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Good morning; did the ice man tell you that rates are going up?

Nebraska's taxes have doubled in the last 10 years, but no one will assert the people are getting twice as much in the way of service.

Mr. Bryan's explanation in Chicago was unnecessary. Everybody is willing to admit that he delivered his address whether it was heard or not.

Cuba refuses to let Mexico have any more sugar, thus showing Senor Carranza it costs something to congratulate the kaiser on having a birthday.

Public opinion may yet have some influence on settling acrimonious arguments over prices. The people are trying to be patient, but they will have the final word to say.

General March wants the pressure taken off the censorship a little, so the folks at home can get some more details of what is going on "over there." This might help a little and should clear up a lot of misunderstanding.

Having satisfied some of "the initial rush needs," Uncle Sam now finds time to look after a few of the fellows who have brought shame to his service by grafting and profiteering. It pays to deal squarely with uncle in regard to his army.

Statements of our shipping needs are becoming confused in masses of figures that call for expert elucidation. This does little good. What the public wants to know is that steps are being taken to supply the shortage in the quickest possible time.

Maybe the method Uncle Sam has adopted to overhaul the profiteer is not the right one, but surely some way will be found to bring these un-patriotic exploiters of the nation's needs to a reckoning. If it can not be done, the people might as well put up the shutters.

Switzerland has no navy, but that did not spare Helvetia from the U-boat terror. A ship- ment from Spain to haul the wheat allotted to the Swiss from America was sunk by one of the kaiser's pets, after immunity had been guaranteed by the all-highest. Wilhelm had better look up the fate of Charles the Bold before he arouses the mountaineers.

The co-belligerents practically have agreed that it is to be the destiny of Japan to preserve the war stores at Vladivostok and elsewhere in eastern Siberia. No other conclusion could have been so easily reached. Urgency of the situation requires immediate action and the Japanese are nearest to the scene and better prepared than either of the others to act effectively. Such a step will be seriously resented by the bolshevik and perhaps by other elements pretending to represent the Russian people, but the Entente Allies are not in position to temporize longer with the irresponsibles who have brought such ruin on their devoted country. Nowhere outside of the Teutonic allies has any official recognition been given the dominant faction in Russia and therefore the intervention proposed is well inside our rights as friends of the Russian people. It will amount to assistance to them, as well as protection for our own interests. When a stable government is again recognized in that country we can make whatever of explanations will be needed. If, as now seems probable, the Germans place a ruler on the throne of the czar the ultimate adjustment will be deferred to the general peace conference. These are all questions for the future. Immediate action to secure the supplies now in danger is of far greater importance than speculation as to what may happen when Russia again has a government.

Task Set for Japan

Examination of figures just at hand from the Department of Commerce show that the apprehension of the administration over the furnishing of food to Europe in January was justified. Records of exports of foodstuffs from this country show the shipments had fallen far below those of last year. The principal articles show exports for January as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1918, 1917. Includes Corn, Oats, Wheat, Flour, Beef, Bacon, Hams, Pork, Lard.

This is the nadir of exports of foodstuffs from America, the lowest point reported since the war started. For the seven months ending with January all these items show a falling off as compared with the period of a year before, except oats, flour and fresh beef. While much of this is due to the shipping situation and the blockade of our railroads, it is little wonder that our European allies began to doubt if America would be able to feed them as promised. The shipping situation has greatly improved and the food administrator hopes by the middle of the present month to have relieved the acute distress on the other side. The figures are eloquent reminders, however, of the great responsibility we have voluntarily assumed and the heavy pledge we are under to those on the other side.

A little social call from our Mexican neighbors was attended by some casualties that will materially reduce the vote for Villa in a few precincts in Chihuahua. The episodes will continue to add to the spice of life along the Rio Grande until we can find time to apply our moral suasion in a way the untutored peon can understand.

America's active participation in the war is primarily a problem of shipping. But this was known from the start, and if we are behind-hand in our shipping facilities it must be because of tardiness or inefficiency somewhere. Speed up!

Just 30 Years Ago Today

H. M. Funston, representing the Dewitt & Street fireworks manufacturing company at New York, spent several days in the city last week.

After a two weeks' successful engagement, Prof. Seymour, the mind

reader, leaves today to fill an engagement in Leavenworth.

Hon. J. H. McShane returned to Omaha after several weeks' absence in his congressional duties at the national capitol.

The Carleton Opera company gave a concert to a large audience at the Grand opera house. The program consisted of 16 numbers and introduced all the important vocalists of the organization.

