

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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The weatherman must have seen the "Save-a-shoveful" brigade a-coming.

Things must be bad in Germany, as a rumor says the breweries are closing down.

Secretary Baker and Senator Chamberlain differ only as to method, not as to need of the remedy.

No one doubts that the kaiser is ready to accept peace by agreement, but what form of agreement will he insist upon?

The lee man will have only himself to blame if he does not get a rich harvest this winter. Coolest Mondays do not affect his calling.

Omaha's womenfolk certainly know how to organize and carry out a money raising campaign. The "glorified rummage sale" is proof of this.

Six hundred thousand soldiers and sailors have applied for \$5,000,000,000 of insurance, showing the boys do know a good thing when they see it.

The Leviathan is reported to have completed its round trip begun as the Vaterland in 1914. This is not exactly a record for time, but it indicates that one former German ship is doing good service.

Note that none of the problems of the City Planning board present themselves within the limits of the original Omaha townsite, and practically that all these troubles spring from failure to conform the extensions and additions to the city to the first street plans.

Austria's trouble arises largely from the fact that after you have suppressed a nation, it requires constant effort to keep it down. As soon as Austrian attention was directed elsewhere, the Czechs began to come to the surface, and the end of the suppression is at hand.

The patriotism of bread consumers in Omaha is demonstrated beyond question and it is only due to them that they have a fair price for a full weight loaf regardless of the profiteering proclivities of some of the bakers. That is what we have a food administration for in war times.

If a public dance hall cannot be conducted on a plane of decency, it ought not to be conducted at all. The folks who run dance halls should remember what happened when people became convinced that the saloonkeepers had no intention to stop the palpable abuses against which every one was protesting.

Making of "Moonshine" Whisky.

One of the rights most strongly contended for by the southern mountaineer has been that of turning his own corn to his own uses in his own way, no matter whether it is grinding it into meal for pone or extracting its juice by distillation. Activity of the internal revenue bureau has materially interfered with the unrestricted exercise of this right, but the odor of "moonshine" still clings to the Blue Ridge, the Cumberland and the Ozarks. Late reports, however, show that this reputation is not altogether fair to the mountaineer. Illicit distilling is a waning industry where once it flourished, and many of the hills find other means of incitement when he feels like whooping it up, and does not turn to "pine top" and "white line" as readily as of yore. Iowa and Kansas have become the most thriving centers of this proscribed industry, while stills have been set up secretly in the vicinity of army cantonments, to the annoyance of officers who are charged with maintaining discipline. One moral to be deduced from this is far from being new. Man always has been perverse, and is willing to do almost anything to get what he wants, regardless of whether it is good for him.

Close-at-Home War Problems.

Saved so far from the hardships and sufferings of war inflicted on the inhabitants of other countries, and scarcely touched by the discomforts endured by the people of our own seaboard states, we out here in this most favored section have small excuse for not meeting our own war problems. All we have been asked to do, outside of contributing our quota of the needed military strength and bear our share of the financial burdens, has been to produce more of the materials required to meet the necessities of ourselves and our Allies and to be saving in our own consumption of these materials. Our close-at-home war problems therefore are those of food and fuel conservation and in both these fields the demands that have been made of us are comparatively moderate and easy of response.

But no really drastic orders have been given out here. On the whole, the restrictions imposed have been laid with utmost consideration of the interests affected and are being conformed to in a spirit of helpful co-operation. Apparently the one exception is the bread baker, who insists on having a run-in with the food administrator with the idea that they can establish their right to exact a higher price for bread in Omaha than in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and other larger places further from the wheat fields. Some of the retailers also in certain lines have felt that the closing hours recommended by the fuel administrator are unduly burdensome, but they are none the less accepting the situation, satisfied if there is equal treatment for all.

What our folks should realize, and what The Bee wants to impress upon them, is that we are as yet only lightly touched; our businesses are but slightly disturbed, our habits but little inconvenienced, and that the avoidance of more severe requirements depends largely upon how well we meet present demands and thus prevent more acute conditions.

Preparation for a Great Battle.

For many days the world has been waiting for a great battle, perhaps the greatest in all history. This was to have been at the initiative of the Entente Allies, the spring drive of 1918, to which our army in France is dedicated. Changes in the strategic situation have put the lead into the other hand, and it now is expected that Germany will make its last bid for victory in the war. Speculation as to the point of attack ranges from Nancy to Calais; Nancy, because from there an easy road leads to Paris; against Calais, for that port brings Dover under the German guns, and its occupation has been a leading factor in the kaiser's program from the first.

