

THE OMAHA BEE

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Shutting Down Industrial Plants.

If the American people needed a shock to bring them to a fuller realization of the fact that the country is engaged in a war, that shock has been provided by Fuel Administrator Garfield. His mandate, approved by the president, ordering suspension of industrial activity throughout the greatest manufacturing region in the world, stands unprecedented in our administrative annals and affords an excellent illustration of the absolute power with which we have clothed our president for the war.

The expediency of the plan may well be questioned. It is fair to believe that Dr. Garfield gave full consideration to the possible effects of his order and that he holds the accumulation of a surplus of fuel to be of greater importance than the carrying on of business at as high a speed as might be maintained under the unfavorable conditions. On this, however, there is plenty of room for difference of opinion.

Protest is natural from those whose business will be interfered with and much of the protest rests on good ground. Greatest hardship will fall on the wage-workers, whose enforced vacation will cost them in proportion far greater than the loss that will fall on the owners of the suspended plants.

The order will provide the fullest possible test for the temper and patience of the American people. They are asked to submit to war conditions in a measure exceeding any that have prevailed outside of Germany.

One Practical Solution of Fuel Question.

Omaha merchants are meeting the fuel question in a most practical way. They have voluntarily agreed to cut seventeen hours a week off the time for operating their establishments. This shortening up of the business day will greatly reduce the demand for fuel for heating and lighting purposes and thus contribute to the solution of the most acute of our present national problems.

Readiness Versus Unreadiness.

The Lincoln Star places a low estimate on the intelligence of its readers when it insinuates that conditions at the army cantonments would not have been better if the government had been better prepared. It is inferentially suggested that clothing shortage and lack of other supplies has no connection with the sickness and discomfort undergone, and that the training of the army has not been interfered with by the lack of arms or equipment.

The Kaiser has made a decision that is almost equal to one of Solomon's for sapientcy.

Von Hertling's plan of "no annexation" is to apply to Russia and Von Hindenburg's plan of keeping all he can hold is to be applied to Belgium. This gives each what he wanted, and will not have much effect one way or the other on the outcome.

Food Profiteers in Revolutionary Days

Frank W. Leach in Philadelphia Ledger.

In 1778 and 1779 the fortunes of the young American nation were at a low ebb. Money there was little in circulation. Food was almost unprocurable. Prices had risen to a prodigious height, some articles increasing 400 and 500 per cent in value.

Thus Christopher Marshall, the noted Philadelphia Fighting Quaker, in May, 1779, records that butter sold for \$20 per hundred weight and green peas at from 20 to 25 shillings per half peck. In June he paid \$50 for two pairs of shoes and \$80 for two silk handkerchiefs.

Earlier in the same year Samuel Adams, one of the Massachusetts delegates to congress, was asked \$400 for a hat and \$300 for a pair of leather breeches, \$125 for a pair of shoes and \$1,600 for a suit of clothes.

The general assembly on April 1, 1778, passed an act setting forth that, "Whereas certain persons in this state, instigated by the lust of avarice, are assiduously endeavoring by every means of oppression, sharpening and extortion to accumulate enormous gain to themselves."

"Let Another Man Praise Thee"

He who loves himself inordinately is usually allowed by other people to do it and do it alone. The formula for this psychological process may be stated thus: Let the amount that a man can love and be loved by be represented by 100.

Being loved is strictly a by-product of loving other people. The man who loves other people 50 will be loved 50; and he who forgets himself wholly and loves others 100 will be loved 100.

Among certain peoples ostentatious vaunting has become offensive. It is held to be one of the signs of bad breeding. America and England are among these peoples, who at least like their boasting well disguised.

Twice Told Tales

One Better.
Joey Brown, being an orphan, resided with one of his grandmothers. For a grandmother she was a very nagging old lady, so Joey thought.

State Press Comments

Grand Island Independent: The arrest of a young woman at Omaha on Tuesday night by two soldiers with half of the monthly allowance of each assigned to her, has revealed a new sort of harpy.

Peppery Points

Minneapolis Tribune: While there has been a good deal of guesswork on the subject, it is pretty well agreed that unless peace is declared sooner or later, the war will be continued.



Views of a Farmer.

Tryon, Neb., Jan. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am a Bee subscriber and have been reading the letters, with patience, written by certain wise guys, city Do Dads and incompetents in regard to "farming the farmer," until patience ceases to be a virtue.

One article reads "We must have cars to move the corn crop to keep it from rotting." That would be the very thing to cause it to heat and rot.

The writer further says that the roads are now frozen and there is no mud and he looks for the farmers to market some potatoes.

When potatoes were bought for 40 cents per bushel the North Platte merchants retailed at 50 cents per bushel. When the same merchants had to pay the producer \$1 per bushel they sold at retail at \$2 and more per bushel.

Question of Saving.
Omaha, Jan. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: The party who writes the advertisements for the Douglas county war savings committee evidently does not depend on his income as an advertiser or else he would know better than to make such extravagant statements as appear in said advertisements.

Reason Beneath the Surface
Wherever Germany manifests an unusual desire to take territory from other powers, it is well to look underneath the surface.

Today

One Year Ago Today in the War.
British pushed far farther back in France.

The Day We Celebrate.
Rev. Charles A. Mitchell, professor of New Testament Literature in the Presbyterian Theological seminary at Omaha, born 1864.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
Four passengers confined in the solitary cell of the county jail tampered with the lock on the door and succeeded in getting it out of plumb by four inches during the watching hours of the night.

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would be glad to see the thermometers going up.—Baltimore American.
Grocer—That long-haired man who just went out was he an usic crank.
Customer—Why do you think so?
Grocer—He insisted that I only give him four cents to the measure.—Boston Transcript.

"Did the matinee last longer than you expected, daughter?"
"Should say it did! I consumed nearly two-pounds of chocolate, and didn't hurry either."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Professor—You have a promising contralto voice.
Miss Newrich—But, professor, I'd rather sing soprano; it's much higher-toned.—St. Louis Times.

"My wife and I never argue, so we get along beautifully."
"How do you manage it?"
"Whenever anything goes wrong I always figure that it was my fault and she never disagrees with me."—Boston Transcript.

Mrs. Johnson—Can't stay long, Mrs. Snow. I just came to see if you wouldn't join de mission band.
Mr. Snow—You de jan' sakes, honey, doan come to me! I can't even play a mouf organ.—Christian Register.

"Somehow I have a sort of a sneaking respect for Benedict Arnold."
"Why so?"
"He never went around hawking that he was loyal."—Kansas City Journal.

YOUR SON AND MY SON.
Far across the blue water they've landed. In a foreign land now they're installed. These boys in their suits of khaki for duty, waiting to be called.

Attention, Business Man..
We can supply you with an office manager, accountant or bookkeeper who is efficient and expert.

Advertisement for Dr. F. King, M.D., featuring a portrait of the doctor and text about a medicine for women's health.

Large advertisement for Player Pianos, listing various models like Hospe Whitney, Vose & Sons, Milton, Healy, Kranich & Bach, Welte Mignon, Kimball, Bush & Lane, and Apollo. Prices range from \$300 to \$1000.

Form for The Omaha Bee Information Bureau, Washington, D.C., with fields for Name, Street Address, and City.