

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REMITTANCE

OFFICES

CORRESPONDENCE

FEBRUARY CIRCULATION

Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to them.

Garden regiments are being enlisted.

The democratic senator from Omaha is worried.

The Bee's suggestion to the grand jury.

Mr. Baker's peep over "No Man's land".

It is definitely settled that there are more loyal people than disloyal people in Wisconsin.

Mr. Heney expresses satisfaction with his visit to Omaha.

That grand jury can, if it will, do a whole lot to help Omaha.

Still, William Jennings Bryan never championed the kaiser's bill.

One thing Mr. Heney did develop in Omaha.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat suggests that Willard and Fulton be permitted to settle their differences in private.

Late returns from Wisconsin indicate that the kaiser has lost his first real engagement on American soil.

Our "kiddies" are coming through in grand style with their organization for the summer's garden campaign.

One Legislative Task Simplified.

An order from the War department has simplified one of the tasks set for the Nebraska legislature.

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WHEN FRIENDS FALL OUT.

The renewed outbreak of the deep-rooted vendetta between those two eminent and distinguished Nebraska democrats, William Jennings Bryan and Senator Hitchcock, may be expected to afford exciting diversion to republicans viewing the spectacle from the bleachers.

"Intolerance!" "Insolence!" "Ignorance!" "Insincerity!"

"Using epithets which are the weapon of a bully!" "Embittered and revengeful!" "A monomaniac!"

These are the endearing terms now applied by the hyphenated World-Herald to the man who for nearly two years was its editor with his name at the masthead and whom that paper ostensibly supported three times for the exalted office of president of the United States.

Still, under the circumstances, we have no doubt Mr. Bryan will be quite able to take care of himself in the comeback, which should be worth waiting for and listening to.

More Power for the President.

Agreement by the judiciary committee of the senate to modifications in the Overman bill, clothing the president with extraordinary powers for the conduct of the war, presages the closing of a debate that had shown some signs of acrimony.

The controversy between the executive and the congress was overshadowed by the unpopular proposal, made last spring, to name a congressional committee for the conduct of the war.

This failed of approval among members, who could not consent to anything savoring of interference with the constitutional prerogative of the president.

When the Chamberlain bill, empowering the president to name a board of three, to be confirmed by the senate, who would be charged with full authority and responsibility under the president, was being considered, it was objected to by administration leaders and by the president himself, because it seemed to thrust a board between the president and his cabinet officers.

In lieu of this, the Overman bill in its original form was brought in, presumably at the instance of Mr. Wilson. By its terms the authority of the executive was greatly extended, so much so that some members of congress felt that it was an intrusion on the legislative branch.

Advocates of either measure have recognized the impossibility of securing its passage as presented, and the fact that the judiciary committee has come to an agreement on the terms of the Overman measure, while the Chamberlain bill still is held by the military affairs committee, may be accepted as a sign that the needed compromise has been reached.

With the passage of the proposed bill, and the additional legislation recommended by the War department for the control of private property, Mr. Wilson will be invested with the greatest authority ever conferred on one man.

Pigs and Potatoes.

Experiments recently made in the feeding of pigs on potatoes have given results so satisfactory that the new combination is recommended as a possible solution of one angle of the food problem.

Compared with corn, the potato ration produced meat and lard quite as abundantly and of equally good quality.

In the experiment reported on, 403 pounds of corn and tankage at the rate of 6 to 1 was fed to produce 100 pounds gain in live weight.

Potatoes and tankage at 6 to 1 required 698 pounds for 100-pound gain; potatoes and oil meal in same proportion took 584 pounds, and potatoes and fish meal required but 428 pounds.

The time of feeding was 56 days; the corn-fed lot gained an average of 87.77 pounds in that time; the lot fed on the first potato ration gained 45 pounds; the second, 51.33 pounds, and the third, 74.33.

Comparison of the cost of feed is not reported, but market prices suggest that the potato ration was far the cheaper, per pound of gain.

The point is that pork production need not be confined to the corn belt region, if farmers elsewhere take up the matter seriously.

For the matter of that, pigs and potatoes can be profitably combined in Nebraska, just as pigs were mixed with alfalfa to create a really toothsome quality of breakfast bacon.

In another way the feeding experiment is interesting. Demand has been made that the price of hogs be fixed on the ratio of 13 bushels of corn to 100 pounds of live weight.

According to the figures here furnished, the ratio is but a little more than six bushels, assuming that the ration was apportioned on weight.

