

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR.

Entered at Omaha postoffice as second-class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION	
Daily and Sunday	By Carrier, 15c per week, 15c per year, \$4.00
Daily without Sunday	10c per week, 10c per year, 3.00
Evening and Sunday	10c per week, 10c per year, 3.00
Evening without Sunday	8c per week, 8c per year, 2.40
Sunday only	5c per week, 5c per year, 1.50
Send notice of change of address or irregularity in delivery to Omaha Bee Circulation Department.	

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Washington—1211 G St.

CORRESPONDENCE
Address communications relating to news and editorial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department.

MARCH CIRCULATION
66,558 Daily—Sunday, 56,553
Average circulation for the month, subscribed and owned by Dwight Williams, Circulation Manager.

Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to them. Address changed as often as requested.

Buy your Liberty bonds today.

State-makers are working overtime, but wait till the people get a crack at the output.

The Kaiser has made pretty sure that America will have a part in making up the new map of Europe.

Omaha has many sore feet, but no downcast hearts as a result of the big Liberty bond parade on Saturday.

The legislature will make no mistake if it puts the interest of the people ahead of those of the lessees in settling the potash land question.

Add horror of the war: The bolsheviks have ordered that phonetic spelling is to prevail in Russia hereafter. Imagine spelling a Russian word the way it sounds!

"Pa" Rourke is not trying to distract public attention from the war, but is making arrangements to accommodate any who want to see good base ball during the summer.

Pawnee county folks set a good example in volunteering to give up all their flour, if they can be assured it will get to France. The food administration ought to meet these patriots half way.

Senator Thomas of Colorado admits events of the last few days have turned him from opposition to advocacy of universal military training. Let us hope the influence spreads around Washington.

Lloyd George must have had a strong "hunch" as to what our president proposed to say in his speech at Baltimore. At any rate, he hit a bulls-eye in his prediction that within the next few weeks "the United States would give the Prussian military junta the surprise of their lives."

Chairman Hurley's sharp admonition to the shipbuilders would give one the idea that the government believes the time has come to fish or cut bait. Promises and roseate reports are all right until it comes to facing cold facts, and what we need to win the war is action and not inaction.

It is suggested for what it is worth that one good way to check the growing habit of stealing automobiles would be to place some responsibility on the purchaser of a stolen machine. He may buy it in all good faith, but without making sufficient inquiry as to its history. If buyers and sellers alike had to exercise due care, "bargains" in machines would be inspected much more carefully before being closed.

Demand for Cleaner Coal.

One expected angle of the fuel situation is receiving consideration just now. It has to do with the quality of the coal furnished consumers. In Illinois the federal fuel director is threatening to penalize producers because of dirt and refuse in coal delivered. From competent railroad authority comes the assertion that 50,000,000 tons of dirt and slate were hauled from the mines during the last year. If this is true, much of this unsalable material was disposed of to consumers. This is referred to as "sand in the bearings" of industry. When the coal mines were operated on a competitive basis, great efforts were made to hold custom by furnishing good coal. Under the pressure for fuel last winter, and with the laxity of federal control, little if any attention was paid to cleaning coal at the mines. Demand is now sharply made that this practice be reversed, and that cars be not used to haul noncombustible material many miles, only to clog grades and interfere with economic use of fuel. Having divided and rationed the country, the fuel administration can well give time to this most important phase of the problem.

ON THE EVE OF THE PRIMARY.

The preliminary city campaign is right up to the eve of the primary without developing any sharp issues, or rousing the community to any great pitch of excitement. In the perspective, the race looks still like a free-for-all scramble of 75 candidates to qualify for the second heat. The conscientious voter, however, has a duty to himself and to the community. It is at least up to him to eliminate the unfit. Let him brush aside the rotten eggs, the man who has served in the "pen," and also the others who are likely candidates for the "pen"—the grafters, the deserters, the crooked lawyers, and the ex-divekeepers. Let him not fall for the self-praising announcements of the candidates themselves. All candidates always pat themselves on the back, and they all profess to stand for justice, for economy and efficiency, for a better and cleaner Omaha, with the other usual glittering generalities.

