

THE OMAHA BEE DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

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Just five years by the calendar since Omaha's havoc-working tornado.

Unless you voluntarily save food for our allies, you may be compelled later on to save it for the Kaiser.

Do not send dainties to France is the request from Washington. The cargo space is needed for more important things.

The Bee is in favor of the immediate and unconditional repeal of the Mockett law. Where does our hyphenated contemporary stand?

Anti-Bryan democrats are very much miffed at the attitude of the great commoner just now, but some of us can recall when they were mighty glad to have his help.

Without any producing mines or oil wells, Nebraska looks like a vassal province on Dr. Garfield's new fuel map. But the fuel states all have to come to Nebraska for their food.

An experienced French aviator says most of the accidents of our flying fliers can be averted by a little stricter discipline. If this is true, let us have the remedy applied without delay.

Well, well, well! Is the disguised "Disgusted Republican," who comes to the defense of the senator's record of pro-Germanism, just the editor of the senator's hyphenated newspaper writing to himself or is it one of the other pay roll employees?

The political trenches for our spring city campaign are being pretty well filled, but no very spectacular sorties as yet. Omaha voters are not accustomed to such tame contests and will hardly be satisfied this time without some more exciting persons.

Milwaukee's socialist mayor, candidate for reelection, is charged with sedition because he subscribes to the St. Louis declaration of his party, which opposes the war. It is high time that all citizens are made to understand that no form of disloyalty is more virulent than the passage of such resolutions as those adopted by the socialist committee, for the carrying out of which their leaders have been indicted.

Renewed Battle of the Somme. What is considered the first blow of the long-advertised German offensive, aimed against the British on the Cambrai line, appears to have failed.

What is considered the first blow of the long-advertised German offensive, aimed against the British on the Cambrai line, appears to have failed. The first day's struggle did not gain the objectives aimed at in the German plans as announced from London. Further fighting is looked for, and the end of the affair, although not in sight, may be viewed as a possible repetition of Verdun. Similar tactics appear to have been employed; the heavy bombardment, followed by waves of infantry in massed attack. These were met, just as at Verdun, with stern resistance and terrible losses to the attackers. It is doubtful if the German army organization is capable of sustaining another such terrific drain as it underwent during the long months the battle of Verdun continued practically without cessation, but it is morally certain that such an attempt will be accompanied by losses even heavier than those which fell on the army of the crown prince, who is reported to have sacrificed, in killed alone, half a million men in his fruitless endeavor to break through the French line to reach Paris. None doubt that the British line will hold as firmly as did the French, that it will turn aside the hordes of Teutonic strength, and that whenever the breathing spell comes it will be found that the Kaiser's effort to discompose his determined foes have but made the way to Berlin easier. His experience along the Somme, already costly, bids fair to be even more expensive.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE? Our amiable hyphenated contemporary, the World-Herald, again prints and features an argument against changing "in any way our policies in regard to the teaching of the German language in our schools," representing that this reflects the attitude of the Wilson administration. It had once before within the past fortnight given editorial page space to the same identical statement.

What is the objective at which the World-Herald is driving? Governor Neville's proclamation calling the Nebraska legislature to meet in extra session next Tuesday sets forth 10 subjects for legislative action, sixth in the order named being "An act to repeal the Mockett law."

Is the World-Herald opposed to the repeal of the Mockett law? Is it endeavoring, in characteristic fashion, to save this odious enactment which was forced upon our statute books by its co-partner, the German-American Alliance, as a part of the active pro-German propaganda previous to our entrance into the war? Does the hyphenated World-Herald mean to tell us that the Wilson administration favors the purpose of the Mockett law, which is notoriously to use the public schools to instill German "kultur" in the minds of grammar grade children before even they have a firm grasp of the principles of American democracy? We refuse to believe that is the attitude of the Wilson administration, or that the statement quoted refers to anything more than continued optional teaching of the German language to mature pupils in high schools and colleges.

