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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
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Unit Cost in Manufacturing.
The bakers who confessed to the food administrator they had guessed at their manufacturing costs are not alone in their predicament. Very few manufacturers can give accurately the unit cost of producing their wares. This is true for many reasons, chief of which is, of course, insufficient or inaccurate accounting. For the latter factor we may account by ascribing it in some degree to ignorance of bookkeeping processes, but chiefly to an ingrained and almost universal practice of self-deception. Just now the country is being disturbed by clamor from one or another of the industrial groups, each setting up that its selling price does not cover production cost, and consequently business is being carried on at a loss. Other evidence contradicts these statements and the only possible inference is that the complainants are like the bakers, in that they do not know what it costs them to do business. Just as the general application of the income tax law is certain to beget a far more general habit of keeping accurate accounts so the federal regulation of prices must in time lead to a more precise determination of manufacturing costs. Days of business done by rule of thumb are about over in this country—another benefit coming to us through the war.

American and French Methods.
A skilled machinist came from the east to a local shop a few years ago and his first work was turning shafting. He had just finished the "rough" cut on a piece and was preparing to make the finishing cut when the boss interrupted him. "Do not do that again," was the order. "Take it all off at one cut and waste no time in finishing." One of the engineer lieutenants now in France writes to the Railway Age that he finds French machinists in railway shops "polishing the ashpans and inlaying the brakebeams" of the locomotives they build. Allowing for his extravagance of statement, he finds the meticulous care bestowed by the French mechanic on the job at hand brings results. The French locomotive runs as smoothly as an automobile engine and lasts.

From Washington comes an appeal for better grade of mechanics to build airplanes; the "hit-or-miss" methods of the average worker on automobile machinery being entirely too casual to produce the nice effects required for the more exacting operations of the airplane. Of course, America has plenty of good machinists, men who are accustomed to the highest grade of work, for whom measurements of .001 of an inch are familiar operations and in whom the tenth of that inspires no terror. But the rougher, more hurried way of doing things is our national fault, an over-eagerness for output without regard for quality. What effect this slack method of doing things has had on our national life may be estimated by any who will consider it carefully.

In time we may learn to take pains with our work, whatever it may be, finding reward in the added beauty and serviceability of the finished product. Not all the lessons of the war will be lost on us and chief of these should be that "haste makes waste" and waste is costly even to a wealthy nation like ours.

Community Spirit in Dancing.
The debate over dancing continues, with most of the participants overlooking whatever of physiology or psychology may be involved in the question, but giving emphasis to other factors that seem greatly overweighted. Last week The Bee said something about the physiological effect of music as an expression of emotion. That in itself tends to induce the impulse to dance. Psychology also has something to do with the dance. Here is found one of the outlets for expression of the social instinct, the community spirit of man. We seek amusement to escape from cares or worries or to relieve the tedium of idle hours. No form of amusement yet invented has entirely escaped objection from some critic. However innocuous its form, somebody will find in it features to condemn. Also the simplest or least harmful of any of the intrinsically innocent games may be turned to evil, if its followers are bent on destruction. Abolition of dancing or any other diversion will not have the effect of removing sin or sorrow from the world. Until the principle of evil is overthrown its manifestations in man will be a source of disturbance and particularly to those who have justified their own conduct.

Motor Trucks and Country Roads.
A correspondent has pointed out the actual service now being done by the motor truck in the way of uniting the farm and the market. Iowa farmers are using their machines to bring their hogs to market and for other similar purposes in a way that is demonstrating the value of this accessory to profitable agriculture. And in this we find another strong argument to support the permanent road proposition. Just now, with the ground packed and frozen hard, the highways are in the best of shape for hauling and the cost is reduced to the minimum. With the breaking up of winter and the establishment of warm weather conditions the expense of bringing stuff to market in motor trucks or wagons is enormously increased. It is not to be doubted that the use of the self-propelled machine in agriculture is to increase and to make it completely serviceable better roads will have to be constructed. The two go together naturally and in time will bring great benefit to the farmer.

