

## THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG



Pangermanism is finally forced out into the open as the real cause of the great war, and the world knows what it has to face at last.

Among other things left behind by the outgoing administration is one "welcome arch," which could well be added to the discard.

South Dakota has put a maximum price of \$10 per bushel on seed corn, about the figure the speculator would have named for the whole supply.

Nebraska's winter wheat crop has the official endorsement of Secretary Houston as being first chop. Later returns will more than verify this statement.

Ukraine farmers are proving a disappointment to their new German overlords. The kaiser is finding out that he may enslave a mujik, but can not make him plow.

If seven billions can be saved by adopting treasury estimates instead of army requisitions, it ought to be done. The amount is worth while, but the principle is even more.

Des Moines announces that a "truce" has been reached over the quartermaster's depot, but not until our Iowa friends had tried every way to get the business taken from Omaha.

Motor truck lines have been declared common carriers, and will be subject to all the laws and rules provided in such case. This is just a reminder of the fact that the first of common carriers were wagons moving along highways. Human experience is imitating history.

Another View of the Potash War.

More bitter and acrid than the potash itself is the row between the democrats at the state house over how to dispose of Nebraska's newly acquired mineral wealth. According to the zeal and acrimony which so far have marked the proceedings, a fairly good-sized derby must be concealed in the woodpile somewhere. Were it not for the fact that a little group of former state employees tried to put over a deal that was nipped in the bud, outsiders might think that most of the squabble had no basis. The ugly fact is that the land commissioner apparently caught somebody with the goods; that the legislature declined to follow the governor's recommendation, and now the state treasurer can not see his way to join his associates in doing something to get the leasehold muddle straightened out and the flow of revenue started. In his exasperation, his excellency recalls a controversy between his predecessor and the state treasurer. At that time the governor of Nebraska called the treasurer a lot of hard names, threatened him with removal from office and excommunication from the party, but when it came to a showdown, John H. Morehead worked for the renomination and re-election of Treasurer Hall, and, just as "Wilson kept us out of war," so also he fastened on Nebraska a bunch of democrats who spend much time quarreling among themselves. In good time the people will turn them out, and maybe then we will discover what it is all about. At present it seems to be who is going to get the money out of the potash lakes belonging to the state.

## "SOMETHING BESIDES SENIORITY."

Senator Hitchcock's own personal newspaper organ, the hyphenated World-Herald, which bravely stands for him through thick and thin and does its best to back him up, hard as it often is to do so, insists that in his elevation to the chairmanship of the foreign relations committee "there is something besides seniority to account for his present position."

Well, what can it be?

Is it his sponsorship of the kaiser's bill for an embargo on the export of arms?

Is it appreciation of Hitchcock's scheme to help Germany by stopping our allies selling securities in this country?

Is it his whole-hearted endorsement by the German-American alliance and of the German-American alliance?

Is it his carefully cultivated social intimacy with Von Bernstorff and the German embassy attaches?

Or is it that beautiful front-page gratefully dedicated to his portrait by "The Fatherland?"

Something besides seniority, sure!

Is it Hitchcock's public interview opposing a declaration of war upon Austria?

Is it this democratic senator's periodic attacks upon the Wilson administration?

Is it his brazen effort to preserve the right of enemy aliens to vote in Nebraska?

Is it the soft peddling of his World-Herald on the repeal of the odious Mockett law that made the teaching of German in our public schools compulsory?

Or is it the order issued to sub-editors not to offend the tender sensibilities of the pro-Germans by using the words "Hun" or "Boches" in his newspaper?

Is it one or all of these things?

Better let it go as blind deference to "seniority."

Spreading the "Terror."

From Spain comes a circumstantial tale of how the Germans are systematically undertaking to terrorize the few remaining European neutrals. All that has been accomplished by means of U-boats, raids on hospitals and Red Cross stations, bombing of sleeping hamlets, murder, arson and rapine, is now summed up, tabulated and reduced to convenient totals that he who reads may understand what it means to resist the Hun in his devastating course.

