

# THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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## THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG

Cheer up; we have yet a week of spring to go.

Flag day every day while this war continues, and ever after.

Have a good time, school children! But put in part of your vacation doing something useful.

American waters are now included in the kaiser's "war zone," but ships still come and go from our ports.

Mr. Rockefeller might find some interest in checking up the "filling stations" that adorn Omaha's streets.

Henry Ford must have had a vision of one of his machines riding up the steps of the senate wing of the capitol.

The new railroad directors will do well if they begin now to assemble cars to haul Nebraska wheat to market.

Field Marshal Haig also likes the looks of the American soldier. His views are generally shared by his countrymen.

No limit will be placed on debate in the senate, at least until a lot of issues that have nothing to do with the war are disposed of.

The weather man insists we still have a deficiency of moisture precipitation since March 1, and the weather man's records may be relied on.

The express offices are now to be merged for purposes of economy and efficiency. Omaha may get that Union passenger station some time when least expected.

That belated declaration by Germany that our eastern coast is a danger zone is wholly unnecessary. We know it—only Germany greatly exaggerates the danger.

The tenacity with which those referendum petitions were prepared suggests great possibilities for that method of prolonging disputes in the city council. He will be a benefactor who devises an equally efficacious method of ending arguments between the commissioners.

## DESTRUCTION OF FRENCH SUGAR MILLS.

The thoroughgoing quality of German frightfulness has had its most impressive illustration in the obliteration of French industrial establishments wherever the Hun has come. Organized groups of expert workmen have been employed in denuding mills and factories of their machinery, and when everything moveable has been carried off, engineers are called in, and soon in puffs of high explosive and clouds of dust the building disappears. Nowhere has this been more effectively carried out than in the operations against the sugar mills. In the occupied portion of France the Germans surrounded 203 out of a total of 213 French sugar mills, as well as a very large proportion of the sugar beet lands. These mills have been systematically and completely destroyed. Machinery of all kinds was removed to Germany, and the buildings were demolished. A result is that the pre-war sugar production for France of 967,440 tons has been cut to 204,405, or less than one-fourth. While the French people have restricted their use of sugar to the lowest limit, they look to the world outside for a considerable supply to make up the shortage. America must continue to share with them for a long time to come available stocks of sugar.

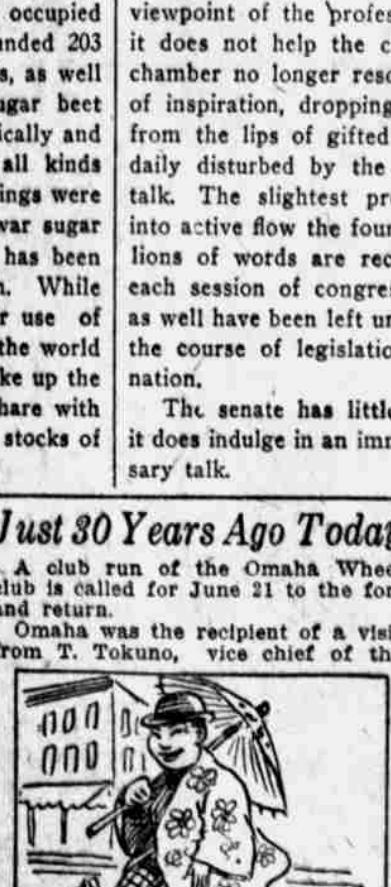
## TODAY

Just 30 Years Ago Today

"Over There and Here"

A club run by the Omaha Wheel Club is called for June 21 to the fort and return.

Omaha was the recipient of a visit from T. Tokuno, vice chief of the



bureau of engraving and printing department, Tokyo, Japan.

Mrs. A. C. Osterman left for West Point, New York, on a visit to relatives.

W. E. Foster, who has been in this city for some time, left for Houston, Tex., where he has accepted a position with the Wells Fargo & Company.

The Duranthe company went on an excursion to Fremont and a train of 10 coaches and one baggage car was provided for their accommodations.

A Boom Punctured.

"Munc pro tunc," boomed the law, seriously.

"Gee," murmured the new stenographer, "do you have to learn Chinese to practice law?"—Chicago Post

## AMERICANS WILLING TO SERVE.

English and French alike are thrilled by the spirit shown by the American soldiers, not only in the actual combat, but in their willingness to make what is denominated "sacrifice" in connection with the service. This so-called sacrifice has taken the form of submitting to be brigaded with French and British troops, to take orders from generals of other armies, and generally to help out wherever needed. While all Americans will appreciate the kindly comment this conduct has brought out, they will wonder somewhat that it should be so.

