

THE OMAHA BEE

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The Bee's Service Flag



A bond in every home is the only way.

"Over the top" on the bonds is Nebraska's record.

What's the matter? Some of the "boys" seem to think Mayor "Jim's" favor is not an asset.

President Wilson is assured a pleasant few moments if he will only listen while Omaha sings "America."

Increase in pay had the effect of bringing plenty of workers to the packing house gates. The magic that lies in good wages can not be denied.

Winter wheat is reported to be in splendid condition throughout the state and we have a lot more of it than a year ago, which is even better news.

Our Dutch friends are finding that the old game of "playing both ends to the middle" is a risky one, especially when both dealer and lookout are watching them.

The grand jury's report had one effect, in that a lot of janitors and scrub-women have been dismissed from the court house. But is the wave of reform to dash no higher than the lowly position of these?

Why should it be necessary for Douglas county to sue its highest paid official to compel him to turn into the treasury fees he collects in his office? Fee-grabbing has been outlawed, but the incumbent of the clerk's office does not believe in such a law.

Rose Pastor Stokes has repudiated her confession of love for and faith in America, doubtless preferring the crown of "martyrdom" to the quiet consciousness of right that comes to the good citizen. She is welcome to her choice, and will find time in confinement to reflect on its wisdom.

American Valor in the Field. French soldiers and officers are generously warm in their praise of conduct of American soldiers under fire. They express the utmost admiration for the men, who have held desperately to their work, refusing to retreat, even when retirement was permissible, but who stuck to the positions and took heavy toll of the oncoming Hunnish hordes.

Dead Yankee boys lying across their guns and surrounded by heaps of German corpses testify to the valor of the men we have sent to France. It is not surprising, though. The men who fought at Bunker Hill and Monmouth, at Trenton and Cowpens, at Lunenburg and New Orleans, who charged at Cerro Gordo, Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, who stormed the heights of Chapultepec, who clashed at Shiloh, Corinth, Gettysburg, Antietam, in The Wilderness, at Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain, who fought at San Juan Hill, and through the bamboo thickets and canebrakes of Luzon, have left "sons of sires who conquered there, with arm to strike and soul to dare as quick, as far, as they." These are following Old Glory in a new crusade for freedom, and they can be relied upon. Tyranny's doom was writ large when Columbia's sons went forth to fight.

NO EXTENSION OF THE WAR.

President Wilson again has checked a move to declare a state of war against Bulgaria and Turkey, setting up reasons that to him are conclusive. The president believes that the retirement of one or both of these countries from the conflict is imminent; also that to declare war on either at this time would put into jeopardy lives of American citizens who can not be protected if relations are entirely broken off.

Between Germany and Holland.

Strained relations between Germany and Holland over the transportation of war material through Holland to Belgium may possibly lead to a declaration of war on either side. The incident serves to emphasize the patience with which the United States and Great Britain have dealt with the Dutch through the last three years.

The Dutch government has sedulously and scrupulously sought to maintain its neutrality, but its people have believed the professions of the authorities. Food, clothing and other supplies have been sent across the border into Germany in large quantities, a trade legitimate enough, but decidedly to the disadvantage of the Allies, who have been called upon to furnish the Dutch with much that they needed in order that they might continue their trade with the Germans.

When the shipping conditions became acute, and the Allies finally were compelled to commandeer Dutch ships that had swung idle for months in American and British ports, a note of protest came from Holland, with a threat from Germany. All the time the negotiations for the use of the ships were in progress the Germans were transporting sand, gravel and other war material over Holland canals, building permanent defenses back of their lines. Dutchmen have been employed in Germany, helping to produce munitions, and in many other ways the kaiser has had aid from his neighbors.

All this has been extremely profitable business for the thrifty burghers, and it has been stated that almost the entire store of gold in Germany in 1914 has found its way into Holland. War between the two may be averted but it may be that the kaiser will have to show a surface regard for Dutch neutrality that has of late been lacking.

Botting Up the U-Boat.

The exploit of the British navy at Zebrugge and Ostend compares with the singing of the beard of Philip by Francis Drake in the far-off sixteenth century. Drake, in defiance of orders, detoured his division of the small English fleet, and entered the harbor of Cadiz, where he wrought havoc among the mighty war-vessels of the Spanish king, achieving a fame unexcelled in naval annals. Decatur's feat at Tripoli, Cushing's torpedoing of the Albemarle and Hobson's daring venture at Santiago de Cuba are Yankee exhibits of the same sort of spirit, the quality of courage and initiative that has made the Anglo-Saxon fighter the peer of any on land or sea.