A large number of striking engineers from different points on the Burlington road are in Omaha to meet their brethren on the Union Pacific and other roads entering in Omaha. The strikers are thoroughly confident of victory

Alfred I. Creigh, real estate man, born 1884.

Augustus F. Kountze of Kountze Brothers, bank, born 1870.

Ralph R. Rainey, banking teller of the United States National bank, born 1880.

Brand Whitlock born at Urbana, O., 49 years ago today.

Prof. John H. Wigmore, dean of Northwestern University, born 55 years ago.

Rev. Dr. Arthur C. McMillan, president of Union Theological Seminary, born 57 years ago.

Beard Admiral David W. Taylor born 54 years ago today.

This Day in History

1748—Count Casimir Pulaski, a famous Polish patriot, who fought for the American colonies in the Revolution, born in Podolia, Poland. Died on board United States brig, Wasp, near Savannah, October 11, 1779.

1871—Edwards Pierpont, attorney general in Grant's cabinet, born at North Haven, Conn. Died in New York City, March 6, 1892.

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Suppressing Sabotage.

President Wilson has taken another step in the right direction, one that has been too long delayed, and which will finally be of much help in carrying out the war program. He has directed the suppression of sabotage and similar forms of disorder. While the order he has sent forth is addressed to the immigration agents of the northwest, and is in anticipation of an incursion of bolsheviks from across the Pacific, it will apply equally to any part of the United States. "Direct action" socialists or anarchists—the terms are interchangeable—are a menace wherever they exist, and when they add their practices of sabotage, "striking on the job," and similar methods of carrying on class war to the pro-German propaganda that has become inextricably mixed with their procedure, public safety requires vigorous and even drastic treatment. Organized labor has no part with these outlaws; any sympathy that might be felt for the unfortunate "casual" laborer in his economic misfortune, can not be stretched to cover the outrageous conduct of the men who resort to the most cowardly and destructive mischief to vent their grudge against society. The chief objection to the president's policy will be found in the mildness of the punishment he proposes to visit upon these offenders. Imprisonment or deportation hold little terror for them. He may yet be forced to set aside his humane views, and permit a more rigorous procedure with these enemies, not of the United States alone, but of free government and democracy wherever it exists.

Future Trade With Germany.

Implied threats of a boycott against Germany if its government be not reformed constitute a part of the war propaganda now before the nation. Under the most favorable of circumstances it will be many years before German products are restored to favor in the countries now engaged in the war. This is well understood by Germans and is one of their inspirations to continue the war until victory comes through combat or negotiations. President Wilson's third plank in his 14 essentials for peace lays down free trade as imperative. To achieve this perfect understanding must exist; perfect understanding in a political sense is not so difficult to arrive at, when all parties are equally sincere, but to bring it about in a social or commercial way is quite another matter. Unless human nature be greatly altered by the conflict through which we are passing, the probability is strong that deep resentment will be harbored against the Germans for many years to come. But we are not trying to compel them to change their form of government. We have only told the world we do not and can not trust the present imperial government, and feel that no peace made with it can be secure. The rest is for the German people to decide; they may continue as they are, and remain suspected and distrusted, or they may reform and come into the circle of nations between which frank understanding and mutual confidence exists. But German industry and commerce will be long in reaching again the place held four years ago.

Nadir of the Food Crisis.

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Right to the Point

New York World: Britain begins food rationing, rather more fortunate than Germany in having the food to ration.

Washington Post: Another reason why the Hun will try to break through somewhere else is that it can't be done on the western front.

Springfield Union: Having opened the door to the Prussian rattle-snake and invited it into the house, the amazing Lenin now calls on the bolshevik rabbit to drive the reptile out.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Indiana men take to politics as naturally as they take to novel writing. That is why the republicans so easily found their national chairman there. In hoc signo vinces.

Baltimore American: With the fashion authorities decreeing that skirts shall be narrower and shorter in order to conserve materials, life still promises some interest for the slackers on the windy coast.

Chicago Herald: With the price of the white metal steadily increasing, our sympathy goes out to the poor coin men who have been putting over old silver mines on the unsuspecting investor.

Louisville Courier-Journal: They called Casr Nicholas a pro-German bolshevik, and not the Romanoff, opened the Dvinsk front to the Germans. Here we have an illustration of the pretended virtue of demagogues which reveals the underlying principles of all demagogues.

Why don't you let Dr. Sawbones operate on you? He is considered very expert.

