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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Smash all the slates. Vote for the best man.

Over the top for Old Glory. Buy a Liberty bond.

And don't forget the school bonds when you go to the polls.

First election in the history of Omaha with no saloon back-door for the police to watch.

Amiens, too, has a fine cathedral, which may account for German desire to reach that city.

Well, well, well! In the language of "Met," Mr. Hitchbranch is mad. That's very evident.

It took a year to do it, but Americans are all headed in one direction at last, and their objective is Berlin.

Wheat prospects are very good, but that is all the more reason why even greater efforts be made to save as well as to produce food. It will all be needed to win the war.

Foch evidently knows something about Hindenburg's plans that has not been told on this side yet. At any rate, he has not been forced to play any of his trumps yet.

Council Bluffs made a short job of its quota, showing that somebody had underestimated the capacity of the people over there for buying Liberty bonds. However, this need not operate to prevent them from buying as many more as they care to.

The colonel having made the correction asked for, the senator from North Carolina may resume his task of protecting the administration on the floor of the senate, but he will have to do so with the knowledge that the colonel's criticism of the bill before the senate's judiciary committee still stands.

Of all places to obtrude religious bigotry the present war seems to be about the poorest, and particularly is the exhibition of such narrow-mindedness in the United States incomprehensible. Zealots who cling to their creeds at a time when fundamentals are being assailed are poor leaders.

Minneapolis citizens feel they have put up with enough of the conduct of the "class conscious" youth who have flouted the draft and otherwise misbehaved themselves. These misguided boys may yet come to realize that the war in which the United States has engaged is to be carried on without any application of bolshevism.

Wheat Production for Current Year.

Several months must elapse before the wheat crop of the United States for 1918 will be harvested and the yield definitely known.

Preliminary estimates, however, are suggestive of energetic efforts on part of farmers and a favorable season. The April bulletin from the Department of Agriculture forecasts a yield of 560,000,000 bushels of winter wheat, as against a final estimate of 418,070,000 bushels for 1917 and 480,553,000 bushels for 1916.

For rye the estimate is 86,000,000, compared with 60,145,000 last year and 48,062,000 in 1916. If we are to attain the desired billion-bushel wheat crop, sowing of spring wheat must be doubled in acreage and the yield per acre be equal to that of last year.

How great the spring crop is to be will determine the amount of wheat available for export. However, if the yield is no more than was harvested in 1917, the outlook now is that we will have an additional 142,000,000 bushels for export, or enough to feed 30,000,000 people on the basis of the pre-war consumption in America.

This, with the added yield of rye and the saving effected at home means that the war will not be lost for lack of something to eat, if it be not lost before the next harvest comes in. Our farmers have responded to the call.

IF THE KAISER ONLY KNEW.

To say that Senator Hitchcock is known as distinctly pro-German, we are told by his faithful alter-editor of his hyphenated newspaper, is "absurd."

Why, of course! Does not everyone know it was out of hostility to the Germans that the senator championed the kaiser's munitions embargo bill, that he urged the kaiser's bill to stop the allies from selling securities in America, that he gave out that interview opposing a declaration of war with Austria?

Does not everyone know, too, it was out of hostility to Germany that the senator, through his newspaper, has been justifying the enforced teaching of German "kultur" to the children in the grammar grades in our public schools and has been advocating retention of the suffrage for alien-enemy first-paper voters in Nebraska at least over the next presidential election?

Did we say "everyone"—well, everyone but the kaiser.

If the kaiser only knew what an implacable and dangerous foe he had in Senator Hitchcock, he would put a price upon his head.

Expanding Our Army.

Washington has ordered the assembly of an additional 150,000 men of the second draft contingent for April, an order anticipated to some extent, but not in such number.

This may be accepted as an evidence that the War department has determined on more energetic efforts in connection with the dispatch of troops to Europe.

It is unofficially known that considerable bodies of men have been moved lately, and on this rests the assumption that soldiers are to be sent across as fast as ships can be found to carry them.

Improvement in the shipping situation, brought about by the seizure of idle Dutch vessels and the deal with Japan, will provide transportation for a much larger force than might have been estimated a month ago.

This change in conditions came with the desperate drive of the German army and stimulated activity for war in America.

One feature of the new draft order is that gamblers and idlers are to be taken first; also that all classes are to be "purified" by the selection of men whose deferred classification is open to question.

While the army is not in any sense regarded as a reformatory, and some will feel a shock to their pride in the service by the early addition of laggards in society, the experience may be helpful to the objectionables who are to be drafted.

