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Are you reconciled to the "less" days?

Investigation of Hog Island ought to show who got the pork.

Wisconsin has a splendid opportunity to prove its loyalty right now.

"Keep the home fires burning," but do not ignore the tag on the shovel.

"Hi!" Johnson is for free speech and honest criticism, but does not want to see the privilege abused.

Omaha is not so much concerned over the price at which its bread sells in the state as it is in what price is charged for it at home.

You can tell it to the marines if you feel inclined, but the fact that more of these soldiers are being called for shows that the "leatherneck" is appreciated in the service.

The element of self is looming up big in many places throughout the country and service is suffering thereby. Profiteers must keep in mind that the hereafter is not very far away.

Nebraska will make a substantial start on the good roads campaign during the present year and in time ought to show up fairly well as possessor of really improved highways.

American-made tanks are to lumber across the field in pursuit of the Boche. These are of different construction from the type of "tank" that went out of style in Nebraska last May.

Base hospitals are eagerly sought after by German airmen, who must have a special inducement to bomb such places. Killing the helpless has only brought renewed determination to exterminate the Hun.

It is interesting to note that the opposition to Lloyd George in England comes from a combination of extreme Tories, extreme socialists and avowed pacifists. Has civilization much to expect from elements such as these?

Careful critics suggest that we keep an eye on Italy, while the Germans threaten attack on the west front. Another drive into the Venetian plain will be worth more than a fruitless attempt to break through the allied line in France.

Sending peace messages to Germany in sausage cases may have an opposite effect. Think of the feelings of a hungry soldier of the kaiser on tearing open the package and finding it contains only a copy of the president's speech.

Ak-Sar-Ben for 1918. Naming committees of the Board of Governors of Ak-Sar-Ben for 1918 may be accepted as notice that the annual festival that has made Omaha famous is not to be allowed to fall into disuse. This is a wise determination. Admitting all that may be said of disturbed conditions incident to the war, these reasons present but stronger arguments why Ak-Sar-Ben should be continued. The festival was born in a time of deep business depression, its mission plainly being to provide just what it has furnished through all the years, a point of convergence for the men of the region served at which they might gather and under the influence of personal contact with friends, associates or rivals, business competitors and political opponents, get that encouragement and revivifying influence they needed to lift them out of the doldrums and set them on the right road. Ak-Sar-Ben did this back in those dead days of the '90s and in the war time then it helped to keep alive the spirit of patriotism and devotion to country. It will do the same now. Ak-Sar-Ben XXIV should be the mightiest of all the line, just because he is needed now as never since the dynasty was established.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
The new grip cars for the Omaha Cable Tramway company were shipped from New York, and as soon as they come the Dodge street line will be put in operation.
Edward Rothery and Arthur Rothery and A. H. Forbes presented Pat

Wisconsin's Vacant Seat in the Senate.
Governor Phillip of Wisconsin, having called the legislature together to give him the power, announces his intention to appoint Congressman Lenroot to the seat in the senate left vacant by the death of Senator Hustling last fall. A peculiar political situation exists in that state just now. Democrats are apparently willing that the vacancy continue, rather than another republican should be added to the senate roll call. La Follette followers, socialists and pacifists are united to defeat the selection of anyone who does not advocate their views. It is for the legislature to determine if the vacancy remain unfilled. No question can be made as to the loyalty of Mr. Lenroot. He has given the president support in all his war measures and may be depended on to continue in that course. His presence in the senate would add strength to the group determined to upholding American honor and preserving American institutions. In this regard his appointment should appeal to the democrats who are sincere in their support of the president. At best the appointment is only for the remainder of the present session of congress, as the people must vote on the succession next fall.

Wages for Railroad Workers.
The government railway wage board is getting down to the crux of its mission, coming to the consideration of the great mass of unorganized and underpaid railroad workers. One high official has testified that wages are too low for the greater number of employees. He places the low rate as including all who receive less than \$150 per month. This takes in almost all who are on the pay rolls of the great railroads of the country. It gives in a concrete way the problem that is before the wage board, that of what rate of increase must be allowed the workers and how the added cost of operation must be met.