Stately and solemn the figures move along, telling in money values what the proponents of kultur have wrested from the hapless victims who have fallen into their clutches. Even the small item of women's parasols is not overlooked, showing that the orderly mind of the German bandit misses nothing when he starts to collect. History is but repeating itself in this; the house of Hohenzollern was founded on similar proceedings, although it is not known that the originators of that brood of robbers kept so meticulous a record of the loot. But the purpose is the same as that of the gas bomb and the "terror" gun.

It is notice to the peoples among whom it is circulated that if they do not want their pockets picked, their wardrobes looted, their pantries demolished, in addition to having their throats cut, their children mutilated, their wives and daughters treated worse than beasts, they will quietly submit to the dictation of the Potsdam gang.

The strange part of the whole proceeding is that, while Germany has been at this for four years, none has yet been sufficiently frightened to submit. However, the circulars Berlin is now scattering may be of service when the time comes to send in the bill that civilization will later present.

Crop Situation Abroad.

While Americans have been taken up with their own efforts to increase the supply of food for the world, and are making great headway in that direction, it will encourage them to know that those to whom we have devoted our surplus are doing their utmost to help themselves. Particularly is this true of the United Kingdom, where agriculture is being carried on at the highest pitch ever attained. In England the acreage sown to winter wheat is 56 per cent greater than two years ago, while the prospect for the crop is better than in many years. Other plantings are equally good in prospect. Scotland returns a similar report, the spring sowing there exceeding former years, both in extent and condition. Weather conditions have been especially favorable for farm work of all kinds. Ireland is not reported on in detail, but the political disturbances over there have had the singular effect of stimulating agricultural effort and more land is being tilled than was used last year. France will have a better wheat yield, according to the present outlook, although the sown acreage is still smaller because of the scarcity of help. Italy has not neglected planting; but suffers, as does France, by reason of shortage of farm labor. Generally, the promise is for good crops and consequent relief from short rations. The demand on the United States for food will continue strong, but the fact that our allies are doing all they can to produce their own food makes our task the more pleasant.

"Fighting men first" is the shipping board's rule now for giving out cargo space, and the people will support this cry.

Abolish the Seniority Rule  
Absurdity of System Which Rewards  
Mediocre Politicians

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The democratic steering committee of the senate has chosen Senator Hitchcock for the chairmanship of the senate committee on foreign relations, regardless of the fact that he is not personally fitted for the post and of the further fact that the accident of seniority has made him ranking member of other committees of great importance in war time. We do not speak disparagingly of the senator's present devotion to the country's cause. But there is no escaping the fact that he failed to measure up to even ordinary congressional stature in a previous critical period. He was author and advocate of a bill to place an embargo on the shipment of arms and ammunition. Such a step, taken in the midst of war, except under the stress of domestic necessity, would have been unneutral. It would likewise have been an indefensible general policy, as it would have forced every country in the world to arm itself or to provide domestic facilities for arming itself, as to be in a position successfully to defend itself against the aggressions of any power. Whoever supported such a scheme was either trying to aid Germany at that time or was so muddle-headed as to be unfit for senator, to say nothing of chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations.

The Value of the Baby Bond  
Best of All Investments for the "Rainy Day" Fund

The Outlook, New York.

A well-known investment banker of New York, Mr. John Muir, calls our attention to some facts regarding the baby bond with which we think our readers should familiarize themselves:

"There is one phase of all the Liberty loans which should receive the most careful thought and attention. It is the participation and interest of small subscribers, wage-earners and people of every limited income."

"For this great multitude the Treasury department wisely determined to issue \$50 and \$100 denominations, commonly called 'baby bonds.' A year ago bonds, except to the well-to-do and wealthy classes, were comparatively unknown, and not fully understood when known. A year ago there were 300,000 bondholders in this country. Today there are over 12,000,000, and to this third loan Mr. McAdoo expects to receive subscriptions from 20,000,000 people."

