

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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A lot of the neighbors are truly thankful no embargo has yet been laid on corn pone.

Uncle Sam may be forced to adopt the heavenly rule and help only those who help themselves.

Soldiers are also urged to save food and thus set a good example for civilians.

The Poles are commencing to realize what the kaiser's promise of independence held for them, but it seems too late.

Vienna's joy over the Ukraine is described as delicious; it means food for the starving as well as continuance of the war.

Do not waste coal just because the weather is milder. Think of next winter, if you have already forgotten what occurred in January.

The city council still preserves its impressive silence on the grade crossing question, but the question itself is getting more clamorous every day.

Striking ship carpenters and greedy contractors alike are working for the kaiser. The world will not be made free nor safe for democracy by such methods.

Men who will not risk chance for profits to help out in the war should look at the young men who are risking their lives to save democracy and think of the future.

Japan is ready to make any sacrifice that will give half of Asia into the mikado's control. Its dream of a pan-Asiatic movement will thus be partly realized. The rest may wait.

Secretary Baker's reorganized general staff has several life-sized rows on hand already. Stirring up the bureaucrats at Washington is a good deal like disturbing a hornet's nest.

Shifting train schedules to conform with new railroad conditions is bringing home to postoffice patrons the fact that we are at war. The "business as usual" slogan has gone by the board.

Omaha is to be placed in the metropolitan class on March 3 by the adoption of the near-side stop on the street railway. That will be a memorable Sunday. The state railway board recommends that "horse sense" accompany the departure and this applies to both people and company.

Between the Generals. Brigadier General Littel has tendered his resignation and asked for retirement, because Major General Goethals did not approve a plan under which a number of majors and captains in the quartermaster's department would be employed on work General Goethals thinks can as well be done by civilians.

Question of Railroad Control. Senator Cummins, debating the railroad administration bill now before the senate, touched the most vital point at issue. That is the question of control; are the railroads operated under government management, or merely under government direction?

Just 30 Years Ago Today. Mason P. Davenport of The Bee left for a trip to New York. The net proceeds of the great charity ball given sometime ago amounted to \$640.

Twice Told Tales. Father's Wish. "I kind of wish I was in the army," said Farmer Cortmossel.

Peppery Points. Washington Post: Some women are kept so busily engaged in reading accounts of the "house beautiful" that they never find time to dust the mantelpiece.

State Press Etchings. Nebraska Tribune: How about removing those coal sheds on Lincoln avenue.

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THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU. Washington, D. C.

Japan and Eastern Siberia.

Dr. Iyenaga, Japanese publicity expert in New York, may or may not have substantial reasons for suggesting that Japan will not stand idly by and see all of Siberia brought under bolshevik domination.

Uprooting the Germans in Kiao Chau, the Japanese expected to establish themselves more firmly in China. In this they were thwarted by the attitude of America.

Premier Terauchi has said his government will not hesitate to act in the interest of civilization, which in this instance runs fortuitously parallel with that of Japan.

Professors engaged on faculty work at Columbia university are now assured that the trustees of that institution propose to retain control of its academic functions.

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The Hired Man a World Problem

Prospective Shortage of Farm Labor Menaces Production

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 16.—Who is to harvest next summer's crops? That is right now one of the biggest problems in the world. It was a serious one last year; this year it will be doubly so.

It is evident that the situation calls for the most extreme measures and in all of the allied countries they are being taken.

Undoubtedly one important measure is to make the American people realize what they are up against—that if labor is not forthcoming to harvest the crops, there will not be enough to eat for anyone.

Secretary Houston has a number of plans for relieving the situation. In addition to a survey of the problem he intends to make fuller use of the boys of high school age who did such good service in the working boys' reserve last year.

Only recently the farmers of tidewater Maryland served notice on the government that unless the drain of labor from the farms to the factories is stopped food production must decline.

Prof. W. J. Spillman, now of Cornell university, who organized the farm labor work of the Department of Agriculture last year, prophesied that at least 30,000 women would have to take the place of men in the fields this coming summer.

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Our Red Cross in France

Magnitude of Work in Caring for Innocents of War

New York Evening Post.