The public has a question to answer in this connection. It sympathizes with the men and women who are being paid at too low a rate and it also feels a rooted opposition to any considerable increase in railroad rates. If wages are to be increased revenues must be also, else a deficit is created. In the administration measure for dealing with the railroads now under consideration by the senate provision is made to secure to stockholders an income corresponding to the average net earnings for the three-year period ending June 30, 1917. Whether this goes through in its present form or is modified to provide a reasonable return to the owners of the roads will not matter so much so long as the dividends are secure. If wages are increased without securing the income economies must be effected in other ways if revenues are to be preserved, else the dividend must be paid from the general fund.

It is possible to save something by cutting off in services that cost much and produce little or nothing. Some of these already have been done away with. Others very likely will follow. Operation of all the roads as one system may save more, but in the end the general rise in pay for the workers, which now seems certain to come, must be met from revenues which the roads found inadequate under private control and this almost as certainly means an increase in rates as well as a curtailment of service.

Using Words as Weapons.
Remarkable as the fact may seem, Germany's greatest victories in the world war have been won by words. When the Russian people unseated the czar and overthrew the despotism, setting up a democracy in its stead, the armies, revived by the breath of liberty, began a fresh assault on the Germans. Korniloff was leading his regiments to victory in Galicia when Lenin and Trotsky appeared on the scene. One of these went from America, the other from Switzerland through Germany, but both were bent on the same mission, that of spreading German propaganda. The people listened to them; Kerensky fell, Korniloff disappeared and the Russian republic vanished beneath the sodden morass of bolshevism, until Russia today is without form and void, helpless, hungry and despairing before its German foe.

General Cadorna for two years had led his armies across the Alpine peaks, surmounting stupendous difficulties and driving back the Austrians inch by inch, until he finally dominated the Carso. He forced one Austrian stronghold after another in the Julian and the Dolomites and had reached a place where Austria, exhausted and defeated, sullenly waited the final blow that would make Italian victory complete. What happened? German agents began to circulate in Italian camps and trenches, spreading lies; the more ridiculous or incredible the story the more eagerly the Italian soldiers seized it. All these fabrications were sugar-coated with the talk of brotherhood, of socialism, and the Italian refused to believe the Italian, but swallowed whole whatever the German told him. When the poison had permeated the line the Mackenzien drive was launched and in two weeks Cadorna lost all he had gained in two years.

German propagandists are busy in America; they are telling us the Germans are beaten; that the war will be over in three months and in every possible way are seeking to undermine the determination of the American people. Are we to go the way the Russians and Italians went?

Nebraska Politics
Columbus Telegram: If the State Council spent \$1,000 in circulating petitions for the resignation of Patricia Newcomb, a member of the university board of regents, why not spend \$2,000 for petitions demanding the resignation of Patricia's senatorial paramour?
Stromsburg News: Senator Hitchcock is greatly disturbed because the president is so poorly informed as to the true conditions in this war. It is really to be regretted that the president should be so ignorant since he might have had the same widely informed authority at his elbow, telling him not only what had not been done, but what ought to be done, and how to do it.
Crawford Courier: Nebraska democrats are very much worried over the political situation in the state. Regarding the gubernatorial phase, Neville smiles enigmatically and refuses to state whether or not he will again become a candidate for governor. Nor, Charley Bryan, who wants to be governor so badly that he can taste it, also smiles significantly and professes not to be alarmed over the outlook. To say that a fight to the finish is on between the Bryan and anti-Bryan factions is to mention a sure thing. If the Courier may be allowed to prophesy, it would like to predict that the next governor of Nebraska and state control in branches will come back into republican hands this coming election.

Spur of Necessity in World War
How Neglected Resources Were Called Into Play

Hon. Franklin K. Lane in N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

The making of war today is far more than a test of primal resources; it tests the full powers of the nation in every resource and capacity and especially along lines of scientific knowledge. And here again we find the ways of peace have given something in the way of preparation for war.