Denver's plan of city government calls for only a mayor and four appointed department managers, with an advisory city council of nine elected members. The impression is that Omaha could do as well as it now does, if not better, with less governing machinery.

Do Your Share and Then Some. "My view is," says Edgar Howard, "that the cost of all war work should be paid for out of tax money contributed by all the people, each one paying his exact share."

Figures hitherto kept secret by the British admiralty disclose the extent of losses which the world's shipping has sustained from the enemy since the war began. Its appalling total is due to the unrestricted activity of the U-boat within the last year, during which time shipping to the total of 6,625,623 tons were sunk. The outstanding fact is that for the period of the war shipping has been destroyed at a rate nearly double the production. Although losses have been offset in some degree by vessels seized from the enemy, the final net loss is almost two-fifths of the total output of the shipyards of the world. It is no longer possible to take over enemy shipping in such quantity as has been done.

In Great Britain, the admiralty statement says, the estimated launchings for the present year of 1,800,000 tons may be brought up to 3,000,000 eventually, but this requires a new and greater supply of labor. In America the tremendous energy that has been put into the effort to produce tonnage will soon be felt on the contrasting curves between sinkings and buildings.

The gravity of the situation is not minimized by the figures given, but that the case is not hopeless is shown by the fact that the ravages of the submarine are decreasing, while the launchings are increased. In 1914 the total tonnage added to the merchant marine by all the shipyards of the world was 1,012,920; in 1915, the total was 1,202,000; in 1916, the figures went up to 1,688,000; and for 1917 the total had been advanced to 2,703,355. The aggregate tonnage of the world for the four years is 6,606,275. Against this is offset sinkings to the extent of 11,827,572; captured and seized shipping reduce the net total loss to 2,632,897. In 1917 the total destruction by quarters was: First, 1,619,373 tons; second, 2,236,934 tons; third, 1,494,473 tons; fourth, 1,292,843 tons. The last quarter's losses were 400,000 tons less than those for the first quarter, and 1,000,000 tons less than for the second quarter of the year.

For the current year Great Britain's shipping output is promised to be greater than that of the world for 1916, while the United States will add an amount exceeding the combined tonnage production of the world for 1917. In this regard the builders are gaining on the destroyers, and with the possibility of further success in offensive operations against the German navy, the turn of the race may be said to be favorable to the cause of humanity as represented by the allied democracies.

Progress of the Terror at Sea. Figures hitherto kept secret by the British admiralty disclose the extent of losses which the world's shipping has sustained from the enemy since the war began.

Even from the standpoint of the inflationist, export statistics afford but little ground for enthusiasm. For the seven months ended with January our foodstuff exports increased in value \$22,000,000, in spite of the fact that imports of foodstuffs in all similar forms gained \$70,000,000 in value.

When statisticians come right down to the hard bottom of the bread pan they will be able to write even a worse story. Exports of wheat and flour for the seven months mentioned amounted to 70,189,000 bushels, against 121,491,000 bushels for the corresponding period of 1917. We have in the later period shipped 18,000,000 bushels less of corn out of our much-heralded but purely official crop of 3,100,000 bushels.

Our best and essential customers are England, France and Italy, all on the actual firing line and all in greater need for the active employment of their producers in military operations than at any time before.

Our shipments, chiefly to these our allies, show increase of 32,000,000 pounds of fresh beef and of 300,000 pounds of canned beef for the seven months. Hog products made a sheer decline, however, of 127,000,000 pounds of bacon; hams and shoulders, of 34,000,000 pounds; lard, of over 11,000,000 pounds, the last standing for the seven months at only 1,297,889 pounds, to be minute.

We received nearly as much for our wheat in the later period as in the earlier one; \$2,000,000 more for 300,000 more pounds of canned beef; \$6,000,000 more for 127,000,000 pounds less of bacon; \$4,000,000 more for

Mounted Skeletons of Moropus Nebraska's Ancient Contribution to The American Museum

W. D. Matthew in American Museum Journal.

Moropus is a big extinct animal that lived in North America. It was one of the oddest looking beasts of its time, a combination of horse, rhinoceros, and camel or giraffe in its general appearance, but with enormous claws on the front feet and smaller claws on the hind feet, utterly unlike the hoofs of the ordinary ungulates or "hoofed mammals."

