

THE OMAHA BEE

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The Bee's Service Flag



A bond in every home is the goal. Gain it.

Let us make Liberty loan day a real one, but do not wait a week to subscribe.

Bohemian nationalists are giving the new Austrian premier something to think about.

Hindenburg's reach for the sea ends just where Von Moltke fell down in 1914. "They shall not pass!"

Our weather man is trying his best to do his bit by furnishing rain for the coming Nebraska crop. Don't discourage him.

Breathing was freer in city hall and court house yesterday, the grand jury having adjourned without going too deeply into anything.

"Please forget how hard we tried to help the kaiser," is the plea of the Omaha Hyphenated. Unfortunately for it, its record was too recently acquired.

Senator Lenroot has been sworn in as a member of the upper house and begins on a well merited promotion. Americanism will suffer little with men like him on guard.

In view of the fact that most of the soldiers from Omaha went to Camp Funston, may we not expect that the governor will include that post in his present itinerary?

Nebraska's democratic senator's record of effort in behalf of the kaiser is coming home to roost. His only defenders are the Hearst papers, mixed in the same mess.

Suspicion is aroused that Miss MacMahon is being made the goat for somebody. The State Board of Control ought to leave this matter only when it is thoroughly cleaned up.

After having told us why it was necessary for Governor Neville to personally look after the soldier voters at Camp Cody, perhaps some wisecracker can explain also why ex-Governor Morhead had to go with him. Or did it just happen so?

Is Something Being Hidden?

The Bee has no desire to hamper the State Board of Control in its management of state institutions, but a serious case has arisen. The late matron of the Reformatory for Girls at Geneva is under investigation, after having been removed from office because of alleged mismanagement at the home under her care. One grave scandal has been developed in connection with that institution, details of which have been made public. The Nebraska State Journal hints plainly that something is being covered up; that certain charges made against the matron have been changed or withdrawn because of the likelihood of involving others in the proceedings. Whether these hints are based on anything substantial or not, the board can not afford to let them stand unchallenged. If nothing is being concealed, the fact ought to be made plain. It is due to the public that everything shady in connection with the reformatory, as well as any other similar state-managed charity, ought to be brought into full light. The State Board of Control should clear up every charge completely.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

The Cable Tramway company put a large force of laborers at work on North Twenty-third street between Webster and Burt streets, to connect the termini at Cass and Nicholas streets.

The Stars and Stripes were floated from the new flag staff on the High school building, gladdening the patriotic heart of Mr. Auchmoedy, to whom is due the credit for demanding and carrying through the resolution that placed it there.

The Omaha representatives of the land of cakes had another reunion in the shape of a dance and musical entertainment held in the Masonic hall. One of the chief features was the dancing of the Highland Fling by Messrs. Meldrum and Ross.

Otto Beindorff and family left for Europe for a three years' stay, in which Mr. Beindorff expects to complete his musical education.

The Omaha Odd Fellows are making extensive arrangements for attending the celebration at Fremont the coming week. A special train will take them out.

The Day We Celebrate

Edward A. Dow, American consul at Juarez, Mexico, born 1879.

John P. Hyland, mayor of New York City, born in Greene county, New York, 50 years ago today.

Cardinal Fahey, head of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of New York, born in County Armagh, Ireland, 76 years ago today.

James D. Phelan, United States senator from California, born in San Francisco, 37 years ago today.

Daniel Chester French, one of the foremost American sculptors, born at Exeter, N. H., 68 years ago today.

This Day in History

1775—The American patriots held their first council of war at Cambridge, Mass.

1798—Great Britain suspended the habeas corpus act because of the prospect of rebellion in Ireland.

1818—Benjamin M. Everhart, noted author and botanist, born at Westchester, Pa. Died there September 22, 1904.

1842—Commander William S. Dana, U. S. N., who was commended for gallantry at the battle of Mobile bay, born in New York City. Died in Paris, January 1, 1899.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY.