A curious illustration of the war use of peace machinery was brought to light when a group of chemists, representing the gathered genius of the country in this science, met to discuss the problem of toxic poisoning by gases. Germany has been foremost for some years in the science of chemistry, and out of its extensive experience has developed a form of warfare which had not before been known, a modern expression of those diabolical inventions such as the cervi and stimuli which made Caesar's campaign in Gaul to be characterized as a war of science. To meet this new method of attack by deadly gases, the western powers promptly provided gas masks which contained chemical absorbers or other agents that would neutralize the effects of the gases sent adrift by their enemies. The soldier's kit, which was so simple a thing in other wars, had to be increased by a gas mask not unlike the helmet of a deep-sea diver, with a box of chemicals adapted for offsetting the effect of the various kinds of gas the enemy was known to use; and for special use in dugouts and saps filled with concentrated gas, an oxygen supply was furnished. These outfits were not new to the world. For some years they were put on by those who went into the mine where the poisonous gases from explosions or fires were known or supposed to exist. Every rescue gang wore them. This country claimed that it had improved upon the English, German and French in the mask which it provided. At any rate when we came into the war we found ourselves prepared with the knowledge, the machinery and the men to promptly meet the need of gas masks in great quantity and of a superior type.

In this department we have during the last year had a glimpse of the expanding romance of chemical study. We have found adventure in the search for the hidden secrets of petroleum, natural gas and coal tar, of coal smoke and the refuse from 100 furnaces and smokestacks. We appear to have suddenly driven into a chemical age, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that we have suddenly realized that we are in such an age. New explosives, new fertilizers, new sources of power, of food, new materials for construction and destruction, new preservatives of life and new agencies for the sweetening and wholesomeness of life—these are to the credit of the modern chemist, and as a by-product of this war we are to have a higher appreciation of this branch of science.

America has been a wholesaler in raw materials. We deal in things of magnitude, that we look greatly as they came out of nature's storehouse, not thinking or not caring how much of any mysterious value they concealed. The chemist finds that nothing is simple; he tears all things apart to find things that are not patent to the eye, and out of the

War forces a nation to an intensive study of what it can do. We of America have had no little to boast of through the quick century of our mart of the continent. But we soon realize when thrown into such a struggle as this war how far removed from entire independence we are. There are raw materials we need and for which the ocean must be kept open, unless our dependent industries are to weaken. Yet we could live alone with some substitution. We do not know or have not developed what we have.

Bright Lights of Service at Sea

The honor of receiving the first medal of honor awarded during the war with Germany belongs to Patrick McGunigal, a ship's fitter, first class, attached to the United States ship Huntington, who in receiving this token for extraordinary heroism in the line of his trade. Early in September, while the ship was passing through the war zone, a kite balloon was sent up with Lieutenant Henry W. Hoyt, United States navy, as observer. When 400 feet up, the temperature dropping, the balloon descended 200 feet and was struck by a squall. It started on a nose dive to the sea and was rolling over. Tangled ropes overhead made it impossible for the pilot to get out of the basket, which trailed in the water while the man, thus held a prisoner, was submerged. With great daring McGunigal climbed down the side of the ship, jumped to the ropes leading to the basket, and cleared the tangle. Reaching the pilot, McGunigal placed a bow line around the exhausted man's waist and he was safely hauled to the deck. Another bow line was lowered to McGunigal and he was hauled up. The making of the medal award, Secretary of the Navy Daniels referred to McGunigal's act in rescuing this young officer as an extraordinary exhibition of self-sacrifice, as the steam fitter knew that if he failed there was no chance of himself being saved. In addition to receiving the medal, McGunigal was given a gratuity of \$100.

