

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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It is all right, Mr. Hoover; most of us will cheerfully obey any rule you make.

"Jim's" compliments to the "Jacks," and he knows a nice warm place where they can go.

The March lamb is what Bret Hart called a "cute little cuss," but do not trust him too far.

It is better to be born lucky than have a heavy head of hair, if you are going to mingle in Omaha politics.

Sammy lives like troglodytes along the "Road of the Ladies," but the Germans agree they fight like modern machines.

What material difference is there between a "jazz" band and some other means adopted to secure attendance at church?

The colonel's left ear has gone to join his right eye, but his voice and his hands are still on the job, and he feels bully.

La Follette's friends are making a desperate fight to prove that Wisconsin is disloyal, and happily with little hope of winning.

Privilege to cultivate the right-of-way is offered the farmers by the Nebraska railroads. Trouble is not here, but in need of men to properly care for the land available.

Trotsky has had his vengeance on Russian capital, but how he has helped the proletariat by establishing the rule of the kaiser over the bolshevik will be hard to understand.

If the kaiser expects to restore Palestine to the sultan he will have to hurry, for General Allenby has very nearly made his occupation of the Holy Land a fact accomplished.

A bigger balloon school does not necessarily mean bigger balloons, but more of them. Omaha is doing well by this great adjunct of our new army and Washington evidently understands this.

Not much sympathy will go out to the New York food speculators who got caught when egg prices tumbled. They had their warning long ago, but insisted on monkeying with the buzz saw.

The household purveyor must be both vigilant and versatile to keep up with the food regulations these days. It would help a little if Mr. Hoover would let us get accustomed to doing something before changing his instructions.

Rule That Works One Way.

An informal but quite reasonable rule has just been laid down by the collector of internal revenue, relative to poker gains and losses. In connection with the great American pastime custom has assessed the winner for whatever toll was taken by the "kitty." This practice is supported by the inexorable logic that the loser can not pay, as the contribution comes out of the "pot," in which the winner alone has concern, except as the other fellow may care to nurse reminiscent thoughts of what might have been, and ruefully compare his experience with his judgment. According to the revenue department, the law of the "kitty," if it may be so called, is to be extended and given a wider application. Poker winnings are to be assessed as income and made subject to all the surtaxes and excess profit taxes known to the law, but without the comfortable counter-voicing permission to the unlucky loser to deduct his losses from his taxable income. Thus Uncle Sam takes cognizance alone of the winner's gains, and denies to the loser even the questionable consolation of knowing that he is not to be charged for what he had but has no longer.

Speculators in the devious and uncertain ways of the jackpot will find interest enhanced by the fact that the tax collector is waiting for the winner, and without sympathy for his victim.

Today

One Year Ago Today in the War.

President Wilson in inaugural address took stand in favor of armed neutrality.

Swedish cabinet resigned, following refusal of parliament to grant appropriation of \$20,000,000 for preservation of neutrality.

St. Valentine's Day We Celebrate.

George H. Lee of the George H. Lee Manufacturing company, born 1866.

Thomas W. Blackburn, attorney at law, born 1855.

Joseph D. Letch, brigadier general, was born in Michigan 54 years ago today.

William F. Durand, head of the special committee of the United States National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, born at Bethany, Conn., 59 years ago today.

This Day in History.

1770—Boston massacre, in which five were shed the first blood in the revolt of the American colonies.

1815—Paris received a semaphore dispatch giving the news of Napoleon's return from Elba.

1842—Ericsson's Monitor was completed and delivered to the government for trial.

1848—United States senate convened as a court of impeachment for trial of President Johnson.

Germany's Heavy Hand on Russia.

Actual contents of the peace agreement between Germany and the bolsheviks, just concluded at Brest-Litovsk, will not be known until the documents are given out for publication by the contracting parties, but unconfirmed reports indicate the kaiser has driven a hard bargain with his helpless victim. Occupation of Estonia, Livonia, Courland and other Russian territory by the Germans is assured, in addition to the assessment of \$4,000,000,000 in gold as indemnity. To this is now added the condition that all Russian troops must be withdrawn from Turkish territory occupied since the beginning of the present war, and restoration to Turkey of provinces seized by Russia in former wars. Here is a new light on German purposes. The kaiser makes no bones about turning over to his unspeakable ally the people rescued from Moslem domination in days gone by, but raises a voice of righteous protest when any talk is heard of restoring Alsace and Lorraine to the French. In this, however, he is consistent; any advantage to the Turk extends the influence of a German vassal. What is to be determined is whether the Russian troops occupying Turkish territory will obey orders from the Petrograd council, and deliver Armenia and other provinces over to the Turkish butchers. Aside from this, though, the comparison between Germany's pretensions and performances ought to convince any who care to consider the facts what may be expected in event of German victory.