What Omaha will want of its next city commissioners is honest and faithful service, and past service is the best test to go by. Not every one can point to a previous record in public office, which is the best evidence, but if there is no such record, there should be at least a record of active interest in civic affairs. What has the candidate done in the past for the community? Where was he, for example, when tornado-stricken Omaha rallied with its wonderful relief organization? Has he been visible in the forefront of the war work? Has he been on the firing line in any of the battles for the public welfare, on one side or the other? Has anyone ever known for what he stood before he became a candidate for office?

The voter who will satisfactorily answer these questions for himself will find something to guide him, instead of being left to go it blind.

Our Strength in the Fight.

President Wilson's address at Baltimore on Saturday has a clear ring of true Americanism. It indicates that he has become convinced that short of force we can not win the victory we must have if we are to keep the world a decent place to live in. For a year Mr. Wilson has patiently proceeded along a line in keeping with his own lofty ideals, his humanitarian philosophy supported by a hope that reason's processes might again control in the higher circles of the Hohenzollern councils. Just as he asked for a declaration of war with reluctance, and only when no other course short of abject dishonorable surrender was open, so he has approached his present decision through an experience that has exhausted all other means of settlement.

The only way out of this war is through it, and the only way to win it is to fight. President Wilson has from the first had the loyal support of all true patriots. They have given him their confidence in the highest as well as the simplest form. The only criticism of his course has been because it seemed to some the war was not being pressed with all energy. Now that the president has spoken so plainly, and that orders have gone forth for the increase of our fighting forces, a new turn will be given to America's part in the war.

The Kaiser's latest drive is interpreted as his contemptuous answer to all suggestions of a peace not dictated by himself. His challenge has been accepted by a nation that has firmly braced itself for the conflict. Mr. Wilson fairly sounded the sentiment of his people when he said: "Force, force to utmost, force without stint or limit, the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world and cast every selfish dominion down into the dust."

The knell of kaiserism was tolled on Saturday.

Illiteracy in the United States.

War time necessity has forced attention to a condition that peace had shut its eyes to, that of illiteracy in the United States. A bill has passed the house at Washington, and is now pending in the senate, intending to begin a campaign for the eradication of the danger. On Monday of last week Senator Hoke Smith had included in the record a letter from Secretary Lane, in which it is stated:

There are in the United States 5,516,163 persons over 10 years of age unable to read or write in any language. Over 4,600,000 of the illiterates in this country are 20 years of age or over. It has been estimated that if these illiterate persons were stretched in a double line of march at intervals of three feet, and were to march past the White House at the rate of 25 miles per day, it would require more than two months for them to pass. Over 58 per cent of them are white persons, and of these 1,500,000 are native born whites. If the productive labor value of an illiterate is less by only 50 cents a day than that of an educated man or woman, the country is losing \$825,000,000 annually through illiteracy.

The federal government and the states spend millions of dollars in trying to give information to people in the form of pamphlets about farming and home making. Yet 3,700,000 or 10 per cent, of our country folk can not read or write a word. They can not read a bulletin on agriculture, a farm paper, a food-pledge card, a Liberty loan appeal, a newspaper, the constitution of the United States, or their Bibles, nor can they keep personal or business accounts. An uninformed democracy is not a democracy.

In other ways Secretary Lane illustrates the effect of this mass of ignorance on the social and industrial life of the country. The disclosure may seem appalling, but the condition has been known and neglected for years.

"Pitiless Publicity" in the Senate
Exposure of Deception Practiced by Committee on Public Information

In the senate of the United States Senator Wadsworth of New York called attention to four photographs being offered for sale by the committee on public information, announced through the Official Bulletin, and the following discussion ensued:

Mr. Wadsworth—Mr. President, it must be apparent to every senator, as he listened to that article being read, that those captions which were attached to photographs fairly bristle with misinformation. Furthermore, the committee on public information has been completely informed that those captions are utterly inaccurate, and still persists in publishing them to the American people under the seal of the government.