Living up to every tradition of the United States navy for courage and coolness in time of peril, the officers and men of the destroyer Jacob Jones gave a splendid account of themselves when this vessel was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. Commander David Worth Bagley, who had command of the ship, gives unstinted praise to all his commanding officers and crew. The commanding officer, Lieutenant Norman Scott, was in the chart house when the warning bell sounded the sighting of a torpedo. There was no chance to steer clear of the torpedo, and it struck abreast a fuel tank, blowing off a portion of the deck and flooding three compartments. The ship sank rapidly. However, in this brief time with death imminent at every moment, Lieutenant Scott turned off the steam from the fire room to the engine room, then coming on deck, fired the signal guns, in person, and accomplished heroic service in assisting the men, getting boats and rafts into the water and floating the splinter mats from the bridge to the sea. The young lieutenant's work with his crew is especially commended. Lieutenant Scott was born in Indianapolis on August 10, 1889, and entered the naval academy as a midshipman from Indiana in 1906.

Although officers in the military forces of this country are not allowed to accept decorations or gifts from foreign governments, the British admiralty has just conferred honors upon a young American officer, Lieutenant Frank Loftin, United States navy, on duty on an American destroyer operating in the war zone, has been given the Distinguished Service Cross. The Navy department announces this recommendation made through the British ambassador. Loftin was executive officer of the destroyer which, with others, was conveying a number of troop ships, when general quarters was sounded as a torpedo was sighted coming toward the ship. The lieutenant was the first officer to reach the bridge. Sizing up the situation, he rang down to the engine room for full speed ahead. Getting this, he altered the ship's course and headed directly for the periscope of the U-boat. Quick maneuvering followed, and a depth charge dropped in the course of the submerged enemy sent him out of sight. Lieutenant Loftin, from Tennessee and graduated from the naval academy in the class of 1907.

Right to the Point
Minneapolis Journal: The packers at last are able to make use of the squeal.
New York Herald: The kaiser, it is announced, is to "take the cure" in Belgium. Here's hoping that some Belgians will get a chance to administer it!
Baltimore American: The French government has ordered 1,000,000 footballs for the army. With their experience in the trenches and in rushing the Boches the French should develop into fine players.

Twice Told Tales
Some Fle Biter.
A tourist was going through a section of Alabama one afternoon, and chancing to pause before the door of a colored family's cabin he became greatly impressed by the masterful way in which a pickaninny was going through a dish of chicken and a large slice of pie.
"Just look at him," remarked the tourist, addressing the father. "He has surely got a fair enough appetite."
"Yeh, sah, boss; yeh, sah," proudly replied the father. "He am some artist at eatin'. Just look at him gwine aftah dat pie."
"Is it right there with the clutch, all right?" smiled the tourist. "Up to the present time he has not lost a single crumb."
"No, indeed, sah; no, indeed," assured the parent. "Once he git his upah lip obah a pie it am his pie, boss," he said he soothingly. "Up to the present time he has not lost a single crumb."
"Mother—Where have you been, you bad boy? You should be ashamed to worry your mother."
"Mother—Well, ma, I'll be ashamed that I

The Bee's Letter Box
Stands Up for the Squirrel.
Fort Calhoun, Neb., Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: Last fall Frank Agnew wrote a letter to The Bee in which he said our little park and woodland squirrels are destroyers of bird life and birds' nests. Most of Mr. Agnew's letters in The Bee contain common sense, but he knows no more about the life and habits of the squirrel than the great "Billy" Sunday knows of the bottomless pits of hell. I have been a naturalist and nature man all my life and live among the wild birds and animals. The squirrel is no meat eater, like the house cat, and will not kill birds and destroy nests, like the blue jay and the butcher bird. Mr. Agnew is all right when it comes to telling how to build a warm chicken house and how to feed the old hen so she will lay two or three eggs a day, but when it comes to writing about our wild life in the woods and mountains he is way off. About having the squirrel killed off as a nuisance, I have been around the parks in the summer time and have watched the squirrels pretty close, but I never have seen them kill birds. Nature has not made them that way. The house cat will kill birds, but squirrels will not, any more than a cottontail rabbit will climb a tree and kill a bird.

MOTHER'S LITTLE BIT.
(Anna W. Edwards in New York Sun.)
"Do you bit? Do you bit?" is all I hear "Do your bit, do your bit, morning, night and day!"
So ladder first give up their time, their money and their play!
An' merchant kings clip their wings—give Sammie right-of-way.