At any rate the discipline will not harm the gambler nor the sluggard, but will, for the term of service, bring them into habits of regular work and may return them to civil life ended with an appetite for honest productive labor.

The most notable effect of the order will be found in its influence on the public mind. In general the attitude of the people towards universal service is changing and a more reasonable view prevails.

Indeed, quite a little has been said about extending the limit both up and down, to include all between 19 and 45 years of age.

This may not be brought about, but the expansion of the army is a recognized necessity, and as such will be effectually met.

Idleness Made "Sedition."

The new sedition law for Nebraska among other definitions of the crime includes: "Being physically able to work and not engaged in any useful occupation, refuse employment or remain habitually idle when useful employment is obtainable."

Several objections may be raised to the literal interpretation of this language. It interferes with the law defining and punishing vagrancy, which undertakes to deal with the habitual idlers and undesirables.

To extend to them the severe penalty that is attached to sedition may not have been within the purpose of the legislature, although that is what the act amounts to.

It is doubtful if the new law will be more effective in meeting the I. W. W. menace, although that organization has never operated extensively within the state.

The provision may possibly be invoked against the workmen in case of industrial disturbance, "to refuse employment" being capable of such construction as might render strikers at any time liable to the penalty.

So far as it is applicable to chronic loafers, to persons whose presence is a detriment to any community, and to professional disturbers of the peace, little real objection will be laid against the law, but as it is framed it is fraught with danger, and its strict application may be found troublesome, even in war time.

Nebraska's law against vagrancy, properly enforced, would well have served any requirements for the protection of industry.

A quarter of a billion, for the first day's sales of the Liberty loan bonds is significant of the enthusiasm of the people for the cause.

The rate kept up for the next 10 days will see the total asked for reached. Let us hope the censor will allow this piece of information to go through to Berlin without change or comment.

Sending athletic stars to France to keep alive the sporting spirit among the boys is a good move—not that they would be likely to forget how to play, but they may need a little urging to take full advantage of their opportunities.

British Versus German Banking Review of Rival Systems Under War Conditions

London Chronicle.

One of the results of the profound process of inquiry and reconstruction which all our institutions are undergoing is that the British banking system has been put upon its trial, has come in for some strong criticism and has been contrasted, very much to its disadvantage, with the German system.

Especially has complaint been made against our banks that they do not lend money with sufficient freedom to our home manufacturers, and that they are backward and negligent in promoting British trade in foreign lands.

Many banks in consequence have been stimulated in the last 18 months to open branches or form connections abroad with the express object of developing our foreign trade. The end of the war will certainly find us with ample financial facilities in France, Italy and Spain than we had when it began.

The government, too, is backing the movement, and the British trade corporation is proof enough of the eagerness of officialdom to abandon its old do-nothing attitude towards commerce.

We are setting ourselves, in short, to learn from the enemy and to imitate his methods. But this, the sincerest form of flattery is by no means everywhere approved.

In the current number of "Sperling's Journal," for instance, an obviously well-equipped contributor, writing under the name of "Accepter," takes up a stout pair of cudgels on behalf of the British banking system as it is, and throws cold water in plenty on the idea of reforming it along German lines.

We all know our ears are well-nigh deafened with the laudations that shower on the Germans banks and the somewhat fearful admiration inspired by their size and driving power, their air of massive efficiency, the closeness of their alliance with industry, their successes in pushing German trade abroad.

And we are all familiar with the facile counterpart picture of British banks as aloof and lumbering institutions by comparison with their bustling rivals of Berlin. "Accepter" shows us the reverse side of the medal. He admits that the great German banks are sui generis, and that we have nothing like them here.

But so far from regarding that as a defect in our mechanism of finance he insists that it should be reckoned a bull point in our favor. The German bank, he points out, is a clearing bank, an accepting house, an issuing house, a discount company and a promoting syndicate rolled into one.

But all these functions are performed in London by separate concerns and institutions, each specializing in its own particular sphere. To contrast the German banks with the British joint stock banks—which is the invariable form the comparison takes—is therefore, to contrast the whole of Germany's system with only a fraction of ours.

But "Accepter" does not leave it at that. He carries the war into his opponents' camp. He shows, what one would have thought hardly needed showing at this time of day, that we have in Great Britain every single facility for furnishing credit to the Germans which the united banking system which Germany has evolved, while a weapon of great power in the hands of a

country with a long financial leeway to make up and struggling for a place in the sun, is unsuitable to a land like ours, the financial center of the world, with an assured and long-established position and with commitments in every corner of the globe.

