

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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What a lovely little playmate the March lion can be!

Save wheat—it is an imperative demand, for unless we do it we will not win the war.

"Pa" Rourke's press agent is busy, which is the most reliable sign of spring yet observed.

The great commoner says if Omaha can be made dry and kept dry, any place can. Complimentary, to say the least.

La Follette staked his all in Wisconsin, and lost. Thunders of the ballot are more potent even than "thunders of silence."

Milwaukee's bolshevik stood true to their indicted leader, but this will not deter the United States courts in enforcing the law.

The only two fee-grabbers left are in the district clerk's office in the court house and in the health commissioner's office in the city hall.

"Carless" Sunday was about as successful in Omaha as "meatless" Tuesday was at the start. However, sticking to it brought results in regard to meat conservation.

Vacant chairs in the legislature will remind the members who assemble of the broken circle in millions of American homes. This should be an inspiration to patriotism for the lawmakers.

Fifteen ships launched in February, a total of 114,100 tons, is to be increased to 23 in March with a total of 188,275 tons. This is just the start of the work, too, but it means something in winning the war.

The city authorities have decided to defer the construction of a new city jail because it would cost more than the funds in hand. The thought of deferring the purchase of all those auto fire trucks for which the makers are demanding fancy prices evidently never entered their minds.

It is fair to assume that the eagerness of "Fee-grabber Bob" Smith to test that new law forbidding the clerk of the district court from continuing to pocket naturalization fees does not extend to a test by indictment for embezzlement or by ouster proceedings, both of which he is inviting by holding out money which belongs in the county treasury.

How Well Do You Know Omaha?
This is not a puzzle nor the offer of a reward for information. It is just a question for each citizen to ask himself. How well do you know the city in which you live and where all your interests, material and otherwise, lie? When a stranger accosts you on the street, desiring to be directed to some particular place, can you answer him promptly, or do you have to hesitate and finally give him uncertain instructions? Do you know anything about the city that lies outside the route you pursue each day between home and office or the boulevards you drive your machine over? When the conversation turns on some other city you can tell where the points of interest are in Chicago or New York, in Washington or San Francisco, and not a few of you know exactly where the damage was done when a bomb is dropped in Paris or London, but can you say the same about Omaha? The Bee can tell you that Omaha has a lot of out-of-the-way places that hold interest for one or another of many reasons. It has spots of great beauty, regions where industry hums and roars all day long and all the varied life interest of a great community. If you do not know all these places as well as you know your way about in other places where you have visited it will pay you to devote some of the glorious weather of the new-born season to exploring Omaha.

LOYALTY WINS IN WISCONSIN.

Loyalty wins in Wisconsin and the victory of Lenroot, running on a "loyalty" platform, over his La Follette opponent for the republican nomination for United States senator, must be gratifying to patriotic Americans everywhere. According to the latest available returns, Lenroot's majority is substantial and safe, although not as signal as might be wished. We must not, however, overlook conditions in Wisconsin—both the democratic aspirants having been members of the Wilson administration—which permitted all the disaffected elements to center their force in the republican primary in hope of beating Lenroot and parading their achievement as the sentiment of Wisconsin.

After withstanding almost singlehanded the brunt of this battle for loyalty, Mr. Lenroot ought to have the hearty support of loyal citizens regardless of political affiliations and regardless also of the fact that his democratic competitor is likewise committed to a program for vigorous prosecution of the war because his election would drive the lesson in deeper and hearten patriotic people more wherever a similar contest may have to be fought. In a word, Wisconsin has done well in nominating Lenroot, but it will do still better by electing him senator.

The Question of Bonuses.

Following Mr. Heney through the published accounts of his proceedings in the investigation of the meat packing industry, it is easy to understand what he is driving at in most of his inquiries. He is plainly seeking to establish that a forbidden combination of interests exists among the packers by which producers and consumers have suffered or been made victims. His probable purpose, however, in recording the various inducements, by which the packers were brought to establish and maintain packing plants at Omaha and other points opens up a different question.

Going back to 1884 and 1886, Mr. Heney has discovered that bonuses or subsidies were paid or given by the Omaha stock yards to the Fowlers, to Lipton, to Hammond and to others, as inducements to engage in slaughtering and packing meat here. This information has been notorious, as has the knowledge that other concerns were similarly dealt with. Unless the practice had been followed, it is likely no great packing industry would now exist at Omaha.