Sign Posts of Progress
Development of water-power in Norway has made electricity cheaper than steam in that country.
France is the best foreign patron of the United States patent office, with Great Britain following closely.
Over 300,000 loads of sawdust and other mill waste were used during last year in the United States for making paper pulp.
A new automobile attachment makes a permanent record of the speed of the car during the entire trip for the purpose of preventing speed disputes with authorities.
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Reveries of a Convalescent
Meditations Induced by the Novel Experience of a Ten Days' Sick Spell

"Go right home as soon as you can," said the doctor. "I'll send up some medicine and stop in to see you a little later."
"Now, you can't come in and play today, Richard, you gotta sick daddy up stairs," cried a braggadocio youngster's voice under the window.
"I'm dreadfully sorry, but I won't be able to keep up my engagement. Well, I have a patient to look after. My husband has been put to bed by the doctor's orders. Yes, it's the first time since I've known him, the first time in all the years that we've been married. I'm sorry I can't be there but you know how it is." Obviously my wife's conversation over the phone in the next room.
There was no question but that I was sick and that my sickness had produced a sudden change in the conditions and atmosphere about the house. In the loss of control of most of my faculties, however, which included complete wreckage of my voice and powers of speech, my keenness of hearing remained unimpaired and I could listen or rather could not help listening to the flow of talk all around me and particularly over that phone.

"Yes, it's the first time he's been really sick in all the 14 years we've been married," was repeated with numerous variations of emphasis and intonation. I couldn't quite be sure whether this was intended to impress the exceptional character of the occasion or to announce the arrival of a long-looked-for though much-dreaded event that was sure to come and best to have and be over with so as to take it out of the realm of uncertainty. To have one member of a family strutting around able to boast of "never having suffered a sick day in his life" is clearly intolerable and, as pride goeth before a fall, must have a sad ending some time or other. That long deferred but inevitable catastrophe was at last here. My previous apparent show of superiority in this respect had been shattered. I was not after all so unlike other women's spouses as I had seemed to be and when in the future the subject of sick-and-bed husbands should come up across the bridge table or across the knitting board or over the teacups, my wife would no longer be handicapped for lack of her own personal experiences from which to contribute to the fund of comparisons and contrasts. She would not hereafter have to speak in the third person objective and tell about what "they say" or "I understand," but could chime in with the confidence of self-assertion as to "what I did" during the time "when my husband was in bed for 10 days."

Or, perhaps, was it something else—something of a very different character—that prompted those cheerful cancellations of all those parties, meetings, and appointments? "Of course I have some one else who could stay with him for a while, but I couldn't think of coming. You know he's never been sick before and I think it's my duty to be right with him." Plainly a sense of obligation was also involved. The amount of self-deprivation is one measure of duty performed and the satisfaction thus derived may well outweigh all the enjoyment or other pleasurable activities given up. Instead of some gossip saying, "I saw her at the matinee while her husband was at home sick," the talk would be, "She devoted every minute of the day and night to him. She just dropped everything. He certainly ought to

War Cost and American Resources

It is learned from Computations made at the treasury that the first 10 months of the war have cost the United States about \$7,000,000,000, which is at the rate of something over \$700,000,000 a month, or \$24,000,000 a day. The cost of the first year is estimated at about \$10,000,000,000, which, while it is a stupendous sum, is very much less than the original estimates for the first year. These estimates ran as high as \$18,431,000,000. Of the \$7,000,000,000 that has been spent, more than half, or \$4,121,000,000, was in the form of loans to the allies, and the remainder represents what the United States has expended on the organization of the army, the increases in the navy, the shipping board and other war preparations. Of the total of \$10,000,000,000 which it is estimated will be spent during the first year, up to April 6, it is expected that about half will be in loans and the remainder for war preparations.
The treasury statistics show that the United States is meeting war expenses in the proportion of four-fifths from loans and one-fifth from taxes. Loan campaigns to date have realized \$5,792,000,000, and taxes have brought in \$1,250,000,000. It is probable that about the same proportion will be preserved in the future in raising the necessary war revenues.
The comparative ease with which these huge sums have been raised by the government is a tribute to the resourcefulness of America. Having entered this war in defense of the great principle of human liberty, the people are willing to make such sacrifices as are necessary to carry it to a successful conclusion. More billions are ready upon call of the government and will be forthcoming as they are needed. It is said that the total wealth of the United States is something like \$300,000,000,000, which is a sum sufficient to pay the cost of the war for 30 years at the rate of expenditures for the first year. The wildest flights of imagination do not contemplate a continuation of the war for 30 years, for the world could not stand so long. The population would be decimated and the resources completely exhausted long before the end of that period. But it may be said that the total wealth of the United States is committed to the enterprise, and as much of it as is needed will be placed at the disposal of the government.—Washington Post.