Another glorious chapter has been added to the long record of proud history of the British navy. It was not an attack on an unarmed and unprotected port; not a sudden dash and a few shells hurled at random against a watering place, where by chance a hospital might be wrecked. It was a deliberate assault on strongly fortified, heavily armed and jealously guarded naval bases. Its boldness won for it success, and two nests of the kaiser's undersea pirates were shattered if not completely broken up. What its effect on the course of the war will be is mooted, but the activity of the submarine is certainly interfered with by this movement.

Accounts say the number of volunteers for the undertaking was far in excess of requirements. This, too, is characteristic of the race. At Santiago, when Hobson called for volunteers, the entire ship's company stepped forward. If it had been possible, every man in the fleet would have offered. This devotion marked the British seaman as well, for all were anxious to take part in the adventure. A moral lesson can be found in this from which the kaiser and his counselors might easily deduce their chance for victory over freemen.

Recruiting Boys for the Farms
Maine's Method Approved for Nation at Large

Lawrence Taggart in New York Times.

The state of Maine last summer gave the country an important solution of the labor difficulties of the farmer. The Department of Labor has adopted the plan for the whole nation, and has begun a "drive," with an objective of 2,000,000 million boys between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Public school officers will give these boys an early release from school, and their work for their country will count as school work from the time of their enlistment. A majority of them will become "soldiers of the farms," just as they were last year in Maine. They were called "The Junior Volunteers," most of them chosen from the four large cities of the state, in the same manner and from the same stations as National Guardsmen.

They differed from soldiers only in their weapons, for in place of muskets, bayonets, revolvers and grenades, they carried spades, hoes and rakes and scythes.

The city boy who had a taste of country life, appreciated it, and acquitted himself well. O. A. Morton, who brought the idea to the Maine State Young Men's Christian association, believes it is easier to make a good farmer out of the city boy than out of one bred on the farm. Mr. Morton, after many years' experience as Massachusetts leader of the juvenile extension activities of the state's relations service in the United States Department of Agriculture, has found the boy in our big industrial cities satisfactory material for agricultural instruction.

He enrolled several thousands in such cities as Brockton and Springfield, where little farms, at a conservative estimate, saved \$100,000 that would otherwise have been spent for vegetables.

Governor Milliken and Jefferson C. Smith, director of the State Young Men's Christian association, at once appreciated the promising possibilities of the plan. An appropriation was given at once. Fortunately, the association had a farm, suitable for experimental training, along Lake Cobbescoconite, in the township of Winthrop.

Recruiting began early in May, and the first 300 went into camp June 4. The experiment was not primarily for the sake of reform; boys of excellent moral character and excellent physical condition were desired. The "scum" of the city was not wanted. The boys received a rigid examination before they were sent to the camp. Confidential reports were secured regarding every candidate before he was put into uniform. He was received at the camp by an officer of the United States army, and his brief, intensive agricultural education was directed, both in theory and practice, by a representative selected from the faculty of the state agricultural college at Orono.

There were also many schoolmen from all over the state who volunteered their services as leaders or captains of the squads dispatched throughout the state to groups of farms. The leader supervised the work, looking after the farmer's interests and those of the volunteers. Any dissatisfaction came to his attention. The boy had given an oath of service for 1917, to remain until October 31 unless sooner released by the state.

Some of the republican senators insist that if tradition is to be disregarded in selecting a chairman of the committee on foreign relations, partisanship as well as seniority should be swept aside and Henry Cabot Lodge made the successor of the late William J. Stone.

Senator Lodge measures up to all the historical qualifications of a chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations. So does Senator Borah of Idaho. So does Senator Williams of Mississippi.

If the chairman is to be a democrat, then Senator Williams is the man. If he is to be a republican, Senator Lodge or Senator Knox or Senator Borah is fully equipped and can command the confidence and respect of the country.

But what excuse can the senate offer, except habit, for brushing aside any one of these four men and making Hitchcock chairman of the committee? Of all the departments of the United States government, is congress alone to be blind and deaf to its responsibilities in time of war?

Thus far neither branch of congress has lifted a finger to put itself on a war basis. The senate and house are creaking along under the antiquated machinery of peace. Some of the most important committees are controlled by men who have shown themselves out of sympathy with the war policies of the government, and they are in possession of these places only because the congress of the United States believes that length of service is more important than brains and capacity—more important, for that matter, than patriotism.