On Wednesday morning last there came into my possession a copy of this release containing the four captions just read by the secretary, each caption descriptive of a photograph to be sent to the press for publication and to be placed upon sale to private individuals or for collections.

I immediately called up the committee on public information and discussed the matter with the director of the division of pictures, under whose charge this matter falls. I called his attention to the grossly misleading statements, particularly that hundreds of airplanes have already been shipped to France, when we know that only one has gone. He admitted the information was misleading. He said his understanding was that these particular captions applied only to training planes. The committee on military affairs looked that matter up and further corroborated the well known fact that no training planes have been sent to France.

We then sent for the director of the division of pictures and had him before the military committee. We called his attention to this grossly inaccurate statement. He admitted before the committee in open session that it was misleading and flamboyant. This was on Wednesday afternoon. He laid a part of the blame upon one of his subordinates, a gentleman by the name of Maurice Strunsky, who he said wrote those captions. We had him, Strunsky, brought before us to find out where he got any such information as is contained in those captions, and he could give us no satisfactory explanation whatever.

The chief of the division of pictures informed the military committee that he would stop the publication of those captions. It was to be done at our request, and yet, Mr. President, here we are two days later, witnessing the publication of these falsehoods in the Official Bulletin, upon which the people of the United States rely for correct information.

I do not know what the senate can do about such things. We have no direct jurisdiction over the committee on public information. That organization knew that those statements were misleading, to use the most charitable term, and yet they persist in giving this misinformation to the American public at a time like this.

I think it is well worthy of the attention of the senate, and, as I have said on a former occasion, it is time that the committee on public information was reformed.

Mr. Knox—May I ask the senator a question?

Mr. Wadsworth—I yield to the senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Knox—Is it not a fact that the justification for the existence of the Official Bulletin is that the public is apt to be misled, and that they are entitled to the absolute facts, and hence the Official Bulletin?

Mr. Wadsworth—Of course that is the theory upon which the committee on public information was formed. I doubt if it is correct in that spirit.

Mr. Thomas—Mr. President, I was much surprised this morning as was the senator from New York when I saw on the last page of the Official Bulletin of March 28 this article. The committee on military affairs had good reason to congratulate itself that by the merest accident one of its members secured a copy of these so-called bulletins in time to investigate their origin and to stop their general publication. Immediately upon their receipt of it, or very soon afterwards, the committee on military affairs assembled and considered it, with the result as stated by the senator from New York (Mr. Wadsworth). The two men who seem to have been responsible for it are Mr. Rubel, the head of the division of pictures, and Mr. Maurice Strunsky, whose business is to write bulletins. These bulletins, generally speaking, after they have been composed by Mr. Strunsky, are submitted to Mr. Rubel for his inspection before they are sent upon their mission to the various newspapers of the country. In this instance Mr. Strunsky acted evidently upon his own responsibility, and prepared and mailed the bulletins without consulting his superior. Why, I do not know, unless it is that there is such tremendous importance that it was necessary to get them into the mail and on their way upon the instant.

Mr. President, the characterization which the senator from New York made of these bulletins was extremely mild. With the exception of some matters of detail which relate to the efforts of men to perfect the airplane engines and perhaps some parts of ships, they are absolute and unmitigated falsehoods. I might go further and use what was once known as "the shorter and uglier term." The only justification for them was the furnishing to Mr. Rubel by Colonel Deeds of the aviation section four pictures, which were evidently taken in the factory rooms where machines are being manufactured and which disclose the semblance of a large number of uncompleted and some completed training machines, engines, and parts of engines. The pictures make a very attractive showing and justify the assertion of the aviation section that it has an abundance of training planes. The rest is largely the work of the imagination.

Mr. Strunsky, 31 years of age, says that when these pictures were received by him—

and I do not pretend to give his exact words—he drew partly from his imagination and partly from his construction of an announcement of the secretary of war upon the 21st day of February the conclusions which he places here as facts. It is all imagination, showing that Mr. Strunsky has a very highly imaginative mentality, partly Oriental and partly American (laughter), the combination of which results in bulletins of this character.