Not only, he argues, is our system better adapted to our more varied needs and our greater responsibilities, but it is a more scientific and more highly developed system than the German. "We have, in fact, outgrown the German type of bank."

The average man will probably have some difficulty in accepting this bold declaration. The impressiveness of the organization and activities of the German banks has left its mark upon him. And small wonder. The five leading groups in Germany control a share capital and reserve larger than the whole of the British joint stock banks, including the Bank of England.

They work together, and they have pretty well divided the whole province of German industrialism between them. Who could help being impressed by the parade of such power and efficiency? There can be no question whatever that the German banks have played an extraordinarily effective part in developing Germany's foreign commerce.

It was a toss-up in Turkey a few years ago whether the Deutsche bank in Constantinople or the German embassy was the real depository of the schemes and strength of the fatherland. The bank got hold of every expert it could lay hands on to further railway, dock, drainage, mining and such like enterprises. It worked hand-in-glove with the embassy, the consular service, and the authorities at Berlin. It was prodigal of facilities to Turkish merchants. It proved in the most triumphant fashion that trade nowadays follows, not the flag, but the bank.

The truth is that two totally different conceptions underlie the German and the British banking systems. The German banker is as much a trader as he is a banker. He involves himself directly in the success or failure of the particular concerns that he undertakes to finance. He becomes a partner in the business; he is represented on the board; he controls, and often directs, its management. But the British banker is a lender of credit, and his primary business is to take care of the moneys deposited with him. Where we differentiate the functions of the banker and the trader, the German combines them; and that, perhaps, is the fundamental distinction between the two systems.

Given Germany's situation as it was when it became united the banking system it devised was probably the most effective of all possible levers for helping on German industry. But it entailed enormous risks and liabilities; it led to the erection of a huge superstructure on a shaky foundation; it meant trading on the narrowest of narrow margins; and it implicated industry and finance in national and international politics to such an extent that those may not be far wrong who believe that the war was partly determined upon to save a top-heavy edifice from crashing to the ground.

The Bee's Letter Box

Dogs for War Service.

Seward, Neb., April 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: Some time ago I seen an article in your paper that our government wanted 10,000 dogs for war use and specified the kind which were suitable. Wanting to do something to help along in our war, besides buying stamps and bonds, I bought two male young "Airdales" and raised and trained them. They are now over a year old and are fine specimens of "war dogs."

Will you kindly advise me through your paper what disposition I shall now take to deliver them to the government, where to ship them? I understand in your article if the dogs lived through the war they will be returned to the owner. Give us all the information you can. We want to go at it in the right way and deliver them to headquarters. The dogs are called "Hans and Fritz," the Katzenjammers' kids, and are the Seward war dogs.

JOHN ZIMMERER.

Answer: Army headquarters in Omaha advise that you write to the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C., for instructions as to how to proceed to get your dogs into service.

Cats, Dogs and War Gardens.

Geneva, Neb., April 5.—To the Editor of The Bee:—While so much is being said and done towards food conservation and other methods of saving expenses, why cannot some of this energy be divided toward disposing of useless curs and cats? Some families where there is neither chick nor child support two or more of each specie. Neither one is conducive to good gardens nor are they sanitary as household pets. The cats kill the birds who feed on grubs, while the dogs overrun gardens, digging up and killing plants. The tax on dogs should be so high as to discourage their keeping, or there should be a law against them all, while cats should be considered a mark for anyone desiring a target.

Many a dog is fed enough every day to suffice for a poor little hungry child and in these days of high prices the latter are not few. A GARDENER.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Friendship takes queer turns. Here I get into a fight. Two of my friends hold me and the other fellow punches me in the nose."

"If they wanted to show their friendship, why didn't they hold him?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"What is old Spondoolis so sore about?"

"He hired an expert to figure out his income tax, and the expert found that his income was about 20 per cent more than Spondoolis thought it was."—New York World.

"But Madge" queried a cluster of wide-eyed girls, "weren't you dreadfully frightened when that soldier tried to put his arms around you? What in the world did you do?"

"Oh, that was easy. I just yelled 'Attention!' and he was perfectly helpless."—Garopole.

RURAL ETCHINGS.

Morning on the Farm.