Not even the reports from our soldiers in Lorraine bring stay-at-homes into a feeling of closer touch with those on the other side than does a summary of the work of the Department of Civil Affairs of the American Red Cross in France.

The director of the department is Homer Folks. The chief of the Bureau of Refugees and Relief is Edward T. Devine. The consultant of the editorial and historical division is Paul U. Kellogg.

So far-reaching is the work of reconstruction undertaken that occasionally one may forget that he is reading of abnormal conditions. Thus we come upon an "educational campaign" for which a moving-picture film on the care of a baby has been prepared.

From the single definite undertaking of a shelter for refugee children, the Department of Civil Affairs has grown since July 24 to include regular work under its direct charge in 63 towns and cities besides Paris, and it is extending aid to relief and health activities in hundreds of cities, villages and hamlets where Red Cross money and goods have been distributed through other agencies.

It does not stress, for instance, the daily tragedy of Evian, where the repatriates from occupied France and Belgium are poured in, several hundred a day. They must be promptly started for points somewhere in France to make room for the incomers.

Medicine Hat persisted in spilling through its winter lid. Will some generous soul donate a spring style?

Talk about luck! A homeowner at Ottawa, Ill., while scraping the bottom of his coal bin for the makings of a fire actually uncovered a vein of coal. The real thing, too. Wouldn't that beat a coal combine?

Thrift, economy, conservation—either term flags the evolution of the times. Upper berths of sleeping cars now draw more patrons than ever before.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Castor Beans as Fuel.

Prosser, Neb., Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: We have made a discovery here at Prosser in the line of cheap fuel. The other day three or four castor beans in the cook stove to get them out of the way and they made such a hot fire that we had to open the doors, the heat was so intense.

My brother says that it would be easy to raise 200 bushel on one acre of ground and if this is the case it would take the place of several tons of coal and give better heat.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: The brief certificate of good character I gave the pinto bean in your columns a few days ago has brought me grief.

First of all I have no seed for sale. Second, all interested in pinto beans should address the College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Neb., for seed and for information upon raising the crop.

I may add that my crop of pinto beans was grown upon breaking ground planted with a corn planter about June 10, the rows one-half the distance apart of corn rows, at the rate of about four acres to the bushel.

One of the most patriotic services which can be rendered is that of bringing millions of acres of western Nebraska land into profitable food production.

How to Burn Coal. Council Bluffs, Ia., Feb. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: The writer happens to be in Omaha at this time and would like to see the public made familiar with the following correct way of getting 100 per cent efficiency out of each ton of coal.

Practically 10 per cent of the coal delivered and put in the bins or basements is usually wasted on account of not knowing the correct way of burning coal, caused by air slacking and breaking of lumps in the bin.

When banking the furnace fire at night shovel the fine coal in a coal bucket and wet down so as to moisten, open the furnace door and instead of throwing the contents over your fire and smothering same merely tip the bucket on the frame work of the furnace door so as to let the coal roll out and will form a pyramid on the burning coals.

Hoping this may be of some assistance in the saving of coal. KALLMAN BARNETT, Assistant Superintendent Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, Denver, Colo.

Patriotism and Profits. Omaha, Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: Men who interfere with the draft are traitors.

Omaha, Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: I feel constrained to reply to the letter in a recent issue of The Bee, criticizing the Board of Control for its alleged practices in the name of economy in conducting the affairs of the School for the Deaf, and particularly in requiring the boys to do extra or unusual work about the heating plant.

I would say that the practices referred to were wholly administrative and the board in reality had nothing to do with them.

Then as for the young pupil doing extra work in the printing office during a rush of work on state printing, it may be said, that inasmuch as the boy in question is regularly classified in the department of printing, where he works two and a half hours every day under an instructor learning the help, extra time that he puts in in the printing office is profitable to him in gaining knowledge and skill in the line of his trade.

Omaha, Feb. 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: Last night in your paper I read an article in which several of the ladies of Omaha expressed their opinions on the moving picture shows of the city.

Every time the president makes an address the pikers on the stock exchange pick up a little loose change, regardless of what he says.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

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