Not a Time for Temporizing.

President Wilson is understood to be hesitant in regard to the intervention of Japan in Siberia because of his regard for the feelings of the Russians. This devotion to ideals has marked the course of the president from the beginning, but it is questionable, to say the least, if American interests at this time do not transcend sentimental obligations to a people that has ceased to defend itself. Germany is in ascendancy in Russia, and soon will be in control. Millions of tons of war supplies of all kinds have already fallen into the hands of the German conquerors, and other millions are threatened to go the same way unless steps to preserve them are promptly taken. This is the main element of the problem. Against it may be set the technical violation of the integrity of the territory of a friendly nation. Consideration here must be given to the collateral fact that Russia for the present has no government, that is none to which official recognition has been given by the United States or its associates. In the beginning our president recognized the provisional government of Russia set up by Milukoff and Lvoff, and continued this through the Kerensky regime. When Lenin and Trotsky overturned all semblance to order and loosed the reign of anarchy, it left no one with whom we could deal. Tentative recognition of the bolshevik by a military attache was repudiated by Washington. There the matter stands. Germany has recognized the bolshevik as representing Russia.

To halt now, when the danger is imminent, and debate over Japan's intentions, is to imperil the final settlement of the war. To permit the stores at Vladivostok to fall into German hands might convince the bolshevik of our disinterestedness, but now they have little more than an academic interest in our attitude. Their appeal is to the proletariat, and not to the government. On the other hand, prompt action may check German aggression and preserve something of Russia for those who oppose bolshevism and kaiserism alike. No loss to the cause of democracy is possible through a course that removes a menace to its safety.

Compensation to the Railroads.

Legislation regarding government control of the railroads has reached a point that makes fairly certain the rate of compensation to be allowed the stockholders while the lines are under government control. The three-year average has been accepted by the conference committee, and this will undoubtedly stand. On this basis the owners of the lines are assured of reasonable return, because the period covered takes in two years of greatest activity known to railroad experience in America, when earnings reached unprecedented heights. It must not be understood, though, that the bargain is to be entirely lopsided, for the government is saved through the application of other features of the contract. It makes no allowance to the companies for moneys expended in improvements during the last few months of private ownership; it will look after the upkeep of the lines, but will make a charge for permanent improvement, and further, through the application of economies that were impossible to competing lines, will achieve net earnings the real owners knew not of. This surplus goes to the government, and out of it will be paid expenditures for temporary repairs and extensions needed to keep the lines in good going condition. On the surface, the bargain looks like a good one for both sides; certainly the shareholders suffer but little.

Berlin says the shock troops penetrated the American lines to a depth of over 500 yards, while the American general in command says the kaiser's men did not set a foot in the Yankee trenches. One guess as to which statement is correct.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

Dr. Hoffman has returned from a several week's trip to the south.

Ticket Agent Woods is sick and travelers over the Union Pacific miss his genial face at the window. B. F. Weirs is officiating in the meantime.

Twenty-five old army men met in City Clerk Wells' office and resolved to form a grand army post. Enough money was produced to pay for a charter and comrades Joyles, Theodore Elliott, J. B. Erion, J. A. McMurphy and J. W. Cross were appointed as a committee to settle on the time and place of the regular post meetings.

Commissioner Griffith of the freight bureau of Omaha board of trade has been notified that the Interstate Railway commission will arrive in Omaha on the nineteenth instant to hear arguments in the discrimination cases against the railroads.

George Stebbins and bride have returned from their honeymoon.

A Different Class.

The Filrt—For an army officer you are not very venturesome.

Shy Sutor—I belong to the reserves.

Everyday Life in Berlin

A Woman's Impressions of the Stress of War

London Times.

The Berlin women have grown slender and the scanty diet of the war, and the question "How much do you weigh now?" or "How much have you lost, since I saw you last?" is often asked as the quite ordinary "How do you do?" People who still look rosy and well nourished are frequently to be pitied, for they are easily looked at somewhat askance, with the arriere pensee: "Their larder must be well filled," and the street tramps make fun of them, exclaiming, "Look, there goes another Hamster!—an untranslatable expression meaning "Auntie who get foods on the sly"—or similar amabilities.

People are not always content with the universal distribution, and the Zentral Einkaufs Gesellschaft (Central Purchasing company) and the municipal authorities are frequently roundly abused. In recent years the people have gradually accustomed themselves to privation, so that the complaints of the smaller quantities of provisions are not excessive. "We shan't starve in any case," is a simply comforting assurance to the people endeavoring to overcome everything. What they most regret is, not to be able, when their dear ones come home on leave from the front, to coddle and pet them as much as they could wish, and as much food as possible is always set aside for these visits. I have generally heard that south Germany has more provisions, especially dairy products, than north Germany, particularly Berlin and the west industrial region.