A shower of rain has wet the dust. And dyed the fields of corn a deeper green;

A row of peonies, in budding mused. Put on kimono, colored, neat and clean;

Around the farm house yard a zephyr blew The white catnip blossoms' pleasing scent;

The neighbors' honey bees were singing to themselves as to their daily work they went;

The fowls were preening in the vale; The pigeons flew and cooed upon the shed;

The pigs their noses crowded in the path. And grunted thankfully while being fed;

All rural life, from small to great, was gay. Save flicking mules and scolding jays.

A Kicking Jackrabbit.

A picture from a western pasturage: It is a frightened hare, with ears a-flop, High bounding through the cactus and sage.

As briskly as its lengthy legs can hop. Across the battled field of wounds. Knee it comes, near winded, from a chasing hound.

And pleadingly its big eyes look at me. As by it passes, surely losing ground. Can one be neutral at a time like this?

I twirl my lasso with a movement quick As with the feeling that must not miss. Embrace the savage canine round the neck.

Which shows by snarling that he thinks it strange A hare should have the freedom of the range Lincoln.

—WILLIS HUDSPETH.

Guarding Wheat from Mice Measures for Keeping Out the Australian Plague

Washington Letter in Boston Transcript.

Precautions are being taken by the government to safeguard American wheat.

Every bushel of the grain brought into the country from Australia is being examined by representatives of the Department of Agriculture to prevent any spread of the mice plague being experienced there.

Officials question whether the plague constitutes a menace other than in destruction of the crop in Australia, and doubt that damaged wheat is being shipped to the United States, but are taking no chances at a time like this, when wheat is a vital necessity and when practically all of the civilized world is looking to this country for it.

In addition to inspecting grain here, the department has sent Dr. J. W. T. Duvel, chief of the division of grain standardization to Australia, to make a personal investigation. It is believed that the wheat districts of Australia have suffered from the worst plague of the last 20 years.

Most of the information at the disposal of the government is unofficial. A large part is in clippings from newspapers published in Australia. These accounts tell much about the ravages of the mice in Victoria during May and June of last year.

Mice plagues usually follow a year of drouth. A drouth kills off the mice by the thousands. Warm winters and wet summer, with ideal conditions for a mice plague, during 1916-17 resulted in the present situation. The mice reproduced by the millions. Hawks, snakes and other natural checks on mice became surfeited with prey and no longer "did their bit."

By the last half of the summer of 1917 the fields had become honeycombed with mouse holes, so that it was hardly possible to set foot without breaking through. The trails of the mice in some instances were so beaten down as to indicate that millions of the pests had passed over the path. It is reported from Queensland that where a heavy dust lay on the roads the deep tracks of a passing motor car would be effaced by the tracks of mice moving from farm to farm.

The mice, when they moved on a place, ate everything in sight, stopping only at metals. Furniture stuffing, seats of vehicles, collars, cuffs and linens; bone buttons, groceries, harness and almost everything else were consumed.

The loss in wheat alone is estimated at £600,000 sterling. "The cats and dogs have become disgusted and nauseated at the sight of a mouse," says one account received by the department. "The people are sleeping on tables to avoid the mice. The women are kept in a constant state of terror, and the men are kept busy preventing the mice from crawling down their coat collars." One man, it was said,

went to sleep with a top hat on his head to protect himself against mice and the mice ate out the sides of the hat during the night.

One farmer left a bag of wheat outside his barn over night, and in the morning there was nothing left, while another hung a piece of rope to a rafter in his stable; within two hours the rope was a morning mass of mice.

In some sections the mice devoured the seed wheat after it has been placed in the ground, necessitating a re-sowing. The churches of the infested sections conducted special meetings for prayer in search of relief from the plague.

These conditions prevailed despite the most desperate efforts on the part of the inhabitants to check the wave of mice.

Within a week an Australian official caught 240,000 mice, and in two months 36,000,000 mice, or 600 tons, were trapped at 120 railway stations. It is estimated that 1,500 tons of mice had been destroyed at the time the information was compiled. A device called a double fence trap, by which both the mice inside and outside the wheat stacks may be trapped, was put into operation. In one night this trap accounted for 120,000 mice in one section, while in another section seven tons of mice were captured in two nights.

Fencing and ditching, terminating in a can filled with kerosene was attempted as a means of checking the invasion, but it was found that the mice quickly ate the kerosene cans and the balance went on over the dead mice.