My condemnation of this incident I want to concentrate upon its appearance in the Official Bulletin after the positive assurance of these gentlemen that it would not appear at all. If an "official bulletin" is good for anything, it should be because of its name and what the name implies. That which is official is generally considered to be reliable; it ought to be reliable under all circumstances. Those receiving this bulletin will very properly regard the statements made here as true, and very naturally their disappointment will be extremely great when they learn that they are not only untrue, but that the untruth is stated in an official document which they are taxed to support.

Mr. President, there can be no justification whatever for this. The Bulletin spreads, in this instance at least, among the people four statements upon an extraordinarily important subject which are not true. I think congress should have something to say about publications of this character at this time. We are confronted at present with a crisis of extraordinary magnitude.

Mr. Smith of Georgia and Mr. New addressed the chair.

Mr. President Pro Tempore—Does the senator from Colorado yield; and if so, to whom?

Mr. Thomas—Just a moment. The subject of the statements is so interwoven with success or defeat, one upon which the sentiment and expectation of the people are so keen, that the communication of false information is bound to react upon the morale.

Now I yield to the senator from Georgia.

Mr. Smith of Georgia—Did the senator from Colorado bring out clearly the fact—I was diverted for a moment—that the man at the head of that bureau in the signal service went before the committee on military affairs and admitted that this statement was untrue?

Mr. Thomas—He is not in the signal service.

Mr. Smith of Georgia—In what service is he?

Mr. Thomas—He is in the public information service.

Mr. Smith of Georgia—But he was the agent of the public information service over at the signal service bureau, was he not?

Mr. Thomas—No.

Mr. Smith of Georgia—Well, who was it that had charge of this publication, who admitted that the description contained in this paper was untrue; apologized for it, and said he had never seen it, or else steps would have been taken to prevent it being sent out?

Mr. Thomas—Mr. President, this gentleman, Mr. Rubel, admitted that the accounts were flamboyant. I think perhaps he could have gone further—

Mr. New—Mr. President—

Mr. Thomas—Just a moment. But he disowned direct responsibility for their production. When we called his attention to the facts he admitted their untruth; gave us his word that the Bulletin should not be published, and that he would instruct every newspaper in the country to which they had been mailed not to publish them.

Now, I yield to the senator from Indiana.

Mr. New—Mr. President the senator has just, in effect, answered the question I rose to ask. I merely rose to ask him if he did not think that this was primarily a direct fraud upon the press of the country?

Mr. Thomas—Primarily, secondarily, directly, and indirectly. (Laughter.)

Tenors Pass Up the Tenners

Caruso's income tax of \$59,000 is now topped by the \$75,000 which the Irish tenor, John McCormack, pays the government as its title of his income from public appearances and phonograph royalties. These are prodigious sums and throw a new light on music as a gainful occupation. When the baritone and bassos and coloratura sopranos have made their returns, when the virtuosos of the violin and the piano have paid their tax, the country will have occasion to regard the tenors with new respect as a source of government revenue.

Certainly if there was any doubt about opera as a war time industry these two popular tenors have dispelled it. They are doing their part to help America win the war and with an earnestness and patriotism which is recommended as an example to others whose income is earned under conditions of less publicity. But the point for remark is the fine appreciation shown by both Caruso and McCormack of their debt to the country where they have won their great fame. As the latter says, "America giveth and America taketh away." Blessed be the name of America.

That is the spirit in which all should regard the tax which is at most only a small return in the hour of need to the government which has made the income possible. Freely they have received, freely should they give.—New York World.

People and Events

A small section of Hoboken beared up in honor of the Hun drive on the Somme. It doesn't take much of a drive to plunge alien Hobokeners into tubs of suds.

Chicago's Society of Industrial Engineers estimates that the country will need 5,000,000 more women workers in industries in 1920, but need none now. Eighteen months is a long time to wait for a formal introduction to a pay envelope. Perhaps the S. I. E. merely sounds a note of preparation.

Twice Told Tales

Then the Lights Flickered.