It is only known that for weeks huge forces have been gathered and rehearsed on the western front, great stores of ammunition have been accumulated and extensive preparations made for action. The Allies are well posted on proceedings, and have made ready to receive Hindenberg wherever he may strike. When depends on the German high command. Actual opening of the affair had been expected 10 days ago, but the weather has checked active fighting generally, although the process of "nibbling" is carried out on both sides.

Discussion of peace plans in the various capitals are looked on by careful observers as only a cover for preliminaries leading up to what will be the decisive battle of the war. The kaiser is unwilling to seriously consider a settlement until he has made a final try for military triumph. His huge army is ready and fit in all ways for a supreme test of force. It is now make or break with the German militarists, who rest their hope for success on the inability of the United States to get into the game right.

Coal Saving on Railroads.

One of the sweets that flow from adversity is shown in a report from the general manager of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad concerning the use of locomotive fuel. He compares experience of December, 1917, with that of the previous year and estimates the saving on coal at more than \$1,333,333 for the year. This has been accomplished solely through the application of common sense. Firemen have been educated to not waste fuel, better adjustment of loads to locomotives has been practiced and other simple and inexpensive methods to stop leaks from the coal pile have been adopted. What has been done on this road might be accomplished on any other. It may be the New Haven was unduly extravagant in the use of locomotive fuel, but it is conceivable that some of its troubles in this regard apply to other lines, and that they are all susceptible to similar remedies. If its experience is to be taken as typical the railroads have a wonderful opportunity to end the fuel shortage, as well as to accomplish the saving of a million dollars a day in cost operation.

Having successfully bombed another Red Cross hospital as well as dropping several tons of explosives on English villages, with the customary toll of women and children, the kaiser's airmen are in position to ask for additional decorations. Humanity will place its estimate on such crimes in a way that even a junker can understand.

The Acid Test of Enemy Food

Captured Scraps of Food Analyzed by French Scientists.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, Jan. 28.—How completely the belligerents of Europe are separated from each other by the fighting lines is shown by the eagerness with which French scientists examined bits of food in a Zeppelin which fell on French soil and was captured by a hunter. These bits of food were evidence as to how the enemy was living; they were analyzed as carefully as though they had been fragments from another planet.

The French scientists found to their great surprise that the rye bread, which constituted the basis of the ration used in the Zeppelin contained about 10 per cent of rice flour. How could Germany obtain rice? In only one way—from Java by way of Holland. Here was one important fact deduced from the scraps of food in the fallen airship.

The rest of the ration was suggestive of Germany's poverty in foodstuffs. It is well known that aviators require a diet rich in fat and sugars so that they may withstand the cold of high altitudes. These Zeppelin men were provided with sandwiches. There were two kinds, evidently intended for officers and men, respectively. The officers had the better bread, made with a percentage of rice flour, and their sandwiches were made of a very poor quality of cheese and of honey from which the saccharose—the most valuable food element—had been extracted.

These analyses were published in the reports of the French Academy of agriculture, which are regularly received by our own Department of Agriculture, and which throw some light upon the conditions in France, and some upon the conditions in Germany. One of them, for example, contains an account of French experience in the use of prisoners of war as farm laborers, which is of special interest inasmuch as the advisability of sending German prisoners over there in returning vessels for the same purpose has been seriously considered.

The French agriculturalists are not very encouraging. The first drawback is that very few of the prisoners have had any experience in farming. Most of the good farms have been kept at home. The second difficulty lies in the fact that the prisoner is unwilling to work. He can sometimes be bribed to work by extra rations of food; but generally he succeeds in making himself pretty nearly useless. A good deal of trouble was caused by attempts to apportion the men among farmers, who were required to keep them in their homes. This practice resulted in so much immorality and trouble that it was stopped. It is interesting to note that in the north of France along the German border, where the French and Germans are people of about the same racial type, the use of prisoners as labor was something of a success while attempts to introduce the prisoners in the Latin South of France were failures. The people in some cases rejected them with violence. The conclusion of the French scientists is that prisoners of war may be used with some success in cultivating large areas under strict military supervision. Thus some of our unused western lands perhaps offer the best opportunity that there is for the successful use of this labor.

It appears that in both Germany and France great attention is being given to the raising of rabbits and the keeping of bees. They have also given much attention to the development of small home gardens, but

One Bright Light of Efficiency

Rise of a Stenographer to Paymaster General of the Navy

Thomas F. Logan in Leslies.

Out of the clouds of ignorance, waste and red tape revealed in the governmental departments when the senate committee on military affairs investigated the nation's war preparations there shined one bright light of efficiency—the testimony of Rear-Admiral Samuel McGowan, paymaster-general of the navy. The reason why the United States navy was clothed in all-wool uniforms while our soldiers shivered in "shoddy" is because a young stenographer in a lawyer's office in Charleston, S. C., back in 1894, conceived the idea that the government would find itself flat on its back if he were not appointed private secretary to the then Secretary of the Navy Herbert.