Does Mr. Heney intend that giving bonuses or subsidies by communities shall be abandoned? It is a custom venerable and almost universal. Just now the United States government is offering such inducements to industry, of all kinds, the state of Nebraska has indulged in the practice, and the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, representing the commerce and industry of the city, has for one of its objects the assistance of new industries or firms coming here, and even offers inducements to established business to transfer from other communities to this. Mr. Heney hardly can mean that a community is not to concern itself to its own advantage; if he does, he should make it plain. It is quite possible, though, that much opposition, passive if not active, will be encountered by any effort to uproot and extirpate the practice of giving bonuses to institutions that in time will return great good in the way of material gain to the community in which they are established.

German Morale Back to the Lines.

What effect will the subjugation of Russia have on the people of Germany? Consideration of this question must engage some attention, for it touches the main problem of the war very closely. The morale of the German army has been well sustained through much adversity, while the people have kept well behind their fighting forces in point of optimistic endurance. Some signs of a weakening of the national fiber have been noted of late, one of them being the more persistent clamor of the press against the policy of the government. This may be accounted for on one of two hypotheses. Either the German high command feels secure against any likelihood of upheaval, and therefore permits the uproar as a sort of safety-valve operation, or it is uncertain as to its position and waits for the issue while the masses vent displeasure at the government's course, content to let words flow but ready to act if something more dangerous threatens. Another sign of disintegration is the reported increase of crime in all parts of the empire. Especially noticeable has been operation of bands of thieves, who boldly plunder trains, shops, dwellings, even government offices. Police are unable to cope with the wave, while the military makes no effort to interfere. All of this may be changed by the promise of supplies from Russia and the hope of a victory in the west. Unless one or both of these can be given, the condition of Germany is not greatly benefited through the Russian tragedy.

Postmaster Fanning asks Omaha business men to help overcome the rush at the postoffice by mailing their letters in smaller batches. It might not hurt much if the postmaster general were to take cognizance of conditions here, and allow the Omaha office a little bigger force.

Nebraska boys at Funston are off for France. That is all the censor will let us know just now, but we do know that wherever they are they will make good.

The Law of the Air

By Harry O. Palmer of the Omaha Bar.

[The following article is based upon Mr. Palmer's studies commenced in 1911, when he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. To be published in three parts.]

Part III.—Conclusion.

There is no such thing known to the common law as ownership of the clouds that hover over the land, or the rain that drops from the heavens, or of the water that gathers upon the surface of the earth, or that seen beneath the surface there collected in pockets or flowing in subterranean channels. Blackstone said that one could only own a limited usufructuary property therein whereby if a body of water runs out of my pond into another man's land I have no right to restrain it.

It follows very naturally that if there can be no ownership in water, rain or clouds that there cannot possibly be ownership of the more restless air. No exclusive right can be attained in either light or air. Legislation cannot create such a right because man has no exclusive possession of them. They are for all in common, and upon whom doth not His light arise? Job 25, 3. "And the wind bloweth where it listeth and they there are that heareth the sound thereof but knoweth not whence it cometh or whither it goes." St. John 3, 8. If the law were otherwise, some enterprising person with monopolistic tendencies would make it his business to buy up the air supply, as the humorist has said, and sell it out to a suffering public at so much per snuff.

Granted that a man cannot become a proprietor of the air above his land, what about the space which the air fills? Space is neither wandering nor restless, but the idea that one may retain any portion of it to his possession is a leap beyond any of the remarkable fictions of the law, according to Henry C. Spurr. Although Mr. Spurr may express the thought of the practical mind, yet, nevertheless, air space is possessed and actually retained to a considerable height at this time and the better view probably is that the proprietor of the land is the proprietor of the air space to a limited height. However, in the case of Butler against the Frontier Telephone company, a pioneer decision, the court holds that the owner of the soil does not in fact own the air above the land. The law is yet in a nebulous state. Very important changes will occur as the mind of man shapes itself to the task of giving orderly government to a new domain. What the result will be can be partially anticipated from what has gone before.

Use of Ether in Air Space.