One evening a young man, who was a dyed-in-the-wool golfer, was introduced to a beautiful girl at a dinner, and later in the evening when they sat alone in a cozy corner he began an exhaustive dissertation on his favorite game.

"The only objection that I have to golf," finally broke in the beautiful girl, "is that at times it becomes a trifle wearisome."

"Why, Miss Jones?" exclaimed the young man with a wondering expression. "I thought I understood you to say that you don't play golf."

"I don't," sweetly replied the charming one, "but I have a lot of golf-playing friends, who talk about it almost continuously.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Philanthropy.

One afternoon a group of men were talking about the fine donations of a couple of well-known philanthropists when one of the party broke into an expansive smile.

"Your philanthropists are all right," said he, "but I think it is only fair that my next door neighbor should be included in the kindly disposed class. For instance, I have never known him to send a tramp away from his back door empty-handed."

"You don't really mean it?" incredulously returned the other.

"It's a fact," said the first, his smile broadening. "He invariably gives them a letter of introduction to me."—New York Mail.

The Bee's Letter Box

Bring Out Your Savings.

Omaha, April 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: On account of the high price of merchandise every mercantile house doing a large business is a heavy borrower at the bank and practically every Omaha business man who buys Liberty bonds will be compelled to borrow from his banker in order to do so. The bank in turn borrows the money from the branch of the reserve bank, which means borrowing money from the government to buy Liberty bonds. In other words, borrow of the government to lend to the government.

The soliciting committees will be tempted to go along the lines of the least resistance, which means that the business men as usual will be the heaviest purchasers of Liberty bonds. They will have to sell those bonds when the banks no longer wish to carry them.

In view of the fact that the business community expects to borrow from the banks the money necessary to pay their excess profit income taxes, you can see that it is to raise the money for the next Liberty loan out of the savings of the people. It is the turn of the farmer and the man with savings in the bank to come forward and take his share and not lay down on the business community who requires its money to keep business going.

Name Your Man, "Hotshot."

Omaha, April 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: Please print the following message to Mr. "Hotshot" Murphy: Dear Mr. Murphy: You have enlightened us as to the merits and demerits of some of the candidates for the city commission in the coming election, and we have appreciated your cryptic statements, coming as they have from one who is evidently an expert on the political subject.

However, you have not indicated your choice of a ticket of seven, and we would like to have you do so.

How many of the present city commissioners do you favor for re-election, and how many of the "out" candidates, and what are the reasons for your choice?

Your answer will be awaited with eager interest by hundreds of voters who have read your articles in these columns.

ONE WHO BELIEVES IN YOU.

Where Do They Stand?

Florence, April 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am asking through the columns of your paper is there a man running for city commissioner that believes in the segregation of the colored population of our city? I also ask, is there a man running that believes the city of Omaha ought to own and run a municipal garbage plant, where the garbage should be taken where a killing establishment could be erected, and municipal markets opened up in the city in connection therewith where meats, fish, poultry, eggs, butter, milk, etc., could be sold to the public at a reduced rate? I wish to cast my ballot for such a man, if there is any one on the list.

C. L. NETHAWAY.

"Hotshot" Closing Volley.

Omaha, April 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: A few words of advice to the voters before they go to the polls. Don't be deceived by the hypocritical records of the hypocritical candidates printed in the hypocritical yellow sheet.

Dan Butler, the camouflage reformer, heads their ticket. A fitting standard bearer. But the joke of it all is their statement that Butler has opposed extravagance in municipal affairs. This is rich. Dan's brother and campaign manager, Joe Butler, is enjoying a salary of \$175 per month on the city payroll for doing nothing.

He passes as gas commissioner, but nobody knows what is going on about him, except electioneers for Dan. This is an example of Dan opposing extravagance in municipal affairs.

As for Ed P. Smith, the candidate for mayor, his campaign is rapidly deteriorating into a tragedy. The main actors are the members of the Mossman-Murray-Dunn troupe of lawyers who have aimed at power in the city hall for a long while, and thought they could put it over this time by putting forth a corruption politician lawyer who has never been successful in politics because he doesn't know anybody but his plutocratic friends.