All of the large herbivorous animals today and nearly all of the extinct kinds have hoofs on their feet. They have no need for claws. The feet are used to carry them about, but not for attacking other animals or for tearing their prey or for digging, as in the clawed animals. This is so general a rule that it was long thought to be universal, a law of nature, and it was, in fact, included in the law of correlation expounded by the famous naturalist, Cuvier, a century ago.

They tell a story about Cuvier to illustrate his opinion in this "law of Correlation." It seems that one of his students, who desired to give the Maitre a scare, disguised himself as the devil, with the usual horns and hoofs and barbed-tipped tail. He penetrated at midnight to Cuvier's room and, standing by his bedside, roused him from sleep with the announcement, "Cuvier, Cuvier, wake up! I am the devil and am come to eat you up!" The scientist gazed at him sleepily, looked him over for a moment, and replied, "Hm—horns—hoofs—you're graminivorous. You can't do it." Whereupon he turned over and went to sleep again and the student retired discomfited.

But for all Cuvier's faith in his law of correlation, there are some exceptions, and our moropus is one of them. Many years ago when the first scattered bones of this animal and its fossil relatives in Europe were discovered, the teeth and skull parts were described as related to the rhinoceroses and the extinct palaeotheres and titanotheres, all of them belonging to the Perissodactyl order of ungulates which includes also the horse and the tapir. The claws and other foot-bones were supposed to belong to an entirely different animal related to the anteaters. Cuvier himself described one of the great claws as a "pangolin gigantesque"—a gigantic anteater. It was many years before it was found that these skulls and these foot-bones belonged to the same animal. No complete skeletons have yet been found in the world.

In this country a few scattered bones of moropus had been found 30 or 40 years ago, but it was not until the discovery of the great Agate Spring Fossil Quarry in western Nebraska that much was known about the animal. This quarry was first discovered by Mr. James H. Cook of Agate, Neb., and was opened up and worked on a large scale by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh between 1904 and 1908. The American museum has had parties working in this quarry for several years past, and has been especially fortunate in obtaining a whole series of more or less complete and finely preserved skeletons of the moropus, besides quantities of other material. There are no fewer than 17 skeletons, each being the bones of one individual, and the best of them are virtually complete.

The task of extracting and preparing these thousands and delicate bones has been a long and difficult one, and it is only now that we have been able to place the first skeleton to consummation.

Serious Decline in Food Exports Speeding Up System Falls Short of Promise

Wall Street Journal.

Foodstuff exports for the past seven months might well give cause for congratulation were the miller able to grind up the inflation in a bushel of wheat, or could the consumer extract food calories from it in a loaf of bread or an ounce of fats. It has been well said the consumer cannot consume inflation; he cannot eat it, and this is so, entirely apart from the singular ability of inflation to consume itself.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Monument for Corporal Hughes. Omaha, March 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: All Omaha mourns her first son killed in action in this great war for democracy. What more fitting thing can we do at this time to commemorate the memory of Russell G. Hughes, than to erect a monument to his memory on our beautiful court house lawn. Here thousands would read the story of this young life sacrificed for his country, and would be filled with a patriotic devotion to carry on to a successful conclusion the work he began.

I believe if the Omaha papers will present this to its readers some action will be taken at once to show to the world we appreciate what he has done and many others will do for our country. H. A. S.

California Fruit Growers' Campaign. Santa Clara, Cal., March 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: Old Sol is held in high regard in California. Witness trade marks of certain California fruits—"Sun-kist Prunes," "Sun-kist Apricots" and "Sun-kist Raisins." Rain, also, has its place in the affections of Californians. Bret Harte said that a stranger in this country who spoke disrespectfully of rain was deemed an enemy of the state.