The action of the United States senate in deciding the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations will provide a convincing test of its sincerity in demanding efficiency in the conduct of the war. If Gilbert M. Hitchcock can become chairman of this committee through the accident of being the ranking democratic member, no senator who refuses to register his protest against that system of promotion can hereafter complain of incompetency anywhere, no matter how gross that incompetency may be.

The American people have certain rights in this matter which are quite as important as senatorial reverence for the rule of seniority. Those rights are wantonly trampled down and suppressed when the Hitchcocks are permitted to take precedence over the Williams, the Lodges, the Knoxes and the Borahs in shaping the foreign policy of the United States government at a time when the problem demands the best ability and the ripest experience in the nation.

The Bee's Letter Box

"Tom" Marshall and Secession.

Omaha, April 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Among the items in The Independent a weekly magazine, published in New York under the date of April 20, 1918, in a column entitled "Remarkable Remarks," I find the following: "Vice President Marshall is right, each for and by itself to dissolve the partnership and end the nation at any time when, in their opinion things are not going as they would wish, regardless of the desires of the other members of the firm."

It is this article, and no less a person than the vice president of the United States would seem to say so, then it was a crime to attempt to restore this union, when broken, and compel sovereign states to remain a part of that union against their will. Then all lives lost and property destroyed during the four years of war was a wicked, cruel, unconstitutional and illegal proceeding, and instead of rendering praise to the memory of the man who died in this unucky crusade as we do each year in May, it were better and more fitting we wear sackcloth and pour ashes on our heads; instead of reading Lincoln's oration we should replace it by something from Davis, Calhoun, or perhaps our own Marshall could give us something.

It may be as well that there are left among us men like him, men of the stone age, who for some mysterious reason are allowed to walk about in the twentieth century, just to show the advance the world has made since that time, but oh, my countrymen, you are taking an awful chance when you put such a man in a place where he may bring destruction to the nation.

"If this be treason make the most of it." F. C. BULLOCK, 2301 Douglas street.

A War-Song of Freedom. Oh, it's joyous to battle for Freedom; 'Tis good to be healthy and strong; 'Mid the howitzers' crash And the great lights' flash; 'Tis fine to hear Victory's song.

Oh, it's splendid to be in the struggle, When our boys establish their sway; And the warhest thing That the poet can sing Is to be just a soldier today!

Ah, it's dismal to stay in the home-stead When the man is away in the fight— When the word doesn't come, And the soul is struck dumb With the loneliness reigning at night. Ah, it's anguish to read of success— Of the fate of the gallant and gay, And the mournfullest thing That the poet can sing Is to be just a woman today! SAM L. MORRIS.

BRIGHT AND BREEZY. "Hi, Bill, here comes a gas wave!" "Thank heaven! This toothache is almost killing me!"—Cartoons Magazine.

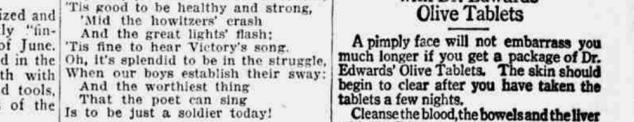
A Tommie was standing knee deep in mud and water in the road. "Are you a corporal?" asked a man approaching. "No, my dear fellow, I think I'm a blooming bulrush."—Judge.

"Although I was late," said the new boarder. "I found the landlady had served for me the tenderest part of the chicken." "What was that?" said the old boarder, jealously. "Some of the gravy."—Pearson's Weekly.

A man has to be something of a diplomat to avoid getting into arguments with his wife, remarked the philosopher. "Either that or light on his feet, said the man who specializes in heavy exits."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Do you find that poultry keeping pays?" "Well, no; I can't say that it pays me, but it pays my boy." "How's that?" "Well, you see I bought him the fowls."

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TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War. German weekly report showed 52 merchant ships sunk by German U-boats and mines. Marshal Joffre and ex-Premier Viviani of France were given tumultuous reception on their arrival in Washington.

The Day We Celebrate. Edward G. Clay, soliciting freight agent of the Union Pacific railroad, born 1872.

William Marconi, inventor of wireless telegraphy, born at Bologna, Italy, 44 years ago.

John F. Stevens, Panama canal builder, born at West Gardner, Me., 55 years ago.

Rev. Hugh Latimer Burleson, Protestant Episcopal bishop of South Dakota, born at Northfield, Minn., 53 years ago.