Smith himself, it is reported, doesn't think he stands a chance. Neither does anybody else who can read the handwriting on the wall.

For a bunch of power-hungry lawyers to put forth a candidate whose very platform shows an ignorance of what is going on about him is the quintessence of folly. Smith hasn't woken up yet to the fact that there are social centers, and good ones, too, being conducted in all parts of Omaha. Neither has he found out that the people of Omaha are going to decide for themselves at the coming election whether or not they want to buy the gas plant. Somebody ought to set an alarm clock under his ear.

As for the "Hotshot" of the Daily News employee and the labor candidate who "ditched" the other members of the labor ticket to make "tiups," which would gain votes for himself. The other members wouldn't forget this for a while.

Ringer, Ure and Zimman are not so bad.

How to Save Cars.

Geneva, Neb., April 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: We are confronted today with a car shortage that has never in the history of railroaddom been equaled, and from the present outlook there is no reason to believe that the traffic men of all the railroads are bewildered as they have not yet solved the problem. However, a great deal has been accomplished to relieve the situation, and I will say a few words that I think will, if followed out, make available thousands of cars that are now being unnecessarily used. For example, we are juggling thousands of cars back and forth transporting flour and other commodities from one town to another. This practice should be eliminated and discouraged in every possible way; the inconsistency is the fact we have a flour mill milling flour and shipping some of it to other points, and in all probability those towns have a mill doing the same identical thing. It is certainly a vast waste of box cars that could be used for more important shipping. All flour today is made under government restrictions and the same formula used in the local mills as in mills at other places. So why should a car of flour be shipped, say from Geneva, Neb., to North Platte, Nebraska. My idea is to use your local mill products and everything that is local—cut out this unnecessary use of box cars. The railroads will thank us. The government and the people and soldiers will be benefited, for we have

important war material that is being delayed just because we have not the power and equipment to meet these unforeseen transportation difficulties that we are face to face with today. I would like to urge at that the government put an embargo on shipment of flour into cities that are now milling flour. This would unquestionably relieve the congested conditions in freight traffic as well as it would release many box cars for other shipping. This applies to all other similar conditions.

V. A. BRADSHAW.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Her sweetheart has gone to war."
"Is she worried?"
"Dreadfully. She's afraid he may fall in battle, but if he doesn't she's afraid he may fall in love with a Red Cross nurse."
—Detroit Free Press.

"Excuse this small box of bonbons, my first and only love. You know Mr. Hoover advocates the conservation of sweets."
"I agree with Mr. Hoover."
"Patriotic girl!"
"You get no kiss tonight."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"I can marry any woman I please."
"Then I conclude you haven't pleased any yet."—Baltimore American.

THE OLDER I GROW.

Edgar A. Guest in Detroit Free Press.
The older I grow the more I am to become; I find much that I have hidden deep in the sham.

I know that life's juices are under the skin. The cares that once fretted as trifles appear. And the foibles that loomed large in the friend that I know. Seem to fade in a background of kindness and cheer.

The older I grow.

Time was that I questioned the purpose of life. In the mad way of youth I was quick with my hate. But I know not the depth nor the breadth of the strife. And I know nothing then of the workings of fate.

I judged from the surface and not from the deep. I was wasteful with pleasure and fearless of pain. But I find that my joys I'm more eager to keep.

The older I grow.

I chose all my friends with particular care. And heedlessly wounded the truest and best. To many a false god I sent up a prayer. Then the real things of life seemed a subject for jest.

And the bad seemed the good and the good seemed the bad. I scorned in my haste what was splendid and true. But I find myself longing to have what I had.

The older I grow.

I have learned that men's follies are not printed deep. That things you mock at are as splendid and fine. And young people scatter the joys they should keep. In the very same way that I once wasted mine.

I'm more tolerant now. I am slower to sneer. For I've suffered my griefs and I've wonced at a blow. And money I find matters less and less here. The older I grow.

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"WHY NOT NICHOLAS OILS?"

"Business is Good—Thank You"

"Business is Good—Thank You"

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