"To obtain these large numbers of small subscribers every effort was and now is being put forth. Plans were adopted for easy payments for those who could not pay cash. 'It is well known that immediately the bonds were issued the price began to decline. This created doubt in the minds of small subscribers, and very large sums in small bonds were thrown over, not through need, but through fright because of ignorance about a new untried investment. Unscrupulous persons paid \$35 and \$40 for \$50 bonds, \$75 and \$80 for \$100 bonds. Of course this is fraud of the vilest kind."

"The Liberty bonds prices in \$1,000 pieces may fluctuate below par for a time, but there is no remote fear at any time that they will ever fall to prices such as the poor small subscriber, through fright, ignorance, stress, or coercion, has had to accept for his small single bond extorted from him by harpies."

"Therefore, I emphasize that the baby bond must be stabilized on the basis of the \$1,000 bond. The small subscriber must get

Typical Instance of "German Might"

There is something appealing and inspiring about the story of the French Boy Scout who declined to give information to his German captors, and, according to a letter of a captured German officer, was backed up against a telegraph pole and shot, with a smile on his face. The officer who shot him was a fool, and it is remarkable that the Germans have shown us that arms are placed in the hands of fools to blow out incomparably better brains than their own.

It is important to note that this is the essence of the German proposition, that might makes right. The armed footpad could plead the doctrine of the criminal, and the increase in burglaries in Berlin seems to indicate that the law of might making right is being carried to its logical conclusion.

But the world is learning that might makes wrong. Give any man an arbitrary power, something not enjoyed by his fellow citizens, and he will assume, as the kaiser assumes, that he is above all law. We have seen in the case of Germany that might makes wrong, and that only when the police power of the world is brought to bear upon the criminal can might make right. In fact, it may be laid down as an axiom that might makes right when that might is exercised, by courts of justice or otherwise, in the suppression and punishment of the criminal.

But a materialistic system of education has taught the German people, for a half century or more, a doctrine the logical conclusions of which they have not been allowed to reason out. They are beginning to feel that the might which drives their sons to slaughter, the might which contends that lying and falsehood, treachery and murder, rape and sacrilege, constitute right, cannot square with even the materialistic creed in which they have been trained.

Every democracy the world has ever known has established the principle that might makes wrong, and not right. This is the thought we must have deeply in our hearts when well-meaning but foolish people approach us with their illusions about a compromise peace. If we are to make the world safe for democracy we must keep this ever before us. We are to teach the German people that right makes might, and it will ever do, so long as God lives.—Wall Street Journal.

Millions Back the Bonds

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: It is especially pleasing that the third loan attracted about 17,000,000 subscribers. This means cultivation of habits of thrift.

New York World: Behind every one of these dollars we have the conscience, determination and unity of purpose of the American people, with as many more millions of men and billions of money to be devoted to the same high ideal as may be needed.

Minneapolis Journal: After all, the most salient and significant fact about the third loan is the participation in it of 17,000,000 citizens of the United States. Roughly speaking, one in every six Americans, men, women and children, has bought at least one bond of this issue.

New York Post: Wherein lies the great success of the third Liberty loan is obvious to all. It is not in the over-subscription, the exact amount of which we shall not know for some days. The outstanding fact is the enormous number of individual subscribers—nearly 17,000,000, according to the latest tabulation.

Brooklyn Eagle: The significant thing about the Liberty loan is not the amount of money raised, but the enormous total of 17,000,000 persons who have bet their money on the United States and who for this reason will be actively "rooting"—to quote the sporting field—for us to win the war.

The wealthy man's price. Let it be known that the baby bond holder can look in his paper and know that the \$1,000 price is his price. With the written approval of the Treasury department I adopted this principle in June of last year and maintain it.