The report of the grand jury to the district judges contains but little to support the "well founded rumors" on which its extraordinary power of inquisition was evoked. A homily on woman's garb, some exhortation as to public morals and suggestions as to management of the court-house and the pest house make up those portions of the report not given over to the consideration of matters properly belonging in the police court. But the disclosures of official misconduct, of graft and misuse of authority are not to be discovered in the report. Conclusions to be drawn from this are obvious. Citizens who had looked for a deep searching inquiry into public affairs and a report thereon will not be satisfied by being told that too much money is being spent for janitor service in the court house, or that civil service should govern in employment of city servants. It is barely possible that petty gambling at pool halls is the worst of our community evils, but the report of the grand jury does not make this plain.

Rheims a Smoking Ruin.

Wanton destruction that has marked the course of the German army from the day it set out on its march in 1914 has reached its height in the utter demolition of Rheims. Nothing in the record of the war exactly compares to this act of vandalism. Louvain was sacked and burned, its inhabitants murdered or driven into captivity purely as an act of terror. The region abandoned by Hindenburg was devastated deliberately and scientifically as a monumental achievement of military prowess. Other examples of malicious mischief have been done in the spirit that prompted the retreating Huns to erect a sign: "Do not be angry—just wonder." But the destroying of Rheims falls outside of these. It is the crowning triumph of German meanness, fit only to be reckoned with such treachery as prompts a wounded Hun to fire on the soldier who has hearkened to his pleadings for water.

Rheims is a smoking ruin. One hundred thousand shells have been fired into the city within a month, 30,000 a day, until the town that has been a capital and seat of governmental authority since the time of Julius Caesar is now a heap of smoking dust. It was not a military stronghold, but it was behind the French lines and within reach of the German artillery. That was enough, and all the civilized world will wonder. How can any cause be advanced by such devilishness? Rheims will rise again; from its ruins will be built a modern city. The magnificent cathedral may be replaced, another library will be established, but historic buildings that have endured for centuries are now in heaps of crumpled masonry. Nothing can restore them. This much of consolation is the kaiser's—he has destroyed that which can not be restored. Also he has added heavily to the debt his country will be forced to discharge to the world through future ages.

Burian Announces a Program.

Austria's future in the war is well indicated by the announcement from Baron Burian that he proposes to follow a course indicated by acts of his former term in office. These mainly took the form of hypocritical pretensions of desire for separate peace, efforts to involve the Entente Allies in bickering that might weaken their purpose if not wholly divide them, and generally by deception and intrigue to undermine the strength against which Austria and Germany contend. Wholly under control of Berlin, Burian may be expected to take his time from Von Hertling now as he did from Von Bethman-Hollweg before. His program is interesting only to the extent that it shows the Bourbons of Austria still justify the stricture of Talleyrand. They learn nothing, and they forget nothing. The recent exposures of the duplicity of the emperor in his dealings with France, and the stupidity of Czernin along similar lines, have had no effect at Vienna, although the rest of the world is apprised that the Hapsburgs is to be trusted no farther than the Hohenzollern.

Filling Orders for Shipping.

From ship yards of Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts and on the great lakes comes the same story; all are busy, and ships are sliding from ways into water. Promises now made are reasonably possible of fulfillment. In this they differ from the glittering prospectuses set before the world a few months ago, when organizations for mighty enterprises were on paper. Disappointment followed on failure to meet expectations aroused by unbridled publicity, but most of that has passed away with the knowledge that, while we are not accomplishing the impossible, we are achieving genuine wonders. Fabricated steel vessels, wooden ships and concrete are going ahead as fast as armies of skilled workmen can drive rivets, shape planks or pour concrete. Our merchant fleet is being added to at a rate that is rapidly reducing the shortage, and which means that the bridge of boats across the Atlantic is nearer than ever to completion. Inertia as to policy is giving way to decision, unrest and disturbance among labor is vanishing before constructive co-operation, and the orders for ships are being filled. Progress for another three months such as has been made within the last three will see America fairly well advanced on its gigantic task.

Hitchcock and the Stone Succession

Unfitness of Nebraska Senator for Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee

New York World (Dem.)

