

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG: A graphic representation of a service flag with stars.

Jupiter Pluvius: You may rain when ready!

"Honest John" Powers lived long enough to see wheat run away from and corn catch up with silver.

Von Capelle says he has more U-boats than ever, and he is also keeping them closer to home.

Des Moines will probably subside now, and realize how lucky that town was to get and hold Camp Dodge.

Memories of the New York insurance investigation ought to loom up to haunt any guilty aircraft grafter.

No objection is made against the Kansas rhapsods as such, if only they did not bring so much Kansas real estate along.

The police have made a good start on the loafers and will win public approval if they only keep it up to a finish. That is one feature of local life that can be dispensed with.

The German mayor whose guests stole his silver spoons knows a little of how a lot of Belgian and French householders feel towards the Huns who looted everything moveable and destroyed what was nailed down.

Emphasis to the Bee's suggestion for better inspection against fire is given by the conflagration of Wednesday afternoon. While the loss in money is comparatively small, it falls heavily on the losers, most of whom will be unable to replace property destroyed. Utmost care and constant vigilance are needed to make the city safe against fire loss.

Passing of "Honest John" Powers. The passing of "Honest John" Powers will receive many reminiscent reviews of one of the most interesting chapters in Nebraska's political history.

Our Own "Official Communique." Direct communication of information concerning America's part on the battle front by General Pershing to his countrymen marks another step in our participation in the war.

The atrocities perpetrated by the Bulgarians and Turks are as bad, if not worse, than those chargeable to their German partners in crime.

State Press Comment: Scottsbluff Republican: If you don't think the republicans are waking up, just cast your eyes toward Omaha, and see what a cleaning they made there Tuesday.

Peppery Points: Baltimore American: Somehow or other, the working girl, pretty or plain, who wears a liberty loan button, assumes new interest these days.

Twice Told Tales: On the Way. "I hereby pledge that if I don't I will," said Berliner Busst, Randolph, N. D., as he signed his name to enlistment papers at the United States navy recruiting station.

Business and Pleasure. "Maggie, my sister, is a very fortunate girl."

Spotted. "Muriel feared the girls wouldn't notice her engagement ring."

Just 30 Years Ago Today: Valentine's Shorthand Institute, having outgrown its former quarters, has moved to the new Paxton block.

The Day We Celebrate: John Kree, secretary and treasurer of the O. K. Hardware company, born 1897.

King Alfonso XIII of Spain, born in Madrid, 23 years ago.

J. Randolph Collidge, architect, of Boston, born in Boston 55 years ago.

Schuyler Skeats Wheeler, electrical engineer and inventor, born in New York, 55 years ago.

Bishop Eugene R. Hendrix, of the Methodist Episcopal church, born at Fayette, Mo., 11 years ago.

Harry Hall, city agent of the Burlington, who quietly slipped away and got married sometime ago, returned, accompanied by his wife.

The first meeting of the Philo-Celtic association was held in St. Patrick's school, Fourteenth and Cassel streets. Rev. Dr. McDonald opened the proceedings with a few warm words to recommend the study of Irish language.

Dr. McDonald was elected president, Miss Mamie Rush, secretary; Mr. Michael Donovan, treasurer and C. M. O'Donovan, instructor.

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MAKE HOME RULE PARAMOUNT.

The new charter convention meets and organizes today, charged with the formulation of a home rule charter to be submitted for adoption by Omaha voters.

No one will deny that our present charter can be greatly improved by modification to meet the ever changing needs of a growing city, but the main thing, as we have from time to time pointed out, is to secure municipal home rule and thus to free ourselves from the biennial tinkering with our charter at Lincoln by lawmakers who know nothing of conditions here and care less.

The evils which Omaha has suffered through long-distant charter making, manipulated by special interests, and will continue to suffer so long as this system prevails, can be ended only by exercising the home rule privilege now accorded by our state constitution.

A home rule charter may not completely eradicate these evils, but it will at least put the remedy in our own hands and the fault will then be upon us if we do not do the remedying.

Home rule first, then, even though it defer charter revision, should be, and doubtless will be, the paramount purpose of the charter convention.

This purpose can be readily achieved for Omaha, as it has been for Lincoln, by submitting the present charter first practically as it is and leaving amendments to be proposed separately.

The greatest service the convention can do for Omaha is to cut the strings that keep us at the mercy of successive legislatures at Lincoln.

Inquiry Into Aircraft Scandal. President Wilson's choice of Charles Evans Hughes to assist Attorney General Gregory in the investigation of the aircraft scandal is complete assurance that the matter will be entirely cleaned up.