Yet with money you are able to buy many a backdoor, and occasionally to buy a pound of butter for 20 marks (41), or get a bit more sugar, rice, or similar delicacies. Any price asked is paid, in order to get extra food from a secret source of supply without a food card. Every opening naturally exists for food usury, and people have often complained to me that a secret male or female dealer has accepted a large sum of money from them without ever delivering the treasures promised in return. The purchaser, however, is unable to prosecute the dealer, as he himself has made an attempt to obtain by roundabout methods more than he is entitled to, and rendered himself liable to punishment.

On the whole money does not play a great part. There are large earnings, especially by the working classes, and, indeed, mainly by the women. Workmen who do not belong to the army, and are capable of work, are naturally much sought after, and these are mainly employed in large concerns. The proprietress of the boarding house where I lived told me that she was only able with the very greatest difficulty to get a mechanic into the house to do the most indispensable repairs. Thus, for three weeks the bath could not be used because the tap required a small repair.

The lack of female domestic servants is also extraordinarily great. These girls have now opened up to them so many opportunities of employment at large salaries and in circumstances of freedom that only a relatively small number are still willing to remain in domestic service. In spite of the hard work, most of them prefer the munition factories, as there they receive very high pay, and are fed at the central kitchen. Most housewives have now to do their own work, since they are not able to pay the wages, which have increased threefold, for domestic help. Moreover, not every housewife can comply with the demands of her servant; for, before the latter accepts service, she asks the question, "Have you supplies, ma'am, or do you live from what you get on the cards?" If the latter is the case, she rejects the place with great indignation.

Pope Gregory's Latest Triumph

It has taken Russia since 1582 to adopt the Gregorian calendar, that monument to papal enterprise and the genius of Clavius which so closely approximates the civil year to the natural year that there will not be a day's difference between them in 3,000 years. The bolshevik did the act, advancing their calendar by 13 days. It is perhaps best for us not to speak unkindly about their laggard recognition of Gregory XIII's improvement in time measurement, for it was not until 1751 that our English forebears allowed their common sense to overcome their sectarian prejudices and abandoned the "old style." George Washington was born under the ancient Julian reckoning, February 11, 1732; the date of the English Parliament by which the change was made transformed the day after September 2, 1752, into September 14.

Probably the revolution in Russia would have done something to the calendar, no matter what system had been in force. Such is the habit of revolutions that overthrow social orders. The French revolution evolved a calendar based on philosophical principles. It had 12 months of 30 days each, the new era dating from the minute of the autumnal equinox, September 22, 1792, which was the day from which the existence of the republic was reckoned, although the republic was formally proclaimed on September 21. A philosopher does not scorn a legal fiction. The French revolutionists introduced five festival days—Sansculottides—at the end of each year to let the sun catch up with them, and an additional jour de la revolution every fourth year to correct the error not taken care of by these. This calendar endured until Napoleon Bonaparte restored the Gregorian system, January 1, 1806.

Meanwhile, the Mohammedans use a lunar year of 354 days, of 12 months, which is ten days less than the solar year. No attempt is made to regulate the calendar to the solar year, and New Year's day may fall in any season; there is no correspondence between months and seasons. This is much opposed to our more orderly way, yet the followers of the prophet do not seem to be downcast over this. They will probably be brought into line some day, however, for the Gregorian calendar is sensible, simple and easy for everybody to understand.—New York Sun.

Right to the Point

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is said a sucker is born every minute, but it should be added that speaking generally he is born in Russia.

Washington Post: We suppose the wealthy New York wool dealer who has just been interned will register a kick if his new uniform contains any sheep.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: It is not likely that Sir Rabindranath Tagore was in any plot. He was merely using one privileged article of his poetic license to cuss the government.

Baltimore American: We boast the highest civilization in this age of high civilization, but the nation yet contains people who blow out the gas, look for leaks with a naked light and believe in love powders.

Minneapolis Tribune: The correspondents with General Allenby's army are sending out some mighty interesting stories about Jericho, but Joshua still holds the record as best public belly dancer of his era.

New York World: If Russia is a land flowing with milk and honey on which the Germans are to fatten, the Russians themselves have been sinning regularly backward in profligately their own opportunities in the face of a general famine.

New York World: Without belittling in any way the kaiser's pious look for leaks with a naked light, his attention to the arrival of a British army on the hills overlooking the River Jordan. It used to be said that that was a hard one, but General Allenby is traveling it.