Maurice Daly, American authority on billiards, born in New York City, 65 years ago.

This Day in History. 1818—Colonel George Armistead, who kept the flag flying over Fort Mifflin, which suggested "The Star Spangled Banner," died in Baltimore.

1850—General Narciso Lopez called from New Orleans with 300 filibusters to invade Cuba.

1850—General Grant ordered General Banks to abandon the River expedition, and to return to New Orleans.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

P. S. Eustis, general passenger and ticket agent of the Burlington is putting in a few days with a party of eastern friends among the jack snipes down at Sidney.

The uniforms for the Fort Omaha ball team were received by J. J. Hardin.

Interested parties are now circulating a petition for signatures of property owners who are willing to subscribe to defray the expense of grading Twentieth street from Dorcas to College park.

A small number of the democrats of the Sixth ward met to select delegates to attend the coming county convention. F. W. Lessentin presided at the meeting and the delegates chosen to attend the convention were: J. D. Rustin, Bernard Sachse, F. W. Lessentin, M. F. Murphy, Martin Beck, L. J. Blake and Charles Storz.

Mr. Harry Hall and Miss Clara L. Dolan were married in Trinity cathedral by Rev. Dean Gardner.

Scientists state that a flowering plant abstracts from the soil 200 times its own weight in water during its life.

According to a Vienna physician insomnia can be cured if a person will grasp the head of his bed and pull backward until fatigue develops.

A New Jersey woman has invented a mesh bag to hold a door key and prevent it from being lost among the contents of a pocketbook or shopping bag.

A weed farm, operated by the University of Minnesota, provides opportunity for agricultural students to make a close study of weeds. The farm produces every weed known to the state.

Odd Bits of Life

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A dense fog caused the blunder which lost George Washington the battle of Germantown, which historians assert, might have won our country's freedom at one stroke, averting six more years of war.

On account of the scarcity of kerosene and other means of making light, the Danish government is purchasing 400 tons of tallow from which it expects to make 5,000,000 candles, to be distributed at about 45 cents per pound.

Cavalrymen have a superstition of their own. A mounted man firmly believes that he will come through the deadliest charge unscathed if he carries on his person the tooth of a war horse, the only condition being that he himself has at some time been through a charge unhurt.

Peppery Points

Washington Post: Edmund Burke declared that it was impossible to indict a whole people, but that was before the Huns ran amuck.

Baltimore American: The German-American Alliance has died, leaving a vacuum in this country should follow suit, the expense of winding it up would be saved for shells.

Minneapolis Tribune: The American engineers in France are listed as non-combatant troops but they apparently forget their rating when they have a chance to meet the Germans on the battle front.

New York World: A race between Atlantic and Pacific coast shipyards to build the first steel battleship in the shortest time is promised. It is a spirit of competition to be encouraged by every means in the power of the government.

Brooklyn Eagle: Any anemic young man should dodge doctors and taboo medicines. If he will work 12 hours a day on a farm for three months, he will come back full of red blood and withiceps worth showing in a symposium.

New York Herald: Karlsruhe doesn't like it. Being bombed from the air gets on his nerves. Karlsruhe begs Berlin to make an agreement that this bombing can be done as effectively as they please. Nothing doing: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," and anyway, Karlsruhe is an important military center. It is useless to appeal to Berlin, for soon Berlin will be crying for help. We have just begun to fight!

Twice Told Tales

A Suspicious Smile. There was a fashionable wedding in a western suburban town some time ago, and that evening Mr. and Mrs. Smith, who were among the guests, talked over the events of the happy affair.

"I don't think I ever saw quite so many lovely presents," said Mrs. Smith. "Everybody seems to have sent something."

"Yes," responded Mr. Smith, "they have enough clocks and cut glass pitchers to stock an auction room. Then there was that \$5,000 check from the bride's father."

"By the way, Henry," interjected wife, "who was the man who smiled so broadly when he looked at that check?"

"That was the cashier of the bank, answered Mr. Smith."—Chicago Herald.

Taking His Cue. A small street urchin from the city, who was spending some time in a fresh-air camp, was the source of considerable entertainment to members of the fame at a farm where he frequently called for milk and apples.

"Whaddye think about the youngster, anyhow?" the farmer asked his wife one evening.

"He's a nice little fellow," the wife replied; "but I can't just make him out."

"How make him out?" "Every time," grampaw sneezes "Yeck" that blows his nose and yells. "Ka Bibble!"—Chicago Post.

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