Wireless telegraph is accomplished by setting in action vibrations of ether, which may be likened to the waves on a tub of water after a pebble has been dropped into the middle. These waves or vibrations rush out in each direction from the disturbing force. It can be seen, therefore, that wireless telegraphy, or the sending of a message, sets in motion the ether in the air space above the land over which it passes. Does this constitute an invasion of the rights of the adjacent land owner?

Certainly it cannot be claimed that these pulsations of ether, imperceptible except by the aid of delicate apparatus, are likely to interfere with the land owner's enjoyment of his property, as would be the case where his premises were invaded by a noxious odor or crossed by suspended telegraph wires. Ordinary conceptions of the rights incident to the ownership of realty are plainly inadequate in this situation.

The suggestion has been offered that while in one sense the sender of a message does use the ether, air, or air space above the land, assuming the ether above one's land to be the subject of ownership, it is only in the sense that the one land owner uses the channel of a stream on the land of another by which water is conveyed by the natural flow to and from his own premises. The right to transmit messages across the land of another

Grave Injustice to Kant

Among the many eccentric expressions attributed to Kaiser Wilhelm, this will appeal to philosophers as the most remarkable and entertaining: "We owe our victory largely to the moral and spiritual triumph which the great philosopher of Königsberg [Immanuel Kant] bestowed upon our people."

Kant has been dead more than a century, but it is easy to imagine how he would have protested against such injustice. He is responsible for "victory" won by treachery, by the murder of noncombatants, by the ignoring of the humanities and the decencies of civilization? You would have forgotten his concave chest, his deformed shoulder. He would have drawn himself up to his full height of five feet, and with the fierce iconoclasm inherited from his Scotch mother would have given the lie to his defamer.

No, Kant of Königsberg, who remade the philosophy of the world, is not the father of pragmatism, a cynicism for the father of lies. Truth was his idol. Speculative liberty was his slogan. We suppose that his enthusiasm of paternity never saw in the "Critique of Pure Reason" or "The Causes of Earthquakes," or "Volcanoes in the Moon," any "moral and spiritual treasures."

As for religion, Kant, though he influenced the thinking leaders of all creeds, clashed fiercely with Frederick Wilhelm II, and with the Lutheran hierarchy. The first half of his "On Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone" having been published in the Berlin Journal, the publication of the second half was prohibited by the government, and Kant printed and published at Königsberg the whole work. For this he was forbidden to write or lecture on any religious subject, and for years the expression of his thought was hampered by German autocracy.

Kaiser Wilhelm ought, once more, to be ashamed of himself, if that were possible. When the living dog mendaciously attempts to establish his kinship with the dead lion, he makes himself a very ridiculous dog indeed.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Bee's Letter Box

Bible and Prohibition. Grand Island, Neb., March 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: I challenge any biblical expounder of the gospel to show or prove that any book, chapter or verse that mentions wine in any way prohibits its manufacture or forbids the drinking thereof, only under vow or going into the tabernacle. The Bible exhorts every man and woman to be temperate, not only in wine, but everything, to work out his own salvation. I can prove that the prohibition is against the teaching and the laws as laid down in holy writ. A SOLDIER.

Be Patriotic in Eating.

Omaha, March 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: Among all foodstuffs wheat is today the greatest war essential. Everyone in Omaha knows this to be a fact. Then why does anyone in Omaha persist in eating wheat? Why is it that bread containing 50 to 70 per cent of wheat is set on the table in restaurants even when not specifically ordered? Why is not every waiter instructed to offer rye, corn, oatmeal or other bread and to serve bread containing wheat only when the guest insists? Why do not proprietors of all eating places show patriotism at this time by featuring those foods which are not so urgently needed by the armies of the allies? Let the people of Omaha refuse to patronize a restaurant which serves wheat in any form except to a guest who insist on it. Let every restaurant patron insist that no wheat bread, no wheat cakes, no waffles, four other foods containing wheat be served to him.

Let us all abstain from abusing the profiteer, from criticizing any department of the government, from objecting to policies or practices of officials until such time as our individual action in this simple matter of eating is based on 100 per cent patriotism. It is action that counts in war time.

Compulsory patriotism requires 30 per cent substitutes in wheat bread; thorough patriotism, for a time at least, calls for practically 100 per cent elimination of wheat from the daily diet. No one will suffer from going without wheat for a few weeks until the situation is relieved.