People and Events

Members of the leper colony of Molokai, poor as they are, contributed \$250 to the American Red Cross fund. They know what suffering means.
New York's big feederies complain that it costs as much to serve a portion of a meat order as the full slice. Consumers have also noted the phenomena at the cashier's desk.
A dining car waiter, testifying before the Railroad Wage commission, tearfully admitted that tips had fallen away almost to the copper level. Woe, and then some. This will simplify Manager McAdoo's task of making every day a tipsy day.
The humble cranberry takes on a front as copious as the goober. Back in cranberry habitats the front calls for 50 cents a quart or \$16 a bushel. A call for a slab of cranberry pie henceforth tags the caller as a millionaire or an army contractor.
The Bowery district of New York successfully resists a change of name. That alone survives the ravages and innovations of time and business. All the denizens and things that made its dubious fame have disappeared from the scenery as completely as the one-horse back.
New building prospects in New York City reflect the McAdoo slogan, "No business but government business." Plans filed with the city bureau of buildings call for an outlay of \$1,481,700, compared with \$4,464,500 in January of last year. High cost of material and labor are responsible for the slump.
A flock of German bronze eagles perched on the newel posts of the stairs of Utah's capitol have been removed and sent to the melting pot. The birds, under present day light, too closely resembled vultures and had to go. Governor Bamberger decided that none but American eagles should be on guard.
Abdul Hamid, bounced Sultan of Turkey, falls out of the ranks of rulers out of a job. In the heyday of his power Abdul was the champion camoufleur of his time. His output of hot air promises topped the record from Caligula's time down to the Kaiser. The way he tore up ultimatums and made them scraps of paper became a model for Potsdam. Still all his power and divine pretenses could not save him from the nemesis of his crimes. Long ago Gladstone christened him "Abdul the Damned." Possibly repentance in exile softened the judgment.

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Around the Cities

A 1,500-pound bell to strike the hours has been installed in the tower of New York's city hall.
Plans are taking shape for a moral clean-up in St. Joseph. The Saints' feast up to a few distinct smears on their halos which call for vigorous scrubbing.
Chicago's roundup of nearly 1,000 crooks and hoboes of various grades in 24 hours caused a 75 per cent slump in the industry of robbers and gunmen. It was a profitable day's work for the police and the city.
One of Sioux City's elevators reports flattering success of a mechanical dryer in extracting excess moisture from corn. Tests showed reduction of moisture from 22 per cent to 15.8 per cent. About 1,000 bushels an hour can be given the hot air treatment.
The mayor of Emporia, Kan., boosts for patriotic gardens and other municipal uplifts. Gardening is to be made a blooming success this year. To make sure of it the mayor declares a war of extermination on dogs, and has called on Governor Capper to join him in a deadly drive.
Boston is up against the annual job of fitting municipal income to outgoing. The mayor figures out revenue of \$14,802,216, which is \$4,000,000 short of estimates. New sources of revenue are hard to find and a general tax lift is inadvisable. To make ends meet the Hub must go deeper in debt and give posterity the privilege of digging up later on.
Mrs. High—Are you going to get a divorce this year?
Mrs. Low—No, one must economize in war time.—Judge.
"I'm going to tell you something in confidence," said the diplomat.
"All right," replied the cynic. "To what particular person of my acquaintance do you want me to mention the matter by accident?"—Washington Star.
"Miss Oldgirl says she doesn't pretend to be brilliant nor witty nor wise. She is just a plain woman."
"Plain? Great Scott, but she is good to herself!"—Baltimore American.
"What is this water?"
"War bread, sir."
"Thank it! It's too old entirely for active service!"—Life.