An Omaha high school boy has made the supreme sacrifice for liberty and a gold star will shine for him on the service flag, throwing its radiant rays along the path of patriotism on which the young feet are pressing forward.

Our schools are the fountains from which flow the love of country, and there will be treasured the memory of the lad who helped hold the line that dreadful day at Badonvillier.

Corporal Russell G. Hughes should have a tablet to commemorate his fidelity to his cause.

Spring's advent hereabouts was most delightfully gentle. May it be accepted as an omen?

A Wonderful Worker in War Efficiency of France in Fighting Equalled in Food-Getting

Paris Letter in London Chronicle.

It is impossible to maintain the regular flow. For instance, during the last three months of 1917 only 694,000 tons were imported instead of 1,566,000 as had been arranged.

On March 1 the wheat imports would be 2,685,000 tons below the original estimates. There was no alternative therefore but to ration the population.

The bread card system adopted is very simple. Everyone of whatever age or sex, is entitled to 300 grammes per day, which is equivalent, roughly, to 10 good English ounces.

Agricultural and other laborers may have this ration increased on application. In restaurants each customer is entitled to 100 grammes, or a little less than a quarter of a pound.

In practice the quantity allowed is generally greater. It should be mentioned that the French bread ration of 300 grammes per day is bigger than that of other countries, even neutral, the Swiss ration, for instance, being only 225 grammes.

Sugar restrictions were enforced here a year ago, the monthly ration allowed to each person being at first a pound and a half. This, however, was reduced last October to one pound, and there has been no modification since then.

There are no restrictions on meat for the present. Two meatless days a week were instituted in 1916 and maintained for six months or so, after which the cattle supply being declared satisfactory, the restrictions were withdrawn.

Previously, as an experiment, restaurants were forbidden to serve meat for dinner, but this never worked well. Butcher shops are closed now on Mondays, but there is nothing to prevent people buying ahead, and restaurants continue to serve meat every day.

With regard to pastry, restriction measures had been in force for long before the last decree abolished it almost entirely. Two days a week the pastry cooks were obliged to close their shops.

On the same day no chocolates, jam or sweets of any kind could be sold anywhere. The latter measure is still maintained.

Milk has become scarce but can be obtained in moderate quantities with comparative ease by everyone. No cards are required, and there are no restrictions, but cards are given on application in order to ensure children and invalids getting a sufficient quantity.

Petroleum and lamp oils and spirits of all kinds are now almost nonexistent for the ordinary public. It is true that until quite recently the number of private motor cars seen about the streets and in the country was a constant source of indignation.

The scandal has ceased, for no petrol can now be sold to private citizens. The government promises to allow a pint occasionally, to people who have no gas in their homes, but no more.

For the moment, however, it cannot be denied that the restrictions in France are still very light. Few foodstuffs are actually lacking. Only scarcity of labor, transport difficulties and profiteering make everything phenomenally dear.

Taking Over German Property Uprooting Junker Industrial Power in This Country

New York Journal of Commerce.

It should be understood that the provision adopted by a unanimous vote of the senate as an amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, authorizing the government to take over German property in this country and dispose of it, applies to no property owned by German nationals having investments here.

There are large financial organizations within the empire, in close association with its government, which absolutely control large properties engaged in manufacturing, some of them producing munitions and war supplies at a large profit that goes to the real owners to help their country in war against the United States.

Their employees are, for the most part, presumably American subjects, though some are not naturalized, and some have no sense given up their allegiance to their native country. The worst of it is not that they use their opportunities here as a means of helping financially an enemy country, but among them have been plotters working directly against the rights and interests of this nation, helping to destroy the property and the lives of loyal Americans on land and sea.

While the intended effect of the proposed provision is to enable the government to put these business properties and their operation out of the control of Germans in Germany, so far as circumstances may show reason for it, it is not to put the property out of industrial and commercial activity here or to deprive those employed in them of their occupation. It is to transfer their capital control and their management to American hands and to place and make them safe so long as they are loyal to the country in which they live and faithful in their service. It will be an advantage and a benefit to them as well as to the communities in which their work is done and to the nation as a whole, and it will in no way prejudice those of German birth or origin or even of German sympathy so long as they are guilty of no offenses as "enemy aliens."