The armies and the allies can only have the wheat which we save. All of us know that their needs are far greater than our savings. Why wait until the fourth week of our individual further conservation? Patriotism that is involuntary is genuine. Next to wheat in the program comes sugar. Have one-half of the people of Omaha reduced their sugar consumption 50 per cent since April, 1917?

In a few months the call may come again to save meats. In the meantime will not everyone do his utmost in saving what he can? WINTER BYLES.

Catholics and Prohibition.

Omaha, March 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: That certain Catholic priests have declared against prohibition does not in any way reflect the sentiment of the Catholic laity, whom I have found as a rule favor prohibition. The question of prohibition has been settled by the people of this commonwealth, and with no recourse to the clergy, knowing full well that prohibition will only help the church in its teachings. The Catholic church can be harmed only by the scandal given by crooked dirty politicians and the conscienceless saloon-keepers who masquerade as Catholics. A CATHOLIC READER.

LAUGHING GAS.

"Too bad about Tom and the girl he's engaged to. Neither one of them is good enough for the other." "Where did you see that?" "I've been talking the matter over with both families."—Boston Transcript.

The Politician—I see you farmers believe in putting good men in office. "Farmers' Committee: Yes! The best that money can buy.—Life.

"A vessel is different in one way from anything else." "What is that?" "It is when she is tied up that she can't make any knots."—Baltimore American.

"Is your husband a help to you?" "I expect he will be. I am teaching him how to drive the car."—Judge.

"You look as if you had been kissed by a breeze from North Carolina." "I've been young lady to a pretty friend, whose cheeks were glowing with color." "Oh, no!" was laughing reply; "It was only a soft heir from Baltimore."—Topeka State Journal.

"See here, Stubbs," said the editor, "you say: 'Among those present were Algy Fitznoodle, Cholly Chumley, etc.'" "Anything wrong with it?" asked the reporter.

"You should say 'et al' meaning 'and others'—'et cetera' and other church bell announcing somebody's wedding." "Oh, is that it? I thought it was an alarm." "So it is; but the poor boob don't know it."—Yonkers Statesman.

"What's the matter, Bill?" "Aw, matter enough! Here I was planning to be president of the road and now the government's took 'em over, and there ain't goin' to be no more presidents."—Judge.

The famous detective gaped as he arrived at the scene of the crime. "Zounds!" said he, as he looked at the window through which the burglar had escaped. "This is more serious than I had expected! It's broken on both sides!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Why do they say 'it's a fiddle'?" "Why shouldn't they?" "Did you ever see a fiddle that didn't have to be oiled and tinkered up before the feller could play even the simplest kind of a tune?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Yeast—What's that bell ringing for? "Crimescene!" called the church bell announcing somebody's wedding. "Oh, is that it? I thought it was an alarm." "So it is; but the poor boob don't know it."—Yonkers Statesman.

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"Over There"

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A motion picture outfit has been sent from England for use in the camps surrounding Jerusalem.

"The best things about this town," writes an American correspondent in France, "are the sunshine and bracing mountain air, which are free to all."

Correspondents with Americans at the front report that soldiers go to the trenches for eight days and then go to rest camps for eight days 10 to fifteen miles back of the lines. Traveling steam kitchens bring hot food to the trench men at night.

At a dinner party in London recently it was found that four private soldiers who were among the guests had traveled 35,000 miles at their own expense to fight for the Motherland.

One of them had come all the way from the Yukon, another from the wide of western Australia, the third from the Straits settlements, and the fourth from Central Africa.

Among the things to be put on the credit side of the war is the maintenance of the tendency to lunacy. Among the men in the armies, although there are cases of "shell shock" and the like, which induce strange mental conditions, yet on the whole the tendency to lunacy is reduced to a minimum. Soldiering tends to make a man punctual, prudent, persevering and self-reliant and all these qualities are in direct opposition to a tendency to insanity.

Around the Cities

The Illinois Public Utility commission turned down the request of the People's Gas company of Chicago for authority to raise prices 22 per cent. City and company last year entered into a contract for gas at 70 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, quality based on heat units instead of candle power and running one year. The commission reminded the company that contracts cannot be set aside at the request of one party.

Topeka's morale suffered a serious slump recently, due to some envious profiteers, excluded from the loot, welching on the beneficiaries. Bright lights shined on the outside some sights and scant lights featured Saturday night life in one of the town's "respectable" hotels, and provoked a raid that startled the victims and some over. A variety of subsequent explanations lends melancholy emphasis to the motto: "Don't get caught!"