Odd Bits of Life

One of the easiest ways to cool an overheated oven is to stand a basin of cold water in it.
David R. Burkey, a civil war veteran, age 80, of Philadelphia, takes a 20-mile hike for his daily exercise.
Three high schools in the heart of Wyoming, Pa., anthracite fields were closed recently because of a shortage of coal.
Mrs. Pearl Leach of Penobscot, Me., has given birth to her 18th child, and all are living. There are eight girls and eight boys.
James Brown, who has an artificial arm and leg, is employed picking oranges in an orchard near Lindsay, Cal. He is considered the most rapid and efficient picker on the force and averages around 100 boxes of fruit daily. A normal man who can pick 80 boxes is considered an expert.
Pete, an army mule at a camp near Portland, Me., was left on an island in Casco Bay. The soldiers built a shed for him and left food and water. But Pete got homesick. He kicked off the top of the shed, grabbed his halter until he was free, plunged into the sea and swam back to the camp.

TO MY MOTHER.

Oh, Mama! Where in do thou compare
What consolation is in thee?
To know that now the hour of prayer,
My mother will not be with me.
Like sunshine to the flowers I miss
Her gentle voice and words of cheer,
Her pious looks and tender kiss,
Tonight I feel that she is near.
This sacred hour she loved so well
And loved to read this Holy Book,
With tear stains that a heartache tell,
When I her loving care forsook.
The little vineyard home of ours,
That nestled among the lowest trees,
And all about sweet scented flowers,
Made fragrant then the summer breeze.
Each day she rose to bless the day—
To gaze upon the glorious scene,
And through the waking blossoms stray
When all were fresh and leaves were green.
These memories of our happy past
Have been a star of hope to me,
That guided straight to her bright rest,
To live through all eternity.
Omaha DONALD P. McLEAN.

PERFECTION

The perfection of our funeral arrangements makes possible the unostentatious beauty that characterizes the burials conducted by us. We are equipped with the latest offerings of an undertaking science. Our knowledge of this business is a profound one. We render able service at reasonable prices.
N. P. SWANSON
Funeral Parlor. (Established 1888)
17th and Cumings Sts. Tel. Douglas 1080.

"the tune that caught the boys in camp"

A HOSPE PIANO in the home adds enjoyment to the hours when the boy is back with "the folks." And in his absence its music brings comfort and cheer as nothing else can. Put music in the home NOW—when the need is great.

\$300 and your first payment may be as little as fifteen dollars. You may pay the balance at ten dollars a month.

A. HOSPE CO.
1513 Douglas Street.
Some New Pianos as Low as \$190

NOTICE!

TO DEPENDENTS OF MEN ENLISTED IN ARMY OR NAVY

If the dependents of any man enlisted in the Army or Navy have failed to receive their allotment or allowance from the government, I will be pleased to have them call at my office, 810 Woodmen of the World Building, or telephone Douglas 4570 and give me full particulars. I will gladly assist them in getting that which they are entitled to from the government, and which the government is anxious to pay them.

W. A. FRASER
President Woodmen of the World and Member of the Advisory Board, Bureau of War Risk Insurance.
P. S.—This notice appears through the courtesy of the WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.

THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU
Washington, D. C.

Enclosed find a 2-cent stamp, for which you will please send me, entirely free, "German War Practices."

Name.....
Street Address.....
City..... State.....

TODAY
One Year Ago Today in the War.
British reported capture of 2,000 Turks on the Tigris.
United States put censorship on destinations and manifests of all vessels leaving American ports.
The Day We Celebrate.
Fred S. Hadra, real estate broker, born 1856.
David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture, born at Monroe, N. C., 52 years ago.
Dr. A. S. MacKenzie, president of Lenox college, Hopkinton, Ia., born in Scotland, 43 years ago.
William Faversham, born in London, 50 years ago.
Anita Stewart, motion picture star, born in Brooklyn, 23 years ago.
This Day in History.
1621—Miles Standish was made captain of the Plymouth colony with military authority.
1740—General John Sullivan, one of the best generals of the American general in the revolution, born at Berwick, Me., died at Durham, N. H., January 23, 1795.
1843—Force of 2,800 British under Sir Charles Napier defeated 32,000 Beluchees in great battle in British India.
1865—The federal army under General Sherman took possession of Columbia, S. C.
1815—Germans began submarine "blockade" by sinking British collier without warning.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
John I. Redick, with his wife, has returned to Omaha for a short visit.
George M. Small and W. E. Nason of the Lefevre Gun club and Clark

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