It was upon the wheat crop, the staple product of Australia, that the mice worked the most havoc. Detailed information as to the extent of the loss is not available, but accounts at hand set the monetary value of the destroyed crop at £600,000 sterling, as previously stated. It is pointed out that 1,000 mice in a meadow would consume 12 tons of green vegetation in a year. In addition to the actual eating of the grain, thousands of bags of wheat were rendered useless by the mice eating into the bags. Stacks of 60,000 bushels in South Australia were ruined in this way. Strenuous efforts were made by the Australian officials to remove the wheat from the fields in devastated areas, and arrangements were made for the receipt and stacking of 120,000 bags a day at Melbourne and other terminals. Stacks of wheat at the railway stations collapsed, due to undermining by the mice. It is estimated that the mice-infested stacks of wheat numbered more than 4,000,000 bags, 2,000,000 of which had been transported to the seaboard. Dr. Duvel's reports are expected to contain much additional information of interest.

TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Jack Hendricks, manager of St. Louis National league club, born at Joliet, Ill., 42 years ago.

British in great offensive broke German lines between Lens and Arras, capturing famous Vimy Ridge.

Fourteen Austrian ships interned in American ports seized by order of United States government.

The Day We Celebrate.

Rev. Robert L. Wheeler, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, South Side, born 1851.

Dr. Raymond A. Pearson, assistant secretary of Department of Agriculture, born at Evansville, Ind., 45 years ago.

Park Trammell, United States senator from Florida, born in Polk county, Florida, 42 years ago.

Jack Hendricks, manager of St. Louis National league club, born at Joliet, Ill., 42 years ago.

James R. Vaughn, pitcher Chicago National league team, born at Weatherford, Tex., 30 years ago.

This Day in History.

1813—The Chesapeake, American commerce raider, returned to Boston, having captured five British ships in four months' cruise.

1862—General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox court house, Virginia.

1915—Germany agreed to compensate owners for sinking the American ship William P. Frye.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

J. L. Brandels & Sons advertised good quality apron check gingham at 2 1/2 cents a yard, all wool Henrietta cloth at 23 cents a yard, white dress goods at 9 cents a yard and oriental laces at 2 cents a yard.

At a meeting of the firemen's ball committee, held at Chief Galligan's

office, it was reported that the expenses of the ball were \$300 and the receipts \$1,700.

The South Omaha land syndicate filed with the registrar of deeds a plat of lots 209 to 330 situated immediately south of the line of the city limits of Omaha.

A movement is on foot to organize a society in this city to be composed of Russians, the purposes of which are social and fraternal.

Sheriff Coburn was directed to pay his deputies \$75 a month, providing the fees of the office permit it.

Thirty-three American telephone girls equally versed in French and English have arrived in Paris to work on the American telephone line.

Should the boys over there get their number the lines are bound to be busy.

Holland's screams against the taking over of its shipping by the allies no doubt starts at the heart. But a time for reprisal will come. Imagine what will happen to American tourists easily held the war-travel record.

Originally decorating the triumphal arches of Nero and Trojan in Rome, they were whisked by Constantine to Constantinople, captured and brought to Venice in 1204. Nearly six centuries later they looked good to Napoleon when "the man on horseback" combed Europe for artistic loot. In 1815 they were restored to Venice, where they remained until the present war necessitated removal to Rome for safety. Thus, after 19 centuries of travel, the famous war horses are back on their original stamping ground.

"Over There and Here"

Speaking in German even in a whisper in the precincts of the Democratic club of New York is strictly verboten.

Ach, Louie!

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Washington Post: The messages of glorious victories sent back home by Bill and Butch are followed by the trailblazes of wounded and dying.

Minneapolis Journal: Special medals were probably given to the German gun crew that blew up a church full of women and children where Good Friday services were being held.

Wall Street Journal: Seems established that a Prussian 70-foot gun can kill 70 women and children in a half hour.

New York World: Demolishing a Paris church by long range gunfire on Good Friday and killing 75 people at the same time is a striking example to date of its veneration for the God of the kaiser's prayers.

Brooklyn Eagle: Seventy-five worshippers praying in a Catholic church in France are killed by a German bomb dropped from the clouds.

Barbaric disregard of the conventions of civilized warfare. The day is Good Friday. No greater crime is recorded in history. This crime wipes out the good deeds of the kaiser and his ministers have addressed to the pope.

Beatrice Express: Four American women being among the numbers of helpless women and children killed in the bombardment of Paris Easter Sunday.

For Kaiser Wilhelm to issue another bulletin thanking himself and his "gott" for the wonderful victory attained by his valiant army over the Americans.

"Me und Gott"

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