"Yes, I believed in him firmly until I saw him lurch, but he'll never hold a candle to Charlie Chaplin, that's my guess."—New York letter to the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

"Marching round, were you? Why, you've got your boots off!" "Yes, sergeant, I took 'em off so that I wouldn't wake the horses!"—Chicago Herald.

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Church Growth in 1917

Membership Increase Less Than Five-Year Average

Dr. H. K. Carroll in Christian Herald.

The churches of the United States, under the extraordinary war conditions of 1917, were prosperous to an unusual degree in their finances, but less so than usual in additions to their memberships. The increase of church members was only 573,295, which is less than in 1916 by 183,392, and less than the average of the past five years. Fluctuations in membership statistics are common, even in ordinary years, and a year of large increase may be followed by a year of small increase, and vice versa. A few denominations may have prospered more than usual under the prevalent war conditions; but churches with a large element of foreign-speaking population have had a lean year. The Hungarian Reformed church reports a loss of one-fourth of its entire membership, and the Roman Catholic church, embracing large bodies of European population, has had an increase, according to the estimate of the editor of the "Official Catholic Directory," of only about 175,000 population, equivalent to about 148,750 communicants, as against the increase of 1916, a falling off of 241,000. In the 16 bodies, however, that make the gains as in former years, the Roman Catholic church, with 14,618,000 communicants, added 148,750; the Methodist Episcopal church, with 3,887,000, gained 144,000, its largest increase in this century except one. The Disciples of Christ, with 1,237,000, advanced by 59,000; the Northern Presbyterian church, with 1,581,443, gained 38,416; the Baptists, Northern, Southern and Colored, with 6,106,604, gained nearly 77,000, and other denominations had smaller increases. The Church of Christ, Scientist, declines to give statistics of members. It had in 1906, 85,096.

The aggregate of church members for the 167 denominations is 40,515,126. This huge total is made up chiefly of the great denominational groups, as Baptists (15 bodies), 6,442,393; Presbyterians (18 bodies), 14,666,342; Lutherans (18 bodies), 2,460,937; Methodists (16 bodies), 7,782,018; Presbyterians (11 bodies), 2,225,879; Disciples of Christ (two bodies), 1,396,466; Protestant Episcopal (two bodies), 1,083,366; Reformed (four bodies), 514,061; Eastern Orthodox (7 bodies), 490,500; Mennonites (12 bodies), 66,542; Friends (four bodies), 119,263; Dunkards (four bodies), 128,363; United Brethren (two bodies), 367,959; Adventists (six bodies), 117,569; Evangelical Association (two bodies), 209,483; Scandinavian Evangelical (three bodies), 62,900; Latter Day Saints (two bodies), 420,000.

There are 181,808 ministers, an increase of 1,244, and 226,609 churches, an increase of 1,006.

Among the developments of the year is a union of three or four Norwegian Lutheran bodies and an agreement to merge three of the four large general bodies of Lutherans, the General Synod, the General Council and the United Synod South. If the plan is ratified, the united body will have about a million communicants.

Plans for the reunion of the Methodist Episcopal and Southern Methodist Episcopal churches have made progress. The united body would have over 6,000,000 communicants. The Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches are also considering whether they cannot consolidate.

The financial resources of the churches, heavily taxed by contributions to the Red Cross, the Young Men's Christian association, the Young Women's Christian association, the Knights of Columbus and similar organizations for the care of soldiers and sailors of our own and allied countries and for the relief of war devastated populations, have not failed to support generously their own church and benevolent work. Besides the United States, the churches through general and denominational channels for war purposes, the leading churches show large increases in the amounts contributed for missions, home and foreign and other denominational enterprises. The Presbyterian church (Northern) gave four and a quarter millions to its missions, an increase of half a million, and for all denominational purposes 31 millions, a net increase of over three millions. The Methodist Episcopal church gave five and a half millions to its missions, an increase of a quarter of a million, besides special contributions of many millions to educational endowment and ministerial pension funds. It plans to raise for its missions 15 millions a year for the next five years. The Protestant Episcopal church finished its ministerial pension fund at the end of February, last, for which it raised nearly eight and three-quarter millions, three and three-quarter millions beyond the goal it had set. Its total contributions for other denominational purposes reached the sum of 25 1-2 millions, an increase of \$1,400,000.

Altogether it has been a great year for the churches, which show a strong tendency to increase of co-operation and federation, finding, despite differences in creed and church government, much common ground for harmonious work in caring for the nation's armed forces and in assisting our government in furthering the purposes of the war in every way possible. Weak, struggling churches in small communities, even when of different denominations, agree to bridge their differences and come together to save their resources, increase their efficiency and give better service.