It was Samuel McGowan, paymaster-general of the navy, who was responsible for saving the navy from the collapse that occurred in the quartermaster's branch of the War department when America went to war against the kaiser. The reason he was able to do it was because he began to prepare for the moment he became paymaster-general of the navy, which was at 8:20 on the morning of July 1, 1911.

People and Events

Scotch whisky makers have launched in Glasgow a combine capitalized at \$250,000,000 to overcome waste and elevate the pocket to the "smoky" taste. "Whisky" is the effort to boost itself as well as patriotism.

The peat belt of New England, hitherto esteemed a waste, sits up and looks pleased as coal grows scarcer and prices aviate. Already in Massachusetts they are digging fuel out of the peat bogs and the owners of the land are taking on the cheery feeling.

For the moment the startling scene shifting of the world's drama staged at Washington pales beside the shock to legislative traditions recently felt in the capitol. A congressman returned to the public treasury \$150, the unexpended balance of his allowance for clerk hire. Disgrace may hang his lamp on the dome and take a belated vacation.

Over in Minneapolis the head doctor of the city hospital denies the right of the civil service commission to fix the degree of intoxication which will be tolerated among pupil nurses. Now if the State Public board enforces prohibition in the state during the period of the war, the pupil nurses will experience difficulty in getting the doctor's prescriptions filled.

Twice Told Tales. Bolshevik Ideals. Schuyler Merritt, the new congressman from Stamford, Ct., said at a dinner from Stamford, Ct., said at a dinner.

Terrible Loss. "I cleaned out the cellar today, and the man carried the heap of dirt in the dark corner out in his handcart."

Tommie on the Spot. Teacher—Now, Tommie, you remember I spoke of your bettler. Give me a sentence with the word bettler in it.

Stock Scenery. Little Boy (visiting in Washington)—Father, when are we going to see all the red tape?—Life.

The Bee's Letter Box

Worried Over German Dances.

Walnut, Ia., Jan. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: The German Verein held a dance at its private dance hall Friday, January 25, and got away with it. Some patriotic town, eh? Do you suppose it was in honor of the kaiser's birthday or to spite good, honest Americans? Do you not think that the Audubon bunch should have been invited to clean house? Use this as you wish. I think it should be honored with a front page column. —AS YOU LIKE IT.

Wants a War Cabinet.

Omaha, Jan. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: We should have a war cabinet by all means. It should have been organized directly after the war was declared. We are fighting the kaiser. We agree that our armies in France should be held back until the proper time for a monstrous drive, but every preparation for the fight should be speeded up to the highest possible capacity, to have supplies ready and waiting so those who will use them will know they are ready and not balked. Before the war Wilson wanted to be given full power; it was poor patriotism, but his attitude now is worse. Democracy means government by the people, but Wilson shows a disposition to rule in spite of the people. —VOTER.

SAFE

Robert H. Schaeffer in the Atlantic. Now shall your beauty never fade? For it was budding when you passed Beyond this glare, into the shade Of fairer gardens unvisited. Where, by the dreaded Gardener's spade, Beauty, transplanted once, shall ever last.

Now never shall you glorious breast With your deft hands lose their art, Nor those glad shoulders be oppressed. By falling breath or fluttering hair, Nor from the cheek by dawn possessed. The subtle ecstasy of hue depart.

Forever shall you be my best— Say, for more luminously shine Than when you were my comrade in the field. By what of earth seemed most divine; Before your body passed to rest. With what I then supposed this heart of mine.

Now shall your bud of beauty blow Far lovelier than I dreamed before. When, such a little time ago, I looked upon you, full and aware That Helen's never moved men so. When her white, magic hands enkindled war.

As you swoop on from power to power, Shall every earthward thought you think I follow upon you, full and aware That Helen's never moved men so. When her white, magic hands enkindled war.

SMILING LINES.

"I dropped in on the young bride last night and found her in tears." "Oh, dear! And I thought she had such a good match!" "The trouble was the match went out." —Boston Transcript.

"Ah, Mr. Gloom! How is your rheumatism coming on?" "Exceptionally well, thank you," replied J. Fuller Gloom. "You see, I am so notorious for my mean disposition that very few people venture to offer me cures for it." —Judge.

"How do you suppose that coquette managed to fool so many men into the belief she would marry them?" "I suppose it was because she had such engaging ways." —Baltimore American.

"You and your sister are twins, are you not?" "We were in childhood. Now, however, she is five years younger than I." —Puck.