The president's request, almost command, to the senate that it desist and leave the matter in his hands loses any unpleasant quality it might have had because of the accompanying proof that the executive authority will be exerted to discover who is to blame for the situation.

Controversial disputes between the president and the senate within the last few months have not only impaired the usefulness of the committee on military affairs, but have placed it in such position that its inquiries are open at all times to a suspicion as to their sincerity.

Mr. Wilson has personally assailed the chairman of the committee, while other members of the body, notably Hitchcock of Nebraska, are notoriously at variance with the administration.

Under such circumstances the request from the president that the senate give over its activities and allow the executive, who unites both civil and military authority in his personal power, to deal with the situation is not only reassuring, but the commission given to Judge Hughes is a guaranty that the inquiry will be thorough and without taint of partisanship.

Mr. Wilson has met the senate's tentative lead with a counter that must give him a decided advantage with the people.

Army Buying in Omaha. General Goethals has merely exhibited the acumen accredited to him in establishing Omaha as one of the principal purchasing points for the army.

As one of the officers of the old army, he is well aware of the great strategic advantage of this city, a fact that has been recognized by the War department ever since the town was founded.

Any question as to uses of this city as a quartermaster depot has arisen from the machinations of ambitious rivals, who have had assistance from certain politicians. Omaha should not be punished, nor the service be deprived of its advantages, because one of Nebraska's United States senators, who has gotten himself into serious disfavor by his personal conduct, happens to make his home here.

All of these things are understood by General Goethals, whose order designating Omaha as one of the 13 great purchasing and distributing points for army supplies will end the dispute as to the desirability of such action.

Our Own "Official Communique." Direct communication of information concerning America's part on the battle front by General Pershing to his countrymen marks another step in our participation in the war.

It will take the place of the weekly review sent out from the War department by Secretary Baker and will give daily news from an official source. It is not expected that General Pershing will set any new marks for descriptive writing, nor that he will lift any laurels from the wreaths that now decorate the brows of the special correspondents, but he will give in terse phrase the communicable facts, and when the reader has assimilated these he will be ready to turn to the more elaborate reports furnished by the news-gatherers.

News of battle will come first from the general in command, and details will be supplied later by those whose business it is to make the simple facts glow with the living light of human interest. America is in the war at last in every sense of the word.

The atrocities perpetrated by the Bulgarians and Turks are as bad, if not worse, than those chargeable to their German partners in crime. Yet we have no declaration of war against either Turkey or Bulgaria. What good reason have we for pretending to be in free relation with Turkey and Bulgaria?

Spring in the Great Valley An Exquisite Pen Picture of Nature's Resurrection

From the Nation.

It is spring in the Great Valley, and the apple trees are drifting their petals down the steep hill slopes. Only yesterday they were covered with a sudden heavy April snowfall.

With today's warm sun it has vanished like a dream forgotten, and the only drift of the cottonwoods shaken by a quiet spring breeze, except as we look across the valley to the mountains beyond, whose tops are still white with yesterday's surprise. The bright red of the new-plowed fields is in sharp contrast with the vivid green of the oats, just springing into vigorous growth.

Over yonder an overloaded train of a baker's dozen of heavy passenger cars, with an ill-assorted freight car occasionally interspersed to remind us that we are at war, slowly draws up at the little station and then disappears into the cut beyond. Down below in the valley the power plant steadily and spitefully expresses dissatisfaction with its unending task.

Over the buzzards sweep in huge lazy circles, and at our feet the hens scratch cheerfully in the moist earth under the fallen leaves. A score of beehives shame our idleness as we turn our steps towards the woods, along the roadside where the dandelions tempt the children's fingers, and where the periwinkles bloom, star-spinkled in the grass. As we pass under the trees, a great turkey gobbler forgets his ordinary burbling querulousness long enough to speed us on our way with a ridiculous gobble—and we have left men behind.

Overhead the oaks and chestnuts are just putting forth tender young leaves and the maple keys hang in dense clusters from the branches along the path. The dogwood is spreading its creamy white in great sheets over the whole stretches of the wood, and in the sunny clearings the violets are laying a blue carpet, figured here and there with delicate grass flowers and yellow marsh-marigolds. From a near-by field a meadow-lark pipes a note of cheery melancholy and a covey of quail, disturbed by our unaccustomed footfall, spring with a whirr into the air, and in a moment have disappeared no one knows whither.

It is very peaceful in the woods of the Great Valley, and we forget that there is a world outside where it is not spring, a world where men dig in mines, and sweat in foundries and factories, and cheat and lie and gain in offices and counting houses, a world where women wear showy clothes and paint their faces, a world where children dart through crowded streets among swarming vehicles, and shout to one another in shrill voices from which all the music has fled, a world where soldiers are killed and die, a world where shells burst and falling shells tear up the tortured earth, a world where financiers and diplomats and kings plot and scheme and gamble with human lives for counters, a world where man is and God is not. Yes, it is very peaceful in the woods, and we walk softly as we go yet farther into their depths.