"The small subscriber must equip himself with knowledge about his bonds. It is conspicuously set forth in the pamphlet 'Your Liberty Bond,' distributed by the third Liberty loan committee and others. The public should disseminate the information to the utmost. It will forestall fraud."

"Thus will solidly be built a confidence amongst the new millions of bondholders of the nation through the knowledge of the fact that the small investor gets fair and equal terms and treatment with the great."

What Mr. Muir points out can be illustrated by percentages. At this writing the second Liberty loan 4 per cent bonds are quoted in the market at 96.70; that is to say, a \$1,000 bond of the second issue sells today for \$967 or 3.3 per cent below par. At this rate a \$50 bond of the second 4 per cent issue should be selling in the market at \$48.35. Holders of \$50 bonds or of bonds of any other denominations should, however, refrain from selling them at any price if they can possibly do so. They are absolutely sure, and they will be paid in full on the date which is printed on the face of every bond.

There is no security in the world today of any government of any bank, of any railway, or of any industrial company that is so sound and so sure of being paid as the Liberty bonds of the United States government. Do not sell them unless you have to, and if you have to sell them because of some catastrophe or crisis in your own affairs, insist on getting the market price for them, which at present is not less than \$48 for every \$50 bond.

But, above all, buy more bonds.

Historic Launching of the "Tuckahoe"

The celebration at the Camden yard of the New York Ship Building company of the launching of the merchant ship "Tuckahoe" is likely to stand out as a historic event in our part in the great war over the sea. This is a steel freight vessel of 5,500 deadweight tons launched 27 days after the keel was laid, and to be ready for sea service in 15 days more. This, it is said, beats all previous records.

It must have been a thrilling scene on that bright May Sunday, when the chairman of the United States shipping board, the director general of the emergency fleet corporation, the admiral in charge of the ship fabricating program and distinguished guests were present, and a message was sent to the American general at the battlefield in France and one received from the president at Washington. The occasion was magnified by a visit of the official party to the huge Hog Island establishment for turning out ships by the score when well under way.

Apparently the shipbuilding program is now well under way, with the force stated at "500,000 workers now in shipbuilding plants and factories manufacturing accessories for ships," but the number of workers is destined to be steadily increased and the ships to multiply. It is expected that at least 50 ships will be turned out this year. Great hopes were raised at Hog Island, when Director Schwab expects to convert into "Victory Island." This kind of demonstration is calculated to inspire not only hope and faith, but courage and determination.

Our ships are going to be a decisive factor in the greatest war that ever was, and it is to be hoped the last that ever will be. For the republic of the United States to be instrumental in accomplishing the victory for freedom and the progress of nations will be a triumph worth living to see. The enthusiastic words of Mr. Schwab are worth preserving: "God has endowed this nation with more material resources, and its people with greater enthusiasm and energy than any other nation on God's great earth, and we are going to make our mark in history. Now is the time. The United States has never been defeated in a war, and we are not going to be defeated now!"—New York Journal of Commerce.

Twice Told Tales

Information Gratis.

Nell—Mr. Highbrow told me my face was classic. What is classic?

Gladys—Oh, most anything old.—Boston Transcript.

Prodred the Wrong One.

In a London bus a man in civilian's garb rose and offered his seat to a woman. "I never accept favors from slackers," she said wistfully.

"Madam," he replied blandly, "I was all through Gallipoli, and if we'd had as much powder as you have on your face we'd have got to Constantinople in no time."—London Chronicle.

Flat Feet.

United States Senator Howard Sutherland of West Virginia tells a story about a mountain youth who visited a recruiting office in the state for the purpose of enlisting in the regular army. The examining physician found the young man sound as a dollar, but that he had flat feet.

"I'm sorry," said the physician, "but I'll have to turn you down. You've got flat feet."

The mountaineer looked sorrowful. "No way for me to get in, then?" he inquired.

"I guess not. With those flat feet of yours, you wouldn't be able to march even five miles."