Last year a state organization of prune and apricot growers was perfected with headquarters in San Jose, the county seat of Santa Clara county. What use the prunes are is rather a puzzle. They could not have been of much value for fighting, for the foot and limb are too stiff and clumsy to be used except for ordinary locomotion. For the same reason they could be of only limited use in digging. The anteaters and armadillos use their great claws in digging out ant hills; the sloth uses his in hanging from trees; the bear finds his claws useful both in digging and fighting, while the cat family reserve their sharp claws strictly for fighting. But bears and cats have much more mobile limbs and feet, and it is certain that the moropus did not live on ants or any such food, and could not possibly climb a tree, much less hang from one. The teeth show clearly that his food was leaves and herbage, and that he cropped it after the fashion of a deer or cow. He was not even omnivorous like the pig which does a considerable amount of digging after succulent roots and tubers with his snout though not with his feet.

The only plausible suggestion that has been made is that the great claws were designed to aid the moropus in scraping away sand in dry riverbeds or other suitable places to make a good hole where he might drink. There is good reason to believe that the western country where he lived was even then more or less arid, with a scanty water supply in the summer or seasons of drought. In Central Africa today the animals congregate in great numbers around the scattered water holes, and some of them may dig out the holes more or less with their paws. Our moropus could do that sort of thing to great advantage, and the powerful claws often might enable him to dig down in a sandy riverbed to water that otherwise would be beyond his reach.

The modern moose and caribou use their long and rather narrow hoofs not only to support them on soft ground, but also to dig down through the snow and uncover food beneath it in the hungry winter season. But it is not likely that the western plains was a region of cold winters and deep snows in the time when the moropus lived there. Rather was it like Central Africa today, at least in the summer season, although not having a tropical climate the year around.

Other organizations have recently been made in California to protect the producers. One of these is of tomato growers. The crop for this year is estimated will probably amount to 30,000 tons. Growers owning 6,000 acres are expected to tomato have "signed up." Last year they received from \$8 to \$10 a ton and they say they must have \$15 to make the business profitable. Then there are the raisin men, and the bean growers. These present important industries in this state and the men interested have perfected organizations for their own protection.

Another "Near Side" Complaint. Omaha, March 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: I noticed the other evening you told me that I had given objection to the near side stop. He is, in the newspaper, but you would hear a different story if you had to travel on the cars at night and morning every day, and some use the street cars at noon, too. And I'll say this, too, I'll bet if seven-eighths of those people above referred to were asked if they liked this near side stop, they would all say "No." As Mr. Agnew says, it sure seems a crazy way to stop the cars in the middle of the block, instead of at the end, where it is the proper place. There are people to walk so far down to meet the car. And I simply can't see there would be fewer accidents by this law. The people have to run in front of the cars and suffer the consequences of every transfer to other cars. Most of these people come home at night too tired to even think of writing to the paper about these I waited so long. And the public, anyway, is so used to being abused and robbed and tormented in every way by three or four so-called high fellows who want this new law and that more so, that they don't care if they don't try to remedy these things. But maybe it wouldn't help if they tried. Will someone please tell me the advantage of the near side stop which can't be won by knowledge benefit the public in any way? FEMININE STRAPHANGER.

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TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War. British and French offensive three Germans back on St. Quentin.

The Day We Celebrate. Philip J. Kuma, contractor and builder, born 1865.

This Day in History. 1749—Pierre Simon Laplace, one of the greatest of mathematicians and physical astronomers, born in Normandy. Died in Paris, March 5, 1827.

1815—United States ship-of-war Hornet captured the British brig-of-war Penguin off the Cape of Good Hope.

1863—Federal armies of Sherman, Terry and Schofield effected a junction at Goldsboro, N. C.

1908—Federal supreme court declared the railroad rate laws of Minnesota and North Carolina unconstitutional.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

Several new grip cars arrived today consigned to the Cable Tramway company.

