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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG



Cut out of the fee graft on both sides of the street.

Lloyd George has about the same sort of line back of him in Commons as Haig has in Flanders.

The county board ring has the same thing coming to them that was handed to the city hall gang.

Our next mayor is starting out with the right idea. He is already talking about "my" administration.

Korniloff is again reported to be dead. News comes from bolshevik sources, which tends to discredit it.

Looks a little as if one or two of the commissioners who got the highest vote are nonetheless doomed to play the role of "orphans."

The Koelnische Zeitung sees great danger to Europe in America. To certain parts of Europe the danger is both apparent and real.

Federal pursuit of local slackers will have support of all but the draft dodgers themselves. Omaha has not many of this ilk, but one is more than we need.

State Treasurer Hall denounces the proposed renewal of the potash leases knocked out by the supreme court to be a "gigantic steal." He's got the correct words.

Just try to imagine Bryan still secretary of state and Hitchcock chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations. It would be almost as exciting as "Jimmy" Gerard shaking his fist under the kaiser's nose on the movie screen.

If the republicans were in control of the United States senate the only parallel to making Hitchcock head of the foreign relations committee would be to put La Follette in that position. Can you hear the outburst of indignation that would come from patriotic Americans?

Shipbuilders Making Good.

The United States Shipping board is before congress asking for a \$2,000,000 appropriation for the continuance of its campaign. This huge sum of money is to be expended in producing ships that will carry our men and munitions to France during the war, and be turned into the carriers of American commerce after the war.

STOP THIS ROTTEN FEE GRAFT.

Treasury looting by the fee graft route persists here in only two places. In defiance of the law passed by the last legislature, "Fee-Grabber Bob" Smith, in the court house, is still trying to line his pockets with money taken in for naturalization fees, and City Health Commissioner Connell, in the city hall, is still absorbing public funds claimed as fees for compiling vital statistics—both of them in addition to liberal salaries allowed by law.

The fee graft in the district clerk's office must be dealt with elsewhere, but the fee graft in the health commissioner's office cannot continue, except with the acquiescence of the newly elected city commissioners. Taking their promises of reform and retrenchment at face value, we look to them to stop this abuse so often denounced and constantly fought by The Bee.

Stop the rotten fee graft in the city hall right now—in the court house next.

Increase in Railway Wages.

The recommendations of the wage commission to the secretary of treasury, looking to a general increase in pay for all railway employes, is coming in for a good deal of comment and some criticism. This latter is from the highest paid class of help, those whose pay has been increased until it has come up to a fairly reasonable point.

War Taxes and a National Budget.

Secretary McAdoo has put a stopper on talk of early adjournment of congress by asking for additional revenue, which will necessitate further legislation. This need has been apparent since congress convened in December, but for some reason the leaders have avoided the issue.

If the spectacle argues for anything, it is for the adoption of a budget plan, whereby accurate and closely balanced allowances may be substituted for the present haphazard methods of making appropriations. It was promised by the democrats last October, when the first war session reached an end, that for the future all appropriations would go to a single committee, that amounts might be more carefully governed.

As to the Soldier Vote.

"Most of the soldier boys were not sufficiently interested to mark their ballots and mail them back to the old home town."—Soldier-Herald. It does not follow that the soldier-boys were not interested, but more likely that they were unable to make a self-satisfying choice from a list of names for the most part unknown to them with nothing to indicate who the candidates were.

Empty Claims of German Greatness Fourth Raters in Music, Art, Science and Invention

Herbert Friedenwald in Brooklyn Eagle.

"The German nation—the most capable nation in the world—is more richly endowed with talents, and faculties than even the Greeks and Romans were." So says the preface to a "Universal Edition" of Beethoven's sonatas that has been recently issued in Leipzig, officially subsidized, and recommended by the imperial and royal department of public instruction of Austria-Hungary.

The preface does not remark that Beethoven's ancestors came from a village in Belgium near Louvain. No. The commentator overlooks that significant fact. And it is a fact that must be taken into account in any audit of modern German claims to a rich endowment of talents and faculties.

Since Germany turned to kultur it has produced no Beethovens. It has had no musicians to rank with those of other nations. It has had no one to rival the Russians, Tchaikovsky and Moussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakoff, or the Poles, Szymanowski and Chopin, or the Bohemians, Dvorak and Smetana.

Of modern violinists, Isay is a Belgian, Kreisler an Austrian, Elman and Zimbalist and Heifetz are Russians, and Spalding an American. Of pianists, Paderewski is a Pole, Hoffman an Austrian, Godowsky a Russian, Harold Bauer is an Englishman, Blochfeld-Zeissler an American and Carner and Scovran American.

There is an art that has been added to culture since kultur was developed. The very idea of a German practitioner of that art is laughable. One cannot think of a German interpretative dancer without a smile. Isadora Duncan is an American. Her rivals, Pavlova, Lopokova and Mordkin and Nijinsky are Russians, Ruth St. Denis is an American and the fairy-like Genee is a Dane.

In no period of the world's history has there been a German painter to rank with the great masters—with Rembrandt, Michael Angelo, Da Vinci, Raphael, Titian, Rubens, Van Dyke or Velasquez.

Let us not deprive the Germans, however, of credit that is justly theirs. They first employed poisonous gas to make the horrors of war more horrible, and with characteristic stupidity they employed it on the western front, where the prevailing winds are so constantly against them that the allies now smother them at will in a reproduction of their own villainy.

People and Events

A Bible printed in 1535 brought \$3,600 at auction in New York City. A more legible one can be had for \$1, but would fall short in volume of curiosity.