The youth from the mountains studied a moment. Finally he said: "I'll tell you why I hate this so darned bad. You see, I walked right on to 150 miles over the mountains to get here, and gosh, how I hate to walk back!"—Everybody's Magazine.

## The Bee's Letter Box

Against Secession Ideas.

Omaha, May 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: In answer to E. M. Aiken who has the audacity to link Daniel Webster's name to several others of our great statesmen who believed in states' rights or secession, I would refer him to Webster's answer to John C. Calhoun, where among many other things he said, "This union, once and inseparable." Now, as to Mr. Aiken or the past or present statesmen, let me for their edification relate an incident I remember that happened at St. Louis at the beginning of the civil war. There was some objection by the citizens of that great city to federal troops being stationed there. The commanding general was waited upon by a delegation of citizens who protested. Among other things, they told him they had right to secede if they wanted to and demanded the withdrawal of the troops. In response this general (I forget his name) told these citizens, "Yes, they had a right to secede, he would admit, but they should not take one damn foot of American territory with them."

I am led to believe Mr. Aiken is suffering from a cause he charges to others. Let him pick the mote out of his own eye first. Surely, at this time, he would not like to see two weak governments instead of one great big government that will dictate terms and peace for the whole world. Then again, suppose the south had seceded or got its freedom. In turn, every state both north and south would and could have the same plea to secede one from the other. Draw the curtain.

S. C. MALIN,  
2812 Hickory Street.

That New Broom.

Omaha, May 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: Now that the smoke of the late battle for good government has cleared away, it may not be amiss to offer a few suggestions as to why the old and much worn broom was laid aside for the new.

While we should expect and will experience untold benefits from the radical change, no doubt, many good people will expect too much of the new administration. Let us realize that they are our servants and will strive to serve with that end in view, that whatever department or whatever part of the work may fall upon them, they will do it in that spirit of service which the world is demanding everywhere of everyone today.

May we not as an intelligent and enlightened people take a step forward and instead of simply with one turn of the wrist turn all the "rascals out" and with another turn put in a new set of rascals and build up another political machine. There is absolutely no difference in political machines except that some are old while others are new. Why can we not have a city government where one citizen of this city can go to the city hall on business and have just as much influence with the commission as some personal friend of some particular official? If we have a city coal yard, let's have a city coal office where any taxpayer can go any time whether known or unknown, lay down his money and place his order and have it delivered in its turn.

Just at this time the government is drafting men for various kinds of service. Why not follow this plan in filling some of the more important appointive places, instead of picking from the crowd of hungry politicians who are causing the newly elected commissioners so much worry?

Gentlemen, the people from now on will insist on 100 cents worth of service for every dollar of their money expended by you.

TAXPAYER.

About Street Car Fare.

Omaha, May 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: Permit me to commend your editorial in today's issue about the street railway.

Where, pray, is the "ultimate consumer" to come out if every firm and individual dealing in necessities, and every public utility corporation be permitted to raise its prices merely "because of the war?" The "ultimate consumer" is everywhere tapped for an additional bit, which must mean having no resource except a "raise" which never materializes.

The public utility pleads a "falling off in income" and is granted higher rates without discussion. Witness our gas company! How readily their plea was met by the powers that were.

Why should these utilities not make a sacrifice proportionate to the price by the average consumer? Would that be unfair? Why not distribute the burdens of war equitably?

A mere suggestion: Let's not give up the 5c fare, but if any concession must be made, we might concede an additional penny a ride on a transfer. That would probably relieve the situation if it be found that relief is necessary, and it would at the same time

induce people to walk a few blocks thus relieving congestion at downtown transfer points and at the same time a benefit to the health.

A CITIZEN.

Reduced Fare for Soldiers.

Omaha, May 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am taking this opportunity to receive public co-operation in my endeavors to ask lower railroad transportation for the soldiers and sailors now in service for our own safety. There is no question in my mind but that legislation the effect of reducing railroad transportation one-half can be established for the soldiers and sailors.