The late William J. Stone of Missouri was chairman of the committee on foreign relations of the United States senate, having gained that position solely by the rule of seniority. The senate had a democratic majority, and he, as the democratic committee man as if by prescription, became chairman as that practice worked in the case was confessed by him long ago, when, opposed to ships armed against submarines and finally to war, he entrusted the management of resolutions meeting these issues to Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, next in succession.

By the same rule that carried Senator Stone into a place which he could not fill, Senator Hitchcock, the present ranking democratic member of the committee, is of course indicated for the chairmanship. Is it right, is it patriotic, is it safe, that he should be entrusted with it?

The people of the United States are no longer in ignorance of the purposes and methods of German propagandists. In spite of all that Senator Hitchcock has done since war became a fact, and for this we give him full credit, he has a record which should bar him absolutely from the important chairmanship now vacant.

During our years of neutrality the German conspiracy in this country had for one of its objects the encouragement of anti-British prejudice. Blockaded on all sides, it was autocracy's theory that if the commercial and financial relations of its enemies with the United States could be cut off the sea power of Britain would be nullified. To this end Senator Hitchcock devoted himself.

On August 19, 1914, at the very beginning of the war, he introduced a bill forbidding the sale of bonds by belligerent nations in this country. On December 7, 1914, he presented a bill prohibiting exports of all kinds to belligerent nations. With the sea closed to Germany, these measures, if adopted, would have been a flagrant violation of neutrality in the interest of the central powers.

On May 8, 1915, the day after the Lusitania massacre, Senator Hitchcock said that "the loss of American lives was only incidental or accidental," and that "reparation"—that is, money—would satisfy every claim. On May 14, 1915, discussing the president's flaming note of protest, he said: "I should not be willing to go to war for the purpose of securing to Americans the right to trade with the world on English ships loaded with arms and munitions," which was precisely the German view.

In August, 1915, the World published the Albert papers, revealing the inner workings and aims of intriguing German officials in the United States. One of these men, Herr Reiswitz, writing on July 22, 1915, to Heinrich F. Albert, Berlin's financial agent, in support of the "embargo conference" soon to be held in Chicago in support of Senator Hitchcock's resolution, said:

Among others, the following have agreed to co-operate: Senator Hitchcock, Congressman Buchanan, William Bayard Rustin, and the well-known pulpit orator Dr. Akeed (born an Englishman) of San Francisco. Hitchcock seemed to be very strong for the plan. He told our representative at a conference in Omaha: "If this matter is organized in the right way you will sweep the United States." In March, 1916, the World exposed the

A Historic Parallel

Napoleon and Wellington, Hindenburg and Foch

Wall Street Journal.

Allowing that battles in the present war are matters of weeks, and not of hours, there is a singular parallel between the German drive, mainly directed against the British, and Napoleon's last campaign, which terminated at Waterloo. Napoleon is reported to have said that the British lost every battle but the last one, and, although this was not true of Wellington's campaigns in the Peninsula, there is still much truth in the epigram. If the palpable existence of the British empire proves anything it shows that the British lose battles but win wars.

Although the numbers engaged on both sides at Waterloo were trifling, in the light of modern figures, the battle was one of the greatest in history and was, moreover, decisive. It will be remembered that the Belgians quit early in the forenoon, believing the battle lost, and that Blucher and his Prussians had been defeated by Grouchy, but had evaded the victor, joining Wellington's forces in the afternoon. But for the greater part of the day Napoleon, with superior numbers, in assault after assault, played the part of Hindenburg, while Wellington made that desperate defensive fight in which the British have few equals and no superiors. He was, in fact, prepared to do what Haig is doing now, while the British realized that if he did not crush the British his audacious campaign would leave the conflict undecided, even if Grouchy had succeeded in intercepting Blucher as he should have done.

There is a striking similarity in the present position and one which is obviously understood by General Foch, who is an ideal commander for the allied army in the respect that he understands the British and American qualities. He knows how to make use of them, as his works on war strategy show, even if the victory of the Marne had not demonstrated his capacity. He has another would-be Napoleon on the other side of the Rhine for his opponent, and whatever minor gains the prodigal waste of German soldiers may have registered the enemy's position is now no better than Napoleon's would have been had the result of Waterloo been decisive.

