can furnish no greater proof of its largeness of purpose, and its faith to its people, than to call to its aid a man of such caliber and character as Mr. Roosevelt. It is to be hoped that Mr. Roosevelt will be able to bring to a most successful termination, laying aside any and all partisan interests, making everything subservient to the welfare of the country.

S. S. SWITZER.

Plea for Underpaid Clerks.

Omaha, Jan. 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: As a constant reader of The Bee, whose policy and views I usually agree with, and whose editorials help to keep my thinking straight on public matters, I write to express my appreciation of your views as expressed in editorial under head of "Justice to Underpaid Clerks." It does appear true that any number of employees unorganized in any business in this country are underpaid, and this regardless of the financial evidences and prosperous condition of that business.

I need only instance the dry goods business. The employees in this line generally are fairly educated, bright, well-mannered. The qualities of salesmanship are acquired after years of study of merchandise and calls as well for a study of men and women individually as they step up to the counter so that a high intelligence and tact is necessary in the performance of their duty. Since the development of the department store the salaries of dry goods clerks has steadily declined, while the owners of these establishments have prospered and grown fat, not only in this but all other cities of the land. This state of things should not be if justice and righteousness were given a chance to govern or direct men's actions toward each other.

The average salary of experienced salesmen in stores today is not, I'm sure, more than \$15 per week. How can a man in the retail trade, who has a family and dress as he has to dress on such a pay? Recently in this city I met a salesman employed in one of our stores. In course of our talk he told me he had been in the store for his family and self on \$15 per week. This man was eight years with that firm, a very obliging and competent dry goods man. Shortly after I called to see him and found he was dead and buried, and I learned that his fellow employees had to take up a subscription to bury him and get food and clothing for his wife and children.

Oh, sir, the tragedy of it all! And still our merchants go on so merrily along even in war times, very patriotic and very generous in a public way, while the men and women who do their business, when they fall out have to be buried by their co-workers, because of low wages—and they were "unorganized"—too proud to organize, just as our president was too proud to fight—but, like him, may have to, so as to live.

AN EX-DRY GOODS CLERK.

Strong for T. R.

Omaha, Jan. 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: It is to be regretted that the latest in a feapet raised by Mr. Agnew's nomination of Roosevelt for secretary of war. Mr. Agnew makes no mention of partisanship or politics. His whole, long and lengthy article could be boiled down to one small word—"pep," and his opponents not being able to deny the pep can only come back with partisanship and politics. And as usual with that bunch, their strongest argument is their greatest mistake. Consideration of Mr. B. P. Peck and Laurie J. Quinby will suffice. Mr. Peck says Roosevelt assailed Mr. Wilson's Mexican policy, cast the progressive adrift and would carry conclusions. The less said about Mexico the better; the American people take no pride in that fiasco. Roosevelt assailed Mr. Wilson, not as president, but as a politician, and in a manner perfectly admissible during a political campaign. He declined to lead the progressives because he had the "boss sense" to know when to quit; when two years ago Roosevelt jumped at the conclusion it was time to get ready and said so, and Quinby, Peck and company called him "jingo."

Mr. Quinby does not specify, but says Mr. Wilson has given many republicans the position of honor. It is doubtful and truly wonderful in view of Mr. Bryan's wall for quines for deserving democrats. But Quinby says that Abraham Lincoln had no place for democrats in his administration and asks why should Wilson be asked to divide the honors. For the same reason, Mr. Quinby, that Lincoln did divide the honors. Edwin M. Stanton as a democrat, was associated Lincoln with all the venom of which Roosevelt is capable, yet in 1862 Lincoln made Stanton his secretary of war because he was honest and capable and had the best of the best of the south that it was not partisan war. Lincoln could rise above party and divide the honors with Stanton, because his interest in his country was greater than his interest in his party.

Roosevelt in the war office would deepen the chill around the kaiser's heart and make every man in France stand straighter, step quicker and possibly fight better. Mr. Quinby wishes to go on record as standing with the president. He will not be conspicuous in that position; he will only be one of a crowd of 39,000,000 and the appointment of Roosevelt will carry the news to the kaiser of a people united as never before. The 1,000,000 out of accord being composed mostly of Mr. Quinby's erstwhile political dolls who are interested in his own, were generally their biggest mistake. JOHN G. FISHER.

SAID IN FUN.

"Did he break the news of her husband's death gently to the widow?" "I should say so. He told her she was now in the position of claiming his \$5,000 insurance."—Baltimore Journal.

"Would you call Mrs. Gowitz a good conversationalist?" "Yes and no. She makes you think of a lot of good things, but you don't get a chance to say them."—Boston Transcript.

"You spend a great deal of time in your automobile." "No," replied Mr. Churginal; "not as much as I should."

A Straight Hit.

"Do you know why money is so scarce, brother?" the soap box orator demanded, and a fair-section of the backbone of the nation waited in leisurely patience for the answer. "It's because so many of you men spend your time telling each other why," stated the hustling speaker, "that's no way to help your country's cause!"—Baltimore American.

Accident Or Design?

"During our courting days I used to run across my husband's frequent downtown. He always pretended it was by accident." "Well?" "Now I never meet him. I wonder if that's due to the same sort of accident."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

as I stand outside, fixing it up."—Washington Star. "I'm glad they drafted Titewad. Maybe at last he'll learn to be with his turn comes." "Don't get your line." "Well, I understand one of the first things they teach a soldier is setting up exercises."—Judge. "I saw someone in Cairo that men in the native tailor shops iron clothes with their feet." "Then I suppose it would not be proper to call the employees of such shops, hands."—Louisville Courier-Journal. "How was it the girl didn't get any damage in her branch of promise suit?" "Her lawyer proved to the satisfaction of the jury that he wasn't worth 30 cents."—Baltimore American. "In the old days a girl used to keep hubby on his good behavior by threatening to go back to her mother." "She threatens to go back to her job."—Kansas City Journal. First Maid—What on earth is Curly Locks so busy about when it is time for her to be sitting here on the rocks with her feet? Second Ditto—Oh, she's got the Hoover fever from some shipwrecked bum, and she's down in the coral cave putting up jellyfish.—Baltimore American. "Well, how's conservation at your house?" "We're doing our bit. But these meat-lovers are pretty rough on the dog."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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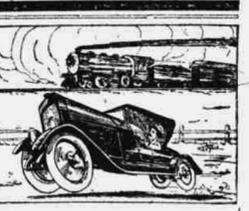
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