"We had a quarrel and my wife has packed to leave." "That can be patched up." "I tell you she has packed." "Not for a prolonged time. She only packed a powder puff and a tooth-brush." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Cannibal Chief—How was that one, your excellency? Cannibal Chief (smacking his lips)—Oh, I liked him. "That's strange. At home he was a base ball umpire. No one ever liked him before." —Yonkers Statesman.

"I'm afraid," said Senator Sorghum, "that makes you suspect it?" "Some of the stock anecdotes with which

I know something that will clear your skin

"When my complexion was red, rough and pimply, I was so ashamed that I never had any fun. I imagined that people avoided me—perhaps they did! But the regular use of Resinol Soap—with a little Resinol Gintment just at first—has given me back my clear, healthy skin. I wish you'd try it!"

Resinol Ointment and Resinol Soap also clear away dandruff and keep the hair healthy and attractive. For trial free, write to Dept. J.R., Resinol, Baltimore, Md.

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Noted for Large, Well Furnished Rooms and Good Service At Moderate Charges.

Ten minutes from the center of the Loop by street cars passing the door, convenient to depots, 3 popular price restaurants.

ROOMS \$1.50 A DAY UP

CHARLES McHUGH, President.

THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU

Washington, D. C.

Enclosed find a 2-cent stamp, for which you will please send me,

Name.....

Street Address.....

entirely free, "German War Practices."

City..... State.....

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Germany declared indiscriminate submarine warfare on neutral as well as enemy shipping.

German press warned America not to intervene in the war.

Imperial chancellor declared Germany was ready for all consequences.

The Day We Celebrate.

Milton T. Barlow, president of the United States National bank, born 1844.

William Herbert Wheeler, insurance man, born 1870.

Nathan Strauss, New York philanthropist, born in Rhenish, Bavaria, 70 years ago.

William W. Atterbury, director general of transportation for the American expeditionary force in France, born at New Albany, Ind., 52 years ago today.

Rear Admiral Washington Lee Camp, United States navy, born 44 years ago today.

Willard D. Straight, recently sent to France to supervise the work of the overseas branch of the war risk insurance bureau, born at Oswego, N. Y., 38 years ago today.

This Day in History.

1774—British Parliament voted to disown Benjamin Franklin from his office of postmaster-general in America, because of his patriotic sympathies.

1898—The Germans declared war on Russia in Samoa.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

The Union Pacific will run a new train between Omaha and North Platte, leaving this city at 7:45 a. m. and arriving at 7:30 p. m.

Charles N. Fanning & Co. presented

As one of the heads of a large manufacturing concern, I am much interested in the Bolshevik propaganda among the Russian factories.

"I am afraid the Bolshevik ideas won't go. I heard the other day of a Russian employer who said mildly to a delegation of striking Bolsheviks hands:

"I can understand your demands for an increase of 800 per cent in wages, but why do you insist on my reducing your hours of work from 10 to 2?"

"A young Bolshevik struck his employer jovially on the back."

"We've got to have time," he laughed, "to spend our increased wages, haven't we?"—Washington Star.

Terrible Loss. "I cleaned out the cellar today, and the man carried the heap of dirt in the dark corner out in his handcart."

Good Horses, Nora, that was my last order of coal, and now he'll make a fortune selling it before we can catch up to him."—Baltimore American.

Tommie on the Spot. Teacher—Now, Tommie, you remember I spoke of your bettler. Give me a sentence with the word bettler in it.

Tommie—The dog came into the house to be tied.—Yonkers Statesman.

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Aimed at Omaha

York News-Times: Omaha bootleggers ship in the goods marked "hardware." Pretty good name.

Norfolk Press: The Omaha pastors want the movies closed first as "the need for the churches is great." Why not allow the people to decide for themselves which they need most?

Hastings Tribune: According to The Omaha Bee Nebraska's metropolis has too many automobile drivers who have no regard for traffic laws or public safety. In truth, every city finds itself up against the same proposition.

York Republican: Recently two young men from Omaha were arrested at Lincoln for illegal transportation of liquor. They were ticketed for York. Wonder what they were going to do with the booze in York where everybody is presumed to be on the water wagon?

Fairbury News: Omaha newspapers are authority for the statement that bootleggers in that city have been selling beer at from \$7 to \$8 per quart. With a 40 per cent tax on the retailability, it is not strange that men are willing to take a chance with the law.

Kearney Hub: The Bee says that some of the soft drink parlors in Omaha are only a screen for bootleggers and other "netarious business." These places are licensed in Omaha and recently some of the licenses have been revoked. The same thing may be true in other cities and towns.

Stock Scenery. Little Boy (visiting in Washington)—Father, when are we going to see all the red tape?—Life.