This is the secret of the profound confidence displayed by the allies and expressed by all military authorities able to read results correctly. Hindenburg, who pledged himself to be in Paris on April 1, is already ailing of a "German peace" as late as August.

Editorial Shrapnel

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: The Liberty prescription: To break a bond, buy a bond.

Minneapolis Journal: Buy a bond before they are all snapped up by the more cautious investors.

Washington Post: The determination of the boche to get Amiens is proof that it has a cathedral.

Louisville Courier-Journal: The coal shortage is such that it behooves American farmers to raise enough corn to burn cobs next winter.

New York World: If politics would win the war, the entire German army could not hold a single trench against the United States senate.

Baltimore American: America has always held a fondness for Ireland. But is the Emerald Isle to disappoint us now by refusing man power in a world fight for freedom that will bless Ireland, too?

Brooklyn Eagle: The Holland gin industry closes down the same day that silver goes to a dollar an ounce. William J. Bryan is gaining all his money by the pressure of war, which he opposed.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: There are some star spangled banners that are more thickly spangled than the Stars and Stripes. They're service flags, and every star represents an American consecrated to service for "The Star Spangled Banner."

Minneapolis Tribune: Iowa is now excited over the discovery of a fish that has a collar legs. The body of an eel and four legs. Still, they try to make believe the prohibition law is rigidly enforced in Iowa.

The Bee's Letter Box

Calls on Middle West to Prepare.

Avoca, Ia., April 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: As you and your paper exercise a heavy influence, I would like to call your attention to the statement of Hiram Maxim—made about three years ago—"If the enemy (which God forbid) should land in your country, they have to be furnished with all your luxuries together with cigars and women and quick will they put themselves in possession of all our ammunition and weapon factories which are all in small radius in the east."

Now, is it not about time we put our house in order here in the middle west and very quickly have factories for ammunition and weapons started in Omaha, Lincoln, Denver, Sioux City, to commence with?

If we do not want a fate like Russia, (where a few German soldiers can run the whole population like a flock of sheep) it is time we have something handy to fight with and common sense tells that a pitchfork fighting against first class rifle would not do. We must have proper up-to-date weapons to fight with. Every thinker knows if England and France go down, the Huns will demand their fleet—here is the wealth they are after. Shall we millions here in the middle west stand weaponless?

If the United States does not want to start these factories, let us do it ourselves. Surely with the wealth present, almost each quarter section farm with stock worth almost \$20,000 to \$40,000—surely, any farmer will take stock in such factories from \$500 and up. We have billions of property to defend.

As any number of men here have been trained years ago in European armies—have we plenty of weapons ready? The damned Huns will not play easy here in the west if we put our house in order.

Start a call in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, to take stock and start factories for guns, cannons, ammunition, aeroplanes, and let us commence home drill. I was trained about 49 years ago and have not forgotten.

That the tactics of the United States senate may be changed on occasion was seen in 1871 when Charles Sumner, a much greater man than Gilbert M. Hitchcock, was removed from the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations because he was hopelessly at odds with the president and his party. The quarrel between Sumner and Grant was over a trifling affair in comparison with the vital issues involved from the first in Hitchcock's antagonism to Wilson. Seniority, although in Sumner's case based upon ten years of memorable service, did not count then. It ought not to count now.

Fitness alone being the consideration, the chairmanship of this powerful committee should go to Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi. He has never had the approval of any agent of autocracy operating in behalf of pacifism, embargoes, "reparation" for lives deliberately sacrificed or abject surrender. He did not come to the dread ordeal of war cheerfully, but he accepted it courageously and confidently, with no reservation and with no disposition, either partisan or personal, to be other than an American and a patriot. Nobody is in doubt as to the kind of service Senator Williams would render as chairman of the committee on foreign relations.

Dream of Kaiser's Doom.