Already congress, as is well known, has provided for an alien property custodian, authorized to take control of these properties and in a sense to supervise their operation. To do that in any effective way would be a heavy and expensive task, requiring a large number of special employees, and it would change the financial control from Germany or the profit derived from the business by those subject to that empire. Many among the investors in these properties are said to belong to the ruling class there, including the kaiser himself.

Alien Property Custodian A. M. Palmer, in his statement before the senate finance committee, gave convincing reasons for disposing of the taken over properties to American owners who would keep them in operation.

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People and Events

The Bankers' club of New York struck the names of four pro-German members from the rolls. All four are doing the goosestep at an interment camp.

Mrs. Sally Gold, 102, of Brooklyn, cast her first vote at the recent special election for a congressman. Did she tell her age? Sure, Sally boasted of it.

It is estimated that 150,000 Germans who have not perfected their citizenship will be disfranchised in Missouri under the ruling of State Attorney General McAllister. Should the estimate prove correct it means a huge slump in the "wet" vote. Whereat the "drys" threaten an immediate drive which they confidently believe will put them over the top and far beyond.

Washington Post: "Mud Rains from Sky in Ohio," reads head line; and the fall elections six months off!

Washington Post: Secretary Baker is said to have taken refuge in a Paris wine cellar during the air raid. Those higher ups always do have the luck!

Baltimore American: A Belgian relief ship laden with grain and under safe conduct promise was seized and taken to a German port. The Huns are turning pirates as well.

Minneapolis Journal: The fact that the author of "Keep the Home Fires Burning" has been slain by the bomb of a Hun air pirate ought to add some fuel to the flame.

Brooklyn Eagle: Dr. Cadman's plea for religion in the schools is perhaps subject to the mental qualification of Freud's epigram: "The Lord was the author of religion, but the devil invented theology."

New York World: General Gorgas need neither explain nor apologize for the use of transports instead of hospital ships to bring wounded men home from France. The Germans would sink them as quickly as the other; other considerations only need be weighed.

Louisville Courier-Journal: A German paper exclaims that for the president of the United States to invite divine judgment is blasphemous. Of course, in the Potsdam view. For in that the kaiser has a copyright on the very name of God; he uses it as a trade mark on all his atrocities and infamies; and for anyone else even to breathe it is both blasphemy and lese majeste.

The Bee's Letter Box

Meat Prices and Packers' Profits.

Chicago, March 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: In accord with the suggestion of various newspaper editors, I am pleased to discuss the meat price situation. I regret, exceedingly, that office seeking demagogues have been able to stir up bitterness toward men and an industry which is doing its full share in prosecuting the war.

War time prices on foodstuffs are sufficiently burdensome to enable agriculturists to arouse the public with their charges of graft and profiteering. Meat packers are the especial targets of these defamations.

It is not true that there is an undue margin between the price of meat on the hoof and meat on the hook. It is not true that enormous profits are the cause of high prices. It is a falsehood to charge that meat is being hoarded to keep the price up.

The malicious or ill-informed person notes that live hogs sell at 17 cents a pound and that bacon sells at high prices. A pound of meat is sent out to heaven to witness how the people are being robbed. From live hog at 17 cents to bacon at 60 cents is too big a jump, he says, to be justifiable.

"Profiteering," he cries and the public is prone to believe. Sixty-cent bacon from the 17-cent hog does not spell profiteering to the man who investigates. So far as the packer is concerned there is no such thing as "cheap" bacon. The finest grade of bacon turned out by Armour & Co. wholesales at 46 1/2 cents per pound in the current price list. Other grades sell as low as 32 cents per pound. But for the purpose of this discussion let's speak of 50-cent bacon as coming from the 17-cent hog and see if it gives ground for the charge of extortion.

If 50-cent bacon from 17-cent hog indicates profiteering, what conclusion follows from the discovery that costs that same 17-cent hog comes liver at 6 cents a pound, feet at 7 cents, backbones at 5 cents, sweetbreads at 11, kidneys at 12 1/2, snouts at 12 1/2, brains at 13, tails at 17, legs at 6, knuckles at 11 and various other bits and brats which sell, dressed, for less than they cost alive?

Is it profiteering to sell pickled pigs feet at half what they cost standing in the mud of the pig sty? Is it profiteering to sell pig hearts which are ready for the pot at less than half of what they cost when they were busily pumping blood through the hog?

Is it good business to sell 17 of the 32 separate cuts of a product as pork list for less than the price per pound of the living hog?