It is a world for little people in the woods of the Great Valley. Before our gaze the fairies have fled, but to younger eyes, undimmed by the prose of experience, they dwell eternal in the woods. And today, even we half-shut our eyes and open our hearts, and we, too, see them as plainly as in the days long gone. They peep at us from their shelter under the roadstools; they dart in and out in the flickering shadows behind the great grass trunks of the beeches; we catch a glimpse of them drinking from the cup of a

treasure through life, but all the more burning is my resentment, all the more deeply grounded my hostility against the Prussian caste who trampled those ideals, traditions and conceptions in the dust." So, it seems to us, should be the feelings of every American of German origin. They have a special reason for active animosity against the Germany which is their country's enemy, for they have been betrayed in the house of their fathers.

People and Events. An electric piano in Chicago cut loose at night and aroused the family in time to escape from fire. That is one strong point in favor of machine music.

Out of war as out of evil some good is bound to come. Besides the joy of showing the junkers where they get off, American genius promises to pull out of the stress of war a man's collar that will not need starch and will not wilt or fray at the edges. Halt the coming devaluation. Let laundrymen sit up and look pleasant.

The hum of the harvester is already heard in the southern tip of the North American wheat belt. The district of Coahuila, just over the Rio Grande in Old Mexico, is harvesting the biggest crop in years. Texas comes next, a week hence. From the end of May on the harvesting crews follow the sun in its northward flight until the last spear on the staff of life goes down in the Canadian wheat fields. Blessed be the harvesters and bumper their abundance.

An event of the first magnitude in the politico-social life of New York City passed without causing scarcely a ripple outside of Fourteenth street. Tammany chiefs opened the wigwam to women and installed two members of the emancipated sex on the executive committee. Critical chroniclers of the affair report "everybody's hair was nicely brushed, cigars and emphatic language discarded, and the conversation ennobled by the subtle influence of the higher life." In ordinary times the event would have the national honor of a audience. Now the revolution passed almost unnoticed. Such is the smothering power of war.

Germany's Betrayal of Germans Prussian Infamy Dishonors Race Throughout World St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It does not seem to us that the rage of Americans of German blood against Germany should be stronger and fiercer than the animosity of any other element of our population, for theirs should be not only the anger aroused by the wanton brutalities of Germany and its breaches of faith, but the hotter anger that should spring from the betrayal and degradation of their race. We think no one can deny that Germany has done more injury to Germans, wherever they may be, than she has to her enemies. She has overrun Belgium, has tortured and persecuted its inhabitants, but Belgium will arise from its ashes loved and honored by the world. Belgium will be hallowed ground, its people peculiarly privileged and respected, and its freedom the special care of nations with whom a treaty is a bond. To a relative extent France and all the countries that have felt the blast of the German fire and have opposed it heroically will share in the affection and honor of all civilized peoples.

But how will it be with the Germans? How will they come to their senses? Will mankind place any laurels upon the brow of a German anywhere? Will German blood, anywhere, ever again lift his glass to "the fatherland" and feel that the word represents truth and honor, as he once believed it did? There will be new glories and a greater pride in the title of American, or Englishman, or Frenchman, or Italian, for they have fought and sacrificed tremendously in defense of the things humanity holds most dear. What pride can a German have in the name, a name that stands dishonored by the German government and by the acts of German people debauched by Prussianism? Can Americans of German origin realize this racial shame without a feeling of bitter enmity toward the men and the policies that have caused it? In the deliberate and long-continued betrayal of Germany by its leaders, not only the Germans of Germany have been violated. German blood everywhere has been relatively dishonored. "I revere," says Otto Kahn, "the high ideals and fine traditions of that old time-honored country, but for a nation of right conduct which my parents and the teachers of my early youth bade me

The Bee's Letter Box

Better Pay for Firemen.

Omaha, May 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: Reading the account of the big fire in The Bee, it occurred to me to ask how many people in our city are aware of the pitifully small wages our firemen are paid for their services? In your account of the fire I see that seven firemen were injured, all more or less seriously. These men risk their lives for the public good every time that a serious fire occurs, and their compensation for such dangerous service is: For the first six months in service, \$65 a month; then \$5 increase every six months thereafter, until it reaches \$85 a month. I know of an instance where a man who has a wife and family are trying to live on \$80 a month, and paying \$14 a month house rent!

Is this fair? Is it not a shame that men in such hazardous business are not better paid by such a corporation as the city of Omaha?