Omaha, April 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have taken a gentle poke at the kaiser in the way of a dream.

I had this dream in dreamland, where everything was still; I see a person on a throne that looked like Kaiser Bill. He had a crown upon his dome which was made of steel and lead. He had a frown upon his face as these words to him I said: "Farewell, kaiser, kiss your crown goodbye, for soon in Berlin the Stars and Stripes will fly, and when the war is over and everything is still you'll see a little mound that's labeled 'Here lies old Kaiser Bill!'"

Old Kaiser Bill he told me that he "had fought and lost. All on account of Hindenburg. He's another die—big front. The Boches they are waking up to conditions, don't you see? And all the crimes and atrocities they are tracking home to me. Our submarines

have failed us. Knowing our aviation, and if our bluffing fails to work we're lost to all creation." Old Kaiser Bill he told me he could see peace in his trance, but 'twas all of poor Belgium and a 4—big piece of France. But he said there nothing doing in that line as he could see, for Uncle Sam had already sent his troops across the sea. He said that such a movement had put an end to his career—and at this moment I awoke, so will leave the reader here. OLD CIRCUIS CLOWN.

Lines to a Smile.

One of the questions to be answered was: "When did the practice of burning witches come to an end?"

"When the cost of fuel went up," was the answer one youth gave.—Boston Transcript.

Neighbor—My dear, why are you covering your jam pots with wall paper?

Efficient Mother—Camouflage. It's the same paper as that on the pantry walls.—Puck.

LEND A HAND.

New York Times. April music in the air, Do you hear? Blossoms bursting everywhere, Far and near. Song birds upon the wing, Every bud, each living thing, Tells of hope and life and Spring. Over here.

Bombs are bursting "Over There." Don't you hear? Death is lurking everywhere, Ever here.

Wallowing in slime and mud, Tortured by the grime and blood, Gallant lads are there today, Lads who laughed but yesterday. Over here.

Maybe it's your boy and mine, Fighting in your fight and mine! Will you sit at ease, or whine. Over here?

Are you coward, traitor, slacker? God forbid! Then be a backer! Back that boy of yours and mine. Lend a hand, and set in line. Buy a bond, and swell the line! Buy a bond!

Will you leave him in the trench, With his poison gas and stench, With the wounds that drip and drench? Lend a hand! Buy a bond!

Lend a hand and lift him out! Help put the foe to rout! He can do it—no doubt. Lend a hand!

By that consecrated sod, That those hero lads have trod, Where they went to meet their God, Where they went to meet their God, Lend a hand! Buy a bond!

Lend a hand, and never cease, Till with victory comes Peace. Forward! Haste this glad release, Buy a bond!

ARMONY

We carry out each funeral service in harmonious conformity with the wishes of our employes—the public. We have built an undertaking organization whose reputation is the highest and whose equipment is most excellent. Let us serve you should occasion require.

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Public Exhibition and Recital. An invitation is extended to the music lovers of Omaha to attend a complimentary recital and exhibition in the Ball Room of the Blackstone Hotel. Under the auspices of the Melville Clark Piano Co. of Chicago, manufacturers of the famous Apollo Players. For two days—MONDAY and TUESDAY, April 22d and 23d. From 10 a. m. Until 9 p. m. The public will have an opportunity of seeing the most remarkable display of player-pianos, both grands and uprights, ever exhibited in Omaha, including the most recent musical triumph—the Apollophone—an instrument combining the piano, player piano and talking machine. Recital Every Afternoon and Evening. Each afternoon at 3:00 and evening at 8:15 visitors will be treated to a complimentary recital by Miss Ursula Dietrich, New York's famous pianist and composer; Mrs. Florence Basler Palmer, soprano soloist, one of Omaha's leading sopranos and Miss Isabelle Radman, a violinist of the first rank, accompanied by the marvelous Solo Art Apollo. The Exhibition and Recital Are Free to Everybody. PUBLIC INVITED. Arbor Day, Monday the 22nd, will be observed as a Holiday by THE CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASS'N, 1614 Harney Street.