Income Tax Question.
Omaha, Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: Kindly permit me a query pertaining to the full working of the new income tax.
I am engaged in a small business, the full volume of sales amounting to \$2,500 for last year. Would I be taxed on the above? My wife conducts this business and I am employed elsewhere, with my earning power amounting to less than \$1,000. Would I be tax exempt on the last named? Yours very truly,

Compensation for Occupational Disease.
New York City, Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: We were pleased to note an editorial in your columns of January 8 pointing out the injustice of excluding those injured by "occupational diseases" from the benefits of the workmen's compensation law in New York state.

With the extension of munitions industries using many dangerous chemicals this injustice is becoming more and more glaring. Perhaps it is not generally recognized that this injustice could be remedied with comparatively little expense, because the number of occupational diseases is after all very limited, indeed. In California last year, where all occupational diseases are compensated, out of a total of 94,876 injuries reported only 348 were cases of occupational disease, for which the total compensation paid was less than \$4,000. In England, where occupational diseases are included under the workmen's compensation law, the number of cases of occupational disease is found to be very small. During the years 1908-1913 less than 1 per cent of all fatal injuries were caused by occupational diseases and less than 1 1/2 per cent of all disability cases were due to occupational diseases.

As it is probable that the number of cases of occupational disease in Nebraska would certainly not be more than in England, it can readily be seen that the expense to the employer resulting from provision for these very pathetic cases in Nebraska would be almost insignificant.
JOHN B. ANDREWS,
Secretary American Association for Labor Legislation.

Keeping the Sabbath.
North Platte, Neb., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: I understand the readers of The Bee have the privilege to ask and answer questions through the Letter Box, so I come. A Seventh Day Adventist of this city is asking me where I get my authority to keep the first day of the week a Sabbath. I am following the examples of those men that translated the English Bible, an example, my friend, you quote as from the Sabbath day. You accept their Bible as true. That shows you are not consistent. Now, my friend, I ask you where did those translators get their authority to keep the first day of the week as their Christian church Sabbath? You have had the seventh day that God had commanded the Jews to keep holy? You may say you do not know, but this you and those of your faith do know: If you had been living with those translators you would have had to keep the first day of the week a Sabbath as Christians like them. You know you would, in view of that fact. Where is your excuse for not keeping it with the Christians in Omaha today?
CYRUS STEBBINS.

Prohibition at Hastings.
Omaha, Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: Just as a matter of fairness to the people of Nebraska who overwhelmingly voted for prohibiting the sale of alcohol, I would like to publish this extract from a letter written me, voluntarily, by my friend, Madgett, mayor of Hastings, February 12:
"Dear Mr. Clark: I saw your remarks in The Bee regarding the benefit of the people who think prohibition is not a success permit me to give the following facts:
In our city from May 1, 1916, to May 1, 1917, the last 12 months of saloons, open police department handled 5,000 drunks. This year from May 1, 1917, to February 1, 1918, nine months, our police department handled 35 drunks, and I have this to say, that men who were kept by the city last winter this winter are not on the charity list.
"Recently the Presbyterian church turned its 'poor' offering to the deficiency war fund because there were no poor."
FRED J. CLARK.

Cherry Chaff.
"When the bank was struggling in the teeth of the financial storm, that financier advocated the filling with gold."
"Must have started in life as a dentist."
—I want a pair of button shoes for my wife."
"Yeh, sah, sir. What kind do you wish, sir?"
"Doesn't matter. Just so they don't button in the back."—People's Home Journal.

Tender Memories.
"Shut that door!" yelled the rough man. "The door is raised, in a barn!" The man addressed meekly and silently complied, but the speaker, looking at him a moment later, observed that he was in tears. Going over to his victim he apologized. "You shouldn't take it to heart because I asked if you were raised in a barn."
"That's it, that's it," sobbed the other man. "I was raised in a barn and it makes me homesick every time I hear an ass Bray."—Boston Transcript.

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