One of Brooklyn's slackers sought to duck duty by arranging marriage with a woman for a money consideration. The bargain union, however, was annulled, and the court refused to sanction the deal and the slacker remained hatched in jail as well.

A ruling handed down by Judge Pollock of the federal bench of Kansas solemnly warns the favored few traveling on railroad passes that they do so at their own risk. They cannot enjoy the luxury of free rides and at the same time soak the company for personal injury.

The marshal of Webster Grove, a St. Louis suburb, while roaming in nearby woods stumbled on a cache of metal money in halves, quarters and dimes. They were good to look at and almost filled a tin.

Down in Louisville, where Kentucky democracy blooms perennially, the board of aldermen, democratic to the core, has thrown on the screen a characteristic picture of camouflaging voters with a platform unsalacious one, but that makes no difference.

One of the units. Speaking of units, as we often do nowadays, a Londoner had occasion to pay frequent visits to an eminent physician, and he said one day to the attendant: "You will be tired of opening the door for me, James."

Charming Innocence. Bessie came running to her grandmother holding a dry, pressed leaf, obviously the relic of a day long gone by. "I found it in the big tree," she said. "I thought it belonged to 'Eve'."—Boston Transcript.

The Bee's Letter Box

Czecho-Slovak Army. Omaha, Neb., May 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: Since the Czecho-Slovak army is being frequently mentioned in the dispatches from the European front...

The nucleus of the Czecho-Slovak army were the Bohemian residents in Russia, mainly in Ukraine. Some of them lived there many years, reared their families in that country, but under the laws of the old Russian regime they were not citizens of Russia and therefore not eligible for military service.

This army took part in many battles on the eastern front, even when after disintegration of the Russian army set in, and won a great victory against superior forces of Germans and Austrians near Zborov.

Now let me say a few words about their sacrifices for the common cause. They knew that by joining the ranks of the so-called "red" army, they forfeited all rights guaranteed prisoners of war under international law.

The Czecho-Slovak army in France has been augmented by thousands of American Bohemians and Slovaks, either men of letters or workers in the employ of draft age, and our noble Bohemian women, who are everywhere recognized as the most industrious and efficient Red Cross workers.

And as for our women who are doing their full share in Red Cross work for our American soldiers, I am sure America will not grudge the little help they are giving our boys fighting under the white and red flag of Bohemia in the ranks of the allies.

"I think your staring annoys those young ladies," said the policeman, who was in plain clothes. "That's all right, I'm the chicken inspector."

"Oh, you are, hey? Well, you might call me the game warden, so to speak."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

SAID IN FUN.

"What is your idea of an orator?" "Beyond the Alps lies Italy!" "I should say not! My girl's a student of contemporary events. The title of her essay is 'Militancy Opposed to Lobbying.'"—Brooklyn Citizen.

"A traitor has finally been convicted of treason." "By?" "By the jury." "And sentenced to four years." "And a stay of proceedings pending an appeal." "Ugh!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Stand up! The orchestra is playing 'The Star Spangled Banner.'" "I can't. I have a sore foot." "Better stand up. A fellow offered that excuse the other day and it wasn't long before he had a sore head."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"I shall never forgive him." "What has he done now?" "Here I am living every day on wartime meals and last night he stayed down town and ate a large porthouse steak with three business friends."—Detroit Free Press.

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Mr. Schneider Tells How His Baby Was Healed by Cuticura

"When baby was cutting his teeth he suffered very much from milk curd. It commenced in the form of small pimples about the ears and forehead and it turned into watery pimples and finally into nasty scales. The eruption produced great irritation and he was constantly scratching and crying. Many a night we only had three or four hours sleep."

"I saw a Cuticura Soap and Ointment advertisement, and sent for a free sample. I bought more, and when I had used two and a half cakes of Cuticura Soap and nearly two boxes of Ointment he was healed." (Signed) Gus Schneider, 1448 W. 15th St., Chicago, Ill., August 17, 1917.

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TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.
Elihu Root named to head the American mission to Russia.
British and French envoys given memorable banquet as climax to New York visitations.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

William Anna, William Burdick, J. Cooney, John Flynn, John Messitt, Leu Bowders, P. J. O'Connell, James Burns, Ed Cassian, John Doran, Thomas Lovett, Joseph Miller, Daniel Shannon, George Wilson, Ed Garfield and John Healey are the names of the members of the Omaha base ball team.

Sidelights on the War

A national exhibition was recently held in Berlin, the aim being to popularize the use of paper clothing.
In an effort to secure additional gold in Germany, engagement rings have been suppressed.

Whittled to a Point

Washington Post: Just add a postscript to the letter to the boy over there that you have bought another Liberty bond.
Brooklyn Eagle: General Pershing has joined the Protestant Episcopal church. He will not be a Jesuit.

Twice Told Tales

What He Knew.
An Ohio man whose son was an applicant for a position in the federal civil service, but who had been repeatedly "turned down," said: "It's sure hard luck, but Bill has missed that civil service again. It looks like they just won't have him, that's all."

More TARZAN Adventures

Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar. By Edgar Rice Burroughs. IF you have heard of "Tarzan of the Apes," by Edgar Rice Burroughs, wild horses cannot keep you from reading "Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar," which is just ready in book form. It is greater by far than any other of the wonderful series of Tarzan stories, far more stupendous in its imagination and in its vivid portrayal of the dark heart of jungle Africa. AT ALL BOOKSTORES. A. C. McCLURG & CO., Publishers