One thousand four hundred and thirty-nine dog licenses have been issued by City Clerk Southard up to today.

Major Wicker has severed his connection with the management of the Commons house and in future will devote his time to mercantile pursuits.

Edward Rothery will give a handsome diamond scarf pin to the member of the Omaha ball team having the best general average at the end of the season.

The "Old Folk's Concert" was given at the Plymouth Congregational church proved to be a success. Miss Phelps was highly entertaining in her piano solos and the singing of Mrs. Chamberlain and Miss Day was exceptionally fine.

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"Over There"

In some of the towns where American soldiers are billeted, the French threat is most impressive. In some cases, where local supplies are unequal to the demand, Paris merchants open branches and do the profiteering act with artistic savor.

London papers announce an official call for 14,000 women to constitute the "land army of 1918." The army will comprise three working divisions—especially for food, munitions and forage. Recruits passing the government efficiency test may select either occupation and will receive a wage of £1 a week and board, free uniform and free transportation.

On January 1 last, the public debt of Bulgaria amounted to a fraction over \$1,000,000,000. The minister of finance recently told the Sabranje that the minimum budget for 1919 and years beyond will be \$200,000,000, which amounts to \$50 per annum for every man, woman and child of the Bulgarian population.

Crime waves beset Berlin and Vienna. A band of former jailbirds are reported terrorizing the suburbs of the German capital. A representative of a burglary insurance company reports in the Berlin Tagblatt an average of 300 claims a day for burglary or housebreaking. These cover only the insured class.

President Wilson's call to boys 16 years old and older should be heeded by the boys and parents who do not urge their boys to heed it will be blameworthy.

Peppery Points

Minneapolis Journal: Porto Rico has an abundance of Jamaica looks at the rum exports and sighs.

Washington Post: Hertling's recent declaration that never in his life has he broken his word adds one more whopper to the list.

Baltimore American: It is said that Prussia is alarmed over the decrease in the birth rate. The failure of the crop of cannon fodder would, indeed, be a serious problem for her.

Minneapolis Tribune: Colonel Bryan's explanation that he has been wearing his hair long to hide his ears shows that he has been fooling no one but himself.

New York World: A German aviator brought down near Paris, dying, was reminded that he had killed women and children.

Brooklyn Eagle: On the Pacific coast the launching of a ship reinforced concrete, 7,900 tons, and built in six weeks, commands attention. Americans, as usual, are doing new things that are worth while and whose suppression is all that gives a tinge of a burglary insurance company.

Odd Bits of Life

Two silver foxes, the first to be seen in the vicinity for more than 30 years, were killed near Pembroke, Me.

Michael Cuff of Carmel, Pa., who in 28 years has mended 107,103 pairs of shoes with the same pegging hammer, recently broke the handle.

The late Horace A. Stone of Bangor, Me., left in his will \$5,000, the income of which will be used to care for his faithful old horse.

A limousine which was temporarily disabled in one of the streets of Randolph, Vt., recently was carrying a half ton of coal.

While watching the film with amusement she asked her companion: "Why don't those actors speak louder, so I can hear them?"

Mrs. George W. Sperry, age 91, who lives in Gold Hill, Ariz., witnessed her first motion picture show recently.

LINES TO A LAUGH.

"What do you think of a man who will consistently deceive his wife?" "I think he's a wonder!"—Caswell's Saturday Journal.

"I see the Yale and Princeton clubs have consolidated." "Not a bad idea—to mitigate Princeton's religious notions by Yale's sporting inclinations."—Life.

"Where are you going, mamma?" "To a supper party." "Can't I go, too, and Archie and Edna?" "No, dear, you weren't invited."

"Well, don't you think there's a lot more in it if you took us all?"—Boston Transcript.

"Hurray!" cried the young doctor. "I have my first patient—a case of mumps." "Good," I heard him distinguish myself.

"Well," said his wife, "you have, as they say, a case of mumps."