Junkerkdom Exults Over Spoils

Present and Future Effects of Russian Catastrophe

New York Evening Post.

The Russian smash-up has its lamentable aspects both for Russia and the allies, but its reactions in Germany are fully as deplorable. It has not only changed the entire outlook of the war. It has radically altered the attitude of the German government and the German people, and has thrown a dark cloud over the prospects of political reform within the German empire. Not without connection is the new swooping of the German army upon divided and prostrate Russia and the virtual killing in the Prussian Diet of the promised equal-franchise bill. What need to keep the pledge of electoral reform running strongly in favor of Germany, and masses of booty, with glittering visions of vast acquisitions of territory, are held up alluringly before greedy eyes? The Junkers vault again into the saddle. At their great meeting in Berlin, their joy, their arrogance, their contempt for the democratic movement in Germany found unbounded expression. They feel that they have come back into their autocratic own. The army and the Junkerkthum are the be-all and the end-all of Germany. The Reichstag resolution of last July urging peace without annexations and indemnities? That was only "a vile resolution," with which "the army was stabbed in the back." Nor is it only the exultant Agrarian league which now scoffs at the idea of weak-kneed diplomatic negotiations for peace. In the very Reichstag, Count Westarp, the conservative leader, boasted that "the good German sword is again at work."

The plain fact is that the blood of conquest is once more up in Germany. The success in Italy, the break-up of Russia, with the possibilities of bringing thousands of square miles of territory, once belonging to the dreaded Colossus of the north, under German control and making it subject to German exploitation, have caused the depression and apprehension of last summer to give way to high hopes of a triumphant march towards the east beyond the previous wildest German dreams. As for the danger of a political upheaval at home, and the need of placating the social democrats, the Junkers evidently feel that they can snap their fingers at such things, provided they can bring home plunder enough. Conscience will be put to sleep by booty. Militarism will need no other defense and security than to be able to say to the taxpaying classes and the workmen: "You see, now, that what we always told you is true. The army is the chief instrument for making Germany great and rich. War is the most prosperous of all German industries."

It is best to face the facts without dodging or blenching. It is now obvious that the swarming of German troops into helpless Russia means the prolongation of the war. If peace were to be proposed to the German government on the basis of the status quo, the German government, in its present temper, would scornfully reject it. We may as well admit that the terms of peace laid down by Lloyd George and President Wilson have today no chance of acceptance by Germany. Austria, under severe economic

pressure, and with political and racial discontent rampant, might be more complaisant, but nothing reasonable is now to be expected of the triumphant Junkers. If they were to talk again of the rights of weak nations and "self-determination," it would be only with a laugh to each other, and with the firm determination to make of all such plans the same lying pretence that was made of the first negotiations at Brest-Litovsk. With huge robberies well at hand, they will have no thoughts of disgorging any part unless compelled to do so.

So long as the German government is controlled by these cold-blooded and calculating believers in "the good German sword," there is nothing for the allies and the United States to do but to gather all their strength for a test of endurance. They must make it plain to Germany that, as President Wilson said, she is living, with all her ideas of carving up nations and acquiring property by the sword, in a world that is dead and gone. Her treaties, exacted by force, will not be recognized. Her right to a place among civilized nations will be denied. Commercial and intellectual intercourse with her will no more be thought of than it would be with any other set of outlaws. It may be true that the Junkers have now mounted into German's saddle, but the rest of the world must buckle down to the work of proving to them that they are riding towards moral isolation, into universal distrust and hatred, and towards a final destruction for which the very stars in their courses will fight.

People and Events

Reports of marked speeding up in transportation down east appear well founded. A trunk arrived in Hackensack, N. J., which left St. Louis in 1903.

The Tulsa Daily World, "Oklahoma's greatest newspaper," justifies the subtitle by putting out a boom edition of 228 pages. The bundle approaches a national record, but is not so much in a state where plain Indians buy bales of Liberty bonds and give the merry hoot to the tax gatherer.

Chicago voters joyfully jumped at the first chance to express their opinion of Mayor Thompson and his political machine. At the aldermanic primaries last Tuesday Big Bill's favorites were swamped in all but one ward. The result foreshadows what is in store for Thompson's senatorial boom.

One of Europe's prophetesses, who is said to have forecasted the world war, now predicts the finish on June 15, 1918. This is more precise than Charley Grasty's summary of sentiment in Paris: "Many observers here think there will be a decision in 1918." Should either guess come true, much will be forgiven the guessers.