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We sell the Mason & Hamlin and other pianos, \$250 up.

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On Head, Forehead and Face With Three Cakes Soap and Two Boxes of Ointment.

"I had a very stubborn case of eczema on my head, forehead and face. It commenced like a rash and gave me a great deal of trouble in the way of itching and burning, until I could not rest nights. At times it itched and burned so badly that I would have to get up at night and bathe."

"Then I got a sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I purchased more, and about three cakes of Cuticura Soap and two boxes of Ointment healed." (Signed) R. L. St. John, M. D., Unionville, Mo., July 19, 1917.

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TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War. Russian forces crossed the Persian border into Turkish territory.

President Wilson summoned congress to meet in extra session to receive a communication by the executive on grave questions of national policy.

The Day We Celebrate. Ralph E. Parrott, manager of Olivette Flour company, born 1874.

Major General Hunter Liggett, United States army, born at Reading, Pa., 61 years ago.

Brigadier General George C. Squier, in charge of the aviation service of the United States army, born at Dryden, Mich., 52 years ago.

Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller foundation, born at Rockford, Ill., 54 years ago.

This Day in History. 1655—Johann Sebastian Bach, born at Eisenach, Germany. Died at Leipzig, July 28, 1750.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

The Nebraska and Iowa Gas company was the name of an organization that filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk. The corporation will manufacture gas and the principal place of business is to be Omaha. A. M. Kitchen, E. W. Pitkin, E. Riall, C. H. Brown, J. L. McCague, W. W. Keyser and A. C. Powell were chosen directors and to manage the affairs of the corporation.

Manager Seles of the Omaha base ball team and Left-Fielder Annis, arrived in Chicago and the entire roster of players will be here within 10 days.



The veteran firemen held a meeting at Chief Gallighan's office and the main matters discussed were all relative to the coming firemen's ball.

Friends of Rev. J. M. Wilson of the Presbyterian church, corner Sixteenth and Castellar streets, gave a surprise party. He was presented with an elegantly upholstered rocking chair.

Twice Told Tales

Not Changed Much. The librarian at a certain museum was engaged in cataloging and arranging some ancient books that had just arrived from Egypt, when he noticed a perplexed look on the face of his assistant.

"What's the matter, Brown?" he asked. "Is there anything that you don't understand?"

"Yes," answered Brown. "Here is a small papyrus on which the characters are not decipherable. How shall I class it?"

"Um," thoughtfully returned the librarian, examining the papyrus. "Suppose you call it a doctor's prescription in the time of Pharaoh."

The Conductor's Come Back. As a train stopped at a little Ohio station the passengers heard the plaintive bawling of a platform in a crate.

"There's someone complaining, conductor," said a traveler, looking for a bit of fun.

"Not to me," answered the mild old ticket taker. "Never heard a passenger's complaint with that much sense."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Great Idea. "It says in this article that before beheading a man the Chinese make him drunk." "Great idea, that! A man can get intoxicated without having a head on him the next morning."—Boston Transcript.

Editorial Snapshots

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: The Germans will be crazy to try to get back to Luneville.

Minneapolis Journal: The Brown-jug gun is a poem in steel. It is the Star Spangled Banner.

Washington Post: The idea of putting off general elections this fall sounds good to the wobbly congressmen whose term is about to expire.

Minneapolis Tribune: Postmaster General Burleson is quite enthusiastic over plans for delivering mail by airplanes. Perhaps that explains why he has kept mail delivery up in the air for some months.

New York World: Torpedoed private ships have become so well recognized a part of Germany's naval policy that it is folly to put any faith in its assurances. Hospital ships should be given the same full protection in all circumstances as transports.

Baltimore American: One of the kaiser's sons, it is said, is a pointed king of Finland. As he has six, it is easy to see how the self-termination of the various to-be-created kingdoms is to be worked for the greater good of Germany when the whole term is about to expire.

Louisville Courier-Journal: The new German "tobacco" is a blend of dried hops, mint, verbenae, fenel, wild onion, heather and burrashes, colored with extract of elderberries, fruit skins and Pernambuco wool. Altogether the new German tobacco seems to be about as horrible a compound as the old German kuler.

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