Whether it be good business or not, the fact remains that a considerable portion of the porker has to be sold for less than cost and dressed than it cost per pound alive. It ought to be apparent to anyone why this is true. More people want hams and bacon than want pigs' feet or hearts. But no way has been found to raise hogs that consist only of hams and bacon cuts which sell, dressed, for less than they cost alive?

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In the beef field much the same circumstances exist. People want sirloin steaks, tenderloins and porterhouse. But every time we kill a steer to get sirloins, we put a beef head on the market, too. Likewise do we make it necessary to dispose of chucks, flanks, necks, rounds and the various other cuts that are less in demand but which figure in the poundage of the live animal.

Our wholesale price list shows lungs selling at 3 cents a pound, although we may pay four or five times that much for them. If consumers were willing to pay a higher price for lungs, the price of sirloins would be reduced. During the year of 1917, our business was sold a dollar's worth of goods. On that basis, a good sized hardware store doing a business of \$50,000 a year would pay its owner \$1,900 and the corner grocery store doing a business of \$10,000 a year—what a profit!

On strictly food products of all kinds, Armour & Co. earned at the rate of 2.21 cents on the dollar last year. A tobacco store conducted on that same basis would do a business of \$10,000 a year—and that is a pretty good business for a small tobacco store—would show a profit at the end of the year of only \$221.

On meat and groceries alone, our company earned only 2.07 cents on the dollar. The government says that the average citizen eats 230 pounds of meat in a year. At the current price of fresh beef in excess of the way we sell most of it—239 pounds is worth \$29.10. That is what the retailer paid us for it. Out of that sum, 80 cents was our profit.

Meats cannot be cheap when hogs are selling at \$17 per hundred pounds weight and when steers on the hoof cost from \$13 to \$15 per 100 pounds. My knowledge of the stock raisers' problem prevents me from blaming high prices on that point. We have high prices for meat because the world is at war and because there is a greater demand and a smaller comparative supply than was ever the case before. And the wonder is that prices are not higher. Civil war days found them higher, despite the fact that there was then no world war and no world shortage.

No one realizes better than do I the absolute impossibility of explaining in a few short paragraphs the whole truth about the meat situation—truths that completely disprove the charges of profiteering and which knock into a cocked hat the pack of lies, innuendoes and innuendoes which have been put in circulation by irresponsible political aspirants.

J. OGDEN ARMOUR.

SUNNY GEMS.

Junior Partner—What's your idea in employing elderly men?

Senior Partner—They're too old to go in for joy riding, dancing parties, girls or tennis, and that makes 'em fine for work." Boston Transcript.

"Tell you what, old man, this sugar shortage is getting serious."

"Doesn't affect me. I've got 120 pounds of it at home."

"Great Scott, man! How did you manage to get it?"

"Oh, I married it."—Judge.

"There's a new superstition current."

"To what effect?"

"If you strike a muddy crossing you're sure to see a girl in white spats."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Speaking of false hair."

"Yes."

"I suppose no woman ever admits that she wears false hair."

"No, she keeps that under her hat."—Kansas City Journal.

Yeast—They say that "over there" they always play a favorite march before the fighting begins.

Crimson—So they do over here. Didn't you ever hear 'em play Mendelssohn's March at weddings?—Yonkers Statesman.

Twice Told Tales

Too Late.

The taking over of the railroads and the cutting down of certain six-figure salaries led Senator Tillman to say:

"I am reminded of a young fellow who applied for a job on the Oil City and Millville line.

"Well, young man, what can you do?" said the superintendent.

"Nothing," the young man replied.

"Humph," said the superintendent. "All those high-salaried positions have been done away with since the government took us over."—Washington Star.

Gallantry.

One afternoon some time since a young woman weighing about 150 pounds was gracefully stepping down the street, when she suddenly stepped on a banana skin in front of a grocery store. Immediately the young woman began to fly in all directions at the same time, and finally landed in a crate of fresh country eggs that were on exhibition beside the door.

"How very unfortunate, madame!" solicitedly exclaimed the groceryman, hastening to her succor.

"Not the least bit, thank you," answered the other as she arose to her feet. "But I greatly fear that I have broken some of your eggs."

"Oh, no, you haven't," was the gallant rejoinder of the groceryman, as he glanced at the crate. "They are only slightly cracked."—Philadelphia Record.

TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.

French and British columns converged on St. Quentin.

United States formally recognized the new government of Russia.

German admiral reported return of the raider Mowe from a second successful cruise.

The Day We Celebrate.