Round about old and new London are many money-changing institutions known as "Paw's Bank." The founder, long since departed, lived 152 years. One of his descendants, a niece, recently passed away at the age of 101. The record notes an exception to the notion that longevity and the "root of evil" are not on speaking terms.

Thoughtful Sentry. The young private had been posted as sentry on B squadron stables. But when the sergeant of the squad came round on his visit, he was nowhere to be seen. The sergeant was about to depart to make inquiries when there came a rustling noise from a heap of straw, and the sentry stood before him, minus his boots and looking very sleepy.

"Hullo!" cried the sergeant. "Where were you when I came round just now?" "Marching round," was the sentry's reply, given in tones of conscious virtue.

"Marching round, were you? Why, you've got your boots off!" "Yes, sergeant, I took 'em off so that I wouldn't wake the horses!"—Chicago Herald.

Pride Wins a Fall. Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, strolling along Fifth avenue the other day, was recognized by an observing school boy as he came out for her lunch.

"Look, Mame," the girl said, as she nudged her companion, "there goes Forbes-Robertson, the great actor. They say he's gone into the movies." The girl dressed as Mame manifested her chewing gum unmercifully as she surveyed the dignified face and figure of the actor.

"Well," she announced critically, "I wish him luck, but he'll never hold a candle to Charlie Chaplin, that's my guess."—New York letter to the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Conscript Food. Omaha, March 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: The rulers of this country did not hesitate in conscripting our flesh and blood. Why not conscript our food also? I am willing to be put on rations.

This whole scheme of voluntary food conservation is as futile as trying to raise an army of volunteers to cross the water to fight in foreign countries. Conscriptation is the only course. This "block vigilance" business is nothing but a grand chance for idle women to spy and tattle on their neighbors and intrude in private homes. PATRIOT.

Open Front Poultry Houses. Omaha, Feb. 28.—To Editor of The Bee: I think it would be well to say a few words in answer to some of our poultry critics. Some of them seem to think we are inhuman in advocating the open front or curtain front houses. Let me call the attention to the fact that nearly all the most successful poultry farms and experiment stations use them now. If they were not a success they would soon be discarded. The Bee is doing a great work this year in the poultry department. What has been needed was for some live daily to take up this subject and bring it before the people. In connection with this, let me call your attention to the Junior Poultry club which C. M. Petersen of Petersen Mill company, is organizing to encourage the raising of poultry by our boys and girls. It is a grand idea and should be given the heartiest support. Let me assure the young folks that they will enjoy the work, for they will be producing something for themselves and helping Uncle Sam at the same time. If they like pets, they will find that Biddy is about as interesting as can be found. I hope to see a large number of boys and girls enrolled in both the poultry and garden clubs this year.

It will teach them the lesson that far greater pleasure is gained from being a producer than from non-productive programs. S. E. MUNSON.

Peter and Paul. Omaha, Feb. 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: The Bee recently devotes praise for its good editorials as a clean family paper. A certain article appeared in The Bee recently in which was mentioned that St. Peter was the first pope of the Roman Catholic church. The word, "pope," is not mentioned in the Bible.

"Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church," Christ said this to Peter at Jerusalem, not at Rome. This was the origin of the Christian church. Peter preceded Paul to Rome. They both preached the gospel and established churches on their journey to Rome.

Rome no doubt was not to be their stopping place, as they would have kept on going had not the Romans killed them. The services they conducted were just simple song service, prayer, preaching and healing—no "red tape," but genuine service. "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven,"

Since Jesus did not name Peter's successors, the Protestants claim that all ordained ministers who practice and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ possess the keys. This keeps the church more democratic in character. The Bible says, "God is no respecter of persons." Some of the greatest achievements in history have been wrought through the inspiration of laymen. Peter was an apostle and minister of the church. Some historians claim there is no absolute proof that Peter ever went to Rome. I will not dispute it myself.

WILLIAM E. BROWN.

Why the Sabbath? Omaha, March 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: A correspondent signing himself "A Bible Student," appears in The Bee, discussing the Sabbath day. This is one of the old issues, but a little reminder to the people who have never given the matter any consideration will not be out of place. There are many young people who have not thought of it.

You are aware that most people keep the first day of the week, Sunday, as the Sabbath. But there are a great number of people who keep the seventh day, Saturday, as the Sabbath. The basis of the whole controversy is the Sabbath day.

The Jewish Sabbath always