Mr. Withnell, to his credit be it said, while serving as fire commissioner, endeavored to raise the wages of these men, but without success. Cannot someone else at once remedy this disgraceful condition of affairs and give these splendid men who risk their lives for our sakes a fair compensation for their valuable services? T. J. MACKAY.

Wants Pro-Germans Punished. Omaha, May 15.—To the Editor of The Bee: As this great war proceeds and we in these United States learn more of the degrading, selfish, inhuman practices of the German soldiers, the question naturally and very appropriately arises: "Are the pro-Germans here in America subjected to as harsh and severe treatment as they deserve?" How much better is a citizen in this country who approves of the methods adopted by the Germans in this world war than they who scheme and plan and carry out the most heinous and wicked acts ever known in the history of the world? If German militarism were able to accomplish what has been devised and attempted in conquering this country these same German sympathizers, who have prospered in and been protected here in America, would join with the Kaiser's soldiers in enacting all such barbarous and hellish deeds as have been practiced in Belgium, France, Serbia and Italy the last four years. If such is the case, why should not measures be adopted here similar to those there, where enemy sympathizers are lined up before a firing squad?

If such measures were put in force the Kaiser would soon be convinced he had a determined enemy in these United States, and instead of treating us with ridicule and claiming we are a divided nation and afraid to fight, he would realize that a unit of over 100,000,000 people, with unlimited resources, that had never yet in war asked for terms of peace, had only one conclusion in mind when entering this great war—that of victory.

A man is no better than the principles he upholds and defends. Let any who are inclined to be lenient with enemy sympathizers see "Ambassador Gerard's Four Years in Germany," being exhibited in Omaha this week, and he does not come away with a desire to help execute every pro-German in America, he lacks the true spirit of patriotism for this country. S. S. SWITZER.

Y. M. C. A. and Post Exchange Prices. Peru, Neb., May 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: My brother, on the front line in France, asks this question which he wants a unit to answer. Since I am unable I wish you would put it in the public opinion column and ask for an answer. This letter was censored by J. R. Perry, first lieutenant, A. S. C., U. S. R. The letter asks: "As you are interested and have been for sometime in Young Men's Christian association work, I have a question which I wish you would answer. It is your first opportunity. Why do these Ys charge us boys a profit on everything they sell us? It seems to me that after the people of the United States were good enough to donate money to the Young Men's Christian associations that they would sell everything to us at cost. I am

not kicking on my own account, in particular, but for us all in general. Did you people do all you have to buy these supplies expecting them to charge us a profit? I give the people of the United States more credit than that, and I think if the people knew it, it would be stopped. I would like to hear your opinion."

This letter was censored by the base censor, as well as the one mentioned above. It seems as if the censors would have noted the error of statement were there one, and yet it does not seem correct that a profit would be charged. Will not someone who knows, someone in official Young Men's Christian association work, answer? A SUBSCRIBER.

Answer: M. C. V. Hibbard, associate general secretary of the war work division of the Young Men's Christian association, explains in a general circular, issued under date of May 4, 1918, that the \$50,000,000 contributed to support the war work of the association was not intended to be used in connection with the post exchanges, nor to furnish free tobacco, chocolate or similar supplies to the soldiers. Operation of the post exchange is made difficult because of the inability to always know the exact cost of the articles disposed of, but so far as possible the selling price is kept in relation to retail prices in America. Whatever of profit accrues is devoted to two purposes, first, the furnishing of such supplies as must be provided free in time of emergency, and second to offset losses sustained. It is not intended to conduct the business on a profligating basis, nor to furnish free to the soldier those things he can buy, and against which subscribers to the general fund might enter serious objection.

GLORY O' THE MORNIN'. Oh bird o' airly mornin', How sweet your song to me, When from the land of shadows, We came, my lad and me! When stars were settin' sleepy, An' cuddlin' o'ft to bed, Upon my pantin' bosom, Was laid his little head!

Oh glory o' the mornin', The airly mornin' hour, When dancin' little sunbeams, Were wakin' birds to sing, You came to me when I lidded, First sungled by my side, An' filled my heart to breakin', With all a mother's pride!

Oh glory o' the noon day, The shadows come again! I lift my hands to Heaven, That I may hear the pain! Oh may an' bless my laddie, That who dost never sleep— The glory o' the mornin', It was not mine to keep! MRS. JOHN PALMER N.Y.M. Shenandoah, Ia.

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Your grocer has the lemons and any drug store or toilet counter will supply three ounces of orchard white for a few cents. Massage this sweetly fragrant lotion into the face, neck, arms and hands each day and see how freckles and blemishes disappear and how clear, soft and white the skin becomes. Yes! It is harmless.

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