These boys now serving our country, giving up their lives, probably, and to charge them full railroad transportation between any two railroad points (while on furloughs) is not fair or just and all patriotic people should write to senators and congressmen to use their influence in the passage of such legislation to this effect. The railroads during this emergency are solely controlled by our government, and I know positively can bring about this regulation. I have already personally taken this matter up with Senator Hitchcock and Congressman Lobeck, as well as City Commissioner Jardine and the Chamber of Commerce of Omaha, and use their influence to bring about my view on this matter, but I cannot do this alone, and I need the assistance of each and every patriotic individual in this state. I trust you will publish this letter in order that I may get my views to the masses.

ANDY JENSEN.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"Cleopatra used to study the effect of poisons by administering them to her unfortunate slaves."

"Was she never punished for her crimes?"

"Well, she was so good-looking that the district attorney evidently thought there was no use bringing her to trial."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"He's a real patriot, anyhow."

"What makes you think so?"

"He's taken a government contract for the same profit he'd charge a private corporation."—Detroit Free Press.

"Well, the world seems to be going dry. Shall we take a dip out of the dictionary?"

"Leave it in for old times' sake," counseled the other telegrapher. "Just mark it obsolete."—Chicago Post.

Dean—What is density?

Hansen—I can't define it but I can give an illustration.

Dean—The illustration is good, all down.

—Nebraska Aweaway.

Jack—Why did you break your engagement with that school teacher?

Tom—If I failed to show up of an evening she expected me to bring a written excuse signed by my mother.—Boston Transcript.

"What did you say to your wife when you got home at 12 last night?"

"My dear."

"Yes, she began talking then."—Chicago Herald.

Aunt Jane (forbiddingly)—One of the most insulting things a man can do, Marion, is to throw a kiss at a girl. Don't you agree with that?

Marion—I certainly do, auntie—when there is no impenetrable barrier between.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

The Girl—If you love me as you say you do, why are you so anxious to kiss Elsie?

Tom—Well, you are a fellow in our set has kissed her, and I don't want to seem snobbish.—Minneapolis Tribune.

"The knights of old ought to have made good lawyers."

"Why so?"

"Because they never had a lack of retainers."—Baltimore American.

A RUSSIAN COURTSHIP.

"Be mine," said the ardent young Sawmillier.

In a voice with emotion quite husky. "My fondest devotion, oh, please do not scoff."

Katrina Polakarovskii!

"Tschernyehovskii, my friend," the shy maiden replied.

"Your people are noble and rich."

"Would a Golsouff's granddaughter be a fit bride for a nephew of Maximovitch?"

"I care not a kopeck," he said. "In my drowsy I have you safe now, and I laugh at the wealth of a Klitkin or Overhaul."

Gojavnik or Pullerzodoff?

"You are worth more to me than the gold of Stigmalski, Brakemupski or Sumarkoff."

Katrina Polakarovskii, it's risky.

But I'm going to carry you off.

Put an end to all further discussion: 'Twas a simpler proceeding to carry her off than to go on a courting in Russian.

Omaha.

JOHN P. COADY.

WHY NOT NICHOLAS OILS?

L. E. Nicholas Oil Company

"Business is Good—Thank You"

Telephone Rates Lower  
in the United States  
Than in Europe

Rates for telephone service should be based upon the cost of materials and labor and the kind of service furnished.

Wages paid telephone employees in this country are practically double those paid in Europe for the same kind of work.

Telephone materials also cost a great deal more in America than abroad and the grade of telephone service furnished here is far superior as everyone who has traveled in Europe knows.

Thus, the same materials could be purchased, the same amount of labor employed and service, such as is provided, could be furnished for less money in Europe than in America.

When the cost of operating is twice as much in America as in Europe, telephone rates in Europe, to be proportionately equal, should be only a dollar for service costing \$2.00 in America, and a long distance call costing \$1.00 here should only cost 50 cents in Europe.