Go the Limit.

Jones occupied an office in common with Smith. On afternoon Jones was writing a letter when he paused and became very thoughtful.

"Say, Jim," he finally remarked, glancing across at the other, "how do you spell 'grahpic,' with one 'r' or two?"

"Well, responded Jim, who didn't want to hurt Jones' feelings, "if you are going to use any, Sam, I guess you might as well use the limit."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

The Bee's Letter Box

Mr. Agnew Makes Rejoinder.

Occasionally I run into a mutt like Wayne as I expect to, but the great majority of those who read The Bee tell me they are greatly pleased with my article and tell me they hope I will keep on doing it. Sometimes someone writes to your publication and says I am level headed on most things, but on this or that thing I am not so level headed. So when I run into someone who does not like what I write, I simply compare the criticisms with the commendations and find that the criticisms amount to about a grease spot as compared with a hog-head.

To tell my own story, I will tell Mr. Wayne that an intelligent working man was in my office a few days ago and said he did not know there was a man in old South Omaha smart enough to write for the papers what I do.

So I feel very comfortable, whether Wayne likes what I write or not.

Jerry on the Job.

Omaha, March 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your editorial in today's issue headed, "Scope of the Special Legislative Session," states that the constitution says that "the legislature shall enter upon no business except that for which they were called together." I wish to suggest to the governor through the columns of your widely read paper that his excellency mention in his extra session proclamation the passage of a minimum wage bill. At the dictation of the packmen and the merchant princes the minimum or living wage bill was killed in the senate at the last session. Likewise it was put upon the calendar on record as to whether it was the mothers of the American race fed.

"Organized" Labor in Politics.

Omaha, March 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: Now that "organized labor" of Omaha has been induced by certain labor politicians to put a ticket into the field for the spring municipal campaign, I would like to repeat the warning for Omaha that "labor" that a Cedar Rapids labor party extended to Sioux City after taking similar action, and also to call attention to the fact that both Johnny Lynch and Al Kugel (and I mention many before them) were touted as organized labor candidates, and their election never proved one iota of benefit to organized labor.

The item from the Cedar Rapids labor paper reads: "The Sioux City Trades assembly is listening to some bad advice. That body has decided to enter the city campaign with a complete ticket—which will spell certain defeat for those who enter the race. Just why the Sioux City union men and women should imagine that any element is entitled to all the municipal offices we cannot understand. But that feature aside, we will predict that trouble is in store for our friends in Woodbury county. Jealousies and turmoil will bring about discord and strife in the labor movement of that city that will take years to overcome—and with no real objective in sight as a reward except that a few union men may hold office without being of greater service to labor than others who are fair, friendly and unbiassed as either 'labor' or 'capitalist.' Cedar Rapids unionists can truthfully prove this contention—while Des Moines is a good example of how politics can wreck a live labor movement through discordant things that follow in the wake of active participation such as Sioux City would attempt. We might also point to Marshalltown for the individual examples of what city politics does to those who would run as 'labor' candidates—and how 'bad they get in' with those whom they aspire to serve." UNIONIST.

SMILING LINES.

Node—How much does it cost you to live—if that is in question.

Tom—My dear fellow, if I knew it would worry me so that I wouldn't be able to make half as much as I do now.—Judge.

Mrs. Exe—We must have the Bigby's to dinner. We owe them one.

Exe—That's so. We passed an awful evening there and it's nothing more than right that they should pass one here.—Boston Transcript.

"My grandfather saved the day at Lundy's Lane."

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Washington, D. C.

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THE SAILOR MAN.

(From Life.)

I like the look of khaki and the cut of army wear. And the men of mottled sporting it at home and over there; But there's something at the heart-strings that tautens when I meet A blue-clad sailor man drift on shore—leave from the fleet.

From flapping tops his sea-legs win some tinge of old romance That's proper to the keeper of the paths That lead to lead to France; For what were all the soldiers worth that ever tossed a gun Without the ships and sailor men to pit them 'gainst the Hun?

There's sunlight now and steady ground beneath the sailor's tread, And every pleasure beckons him, and every snare is spread— Speed 'till this visitor, whose home 'twixt heaving docks is set, Whose playmates are the darkness, and the bitter cold and wet!

His comrades these; his foe is ours, the foe of law and right, The stealthy, murderous "fish" that prowls and kills by night; And none may sink him where he swims, floating clear of age-built plan, None but the guardian of us all, the rolling sailor man.

His hands are often cruel cold; his heart is oftener warm, For in its depths he knows 'tis he that shields the nation from harm; Because I know it, too, my heart beats warmer when I meet A blue-clad sailor man drift on shore—leave from the fleet.

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