Our British cousins, especially, seem to marvel at the cheerful way in which the American soldier sinks his national identity and becomes just a part of the great war machine. In this they utterly mistake the American mood. It is not that we do not have a proper, and in some ways perhaps an inordinate, national pride, and that this extends to our army in all its branches. But we did not go into this war to bring new glories to American arms; our national pride rests chiefly on other basis than what we have done in a martial way, although the record we have made in war on land and sea is one to which we confidently refer any opponent as a proof of our sincerity in that grim business.

What we went to France to do primarily is to "lick the kaiser," to defeat Prussian militarism, and if we can help in this work by letting our boys battle alongside the brave Frenchmen and the valorous Britons, or in any other way, we are content. If further sacrifice is necessary to wind up the bloody but necessary undertaking, we will make it. Americans are bent on service, not on establishing their prowess as fighting men, for that is beyond dispute or denial.

## Foundation for the New Tax Law.

Today's experience will give the Treasury department basis for its final calculations as to what form the new revenue law will take. When the totals for income and excess profits taxes are made up something definite will be had to work from. At present the estimates of revenue from this source are variously placed at from two and one-half to three and one-half billion dollars. The latter figure is an extreme guess, and not likely to be attained. The best calculations have placed the expected total of income and excess profits taxes under the existing law at around \$2,700,000,000. This, with collections from other sources, will bring the total revenue for the year up to a little above \$4,000,000,000. This is against expenditures of \$12,000,000,000 in round numbers.

We have so far defrayed one-third of our war expense by taxation. Economists are divided as to what proportion should be provided by taxation and how much rest on credit, but the ratio for the current year seems sound. Treasury estimates for the coming year have gone as high as \$25,000,000,000, but the ability of the country to expend that amount is challenged. Analysis of expense to date shows that almost one-third of our outlay has been loans to allies, while a very considerable part of the remainder has been in the nature of capital expenditure, which will not require duplication, and which will soon become revenue-producing.

Allowing for this, it is admitted, the requirements of the war for the next fiscal year will exceed that now ending, and that a much larger collection of revenue from taxation will be forced. The general financial condition of the country is healthy, and an even greater strain can be supported without serious business discomfiture.

## Oratory and the Senate.

Senator James Hamilton Lewis deplores the decadence of oratory in the United States senate. A motion to change the rule governing debate and place a narrower limit on the flow of words inspired him to a lament over the passing art of ornate speech-making. The senate has orators, but no oratory, says the Illinois orator, whose reputation as a dispenser of tinkling phrases and sonorous sentences has been well built up on many a Chautauqua platform. If Daniel Webster or Henry Clay were to be brought back to active service in the United States senate they would find their usefulness seriously impaired, because of the newer methods of disposing of questions presented.

As to oratory, Cicero's denunciation of Catiline might be listened to, but were Pericles to start unrolling the manuscript of his speech extolling the soldiers on their return from Salamis his auditors would scatter as blackbirds before the hunter. All of which is important from the viewpoint of the professional word juggler, but it does not help the case. While the senate chamber no longer resounds with the eloquence of inspiration, dropping in deathless expression from the lips of gifted speakers, its echoes are daily disturbed by the droning of interminable talk. The slightest provocation serves to stir into active flow the fountains of speech, and millions of words are recorded for the output of each session of congress, most of which might as well have been left unsaid, so far as they affect the course of legislation or the destiny of the nation.

The senate has little enough of oratory, but it does indulge in an immense amount of unnecessary talk.

And my mind went back to the children who were tyrannizing over a household test

something done that wouldn't "help win the war." These episodes fell clearly into one or other of the two categories created by the boy's imperative division of "those who did and those who didn't."

It seemed to me that not only every person, but every act of every person, must fall on one side or other of that merciless line.

And the division is, after all, the old division about which we have talked so much and heard preaching so much between Me and Others.

More than that, if the war means anything but stalking horror and world-chaos, it is between those on one side of this line and those on the other. Germany stands in the struggle for those who regard self, personal or national, as the be-all and end-all of existence, and those who regard the welfare of all as having first claim, and selfness as a thing to be suppressed.

In ordinary times it is difficult to impress children—and grown people, too—with the duty and privilege of considering the welfare of others. The material of life is relatively tame and undramatic, the recognition of the principle has to be taught in small and routine ways. But now on every hand arise conditions each of which carries its opportunity to teach the lesson.

The man, woman or child who thinks, or is permitted to think, that he "must" have this or that for his comfort or enjoyment—white bread, for instance—is losing or being deprived of the benefits of this opportunity; is failing inevitably on the "didn't" side of the line. And the parents who fail to use the dramatic circumstances of these times for the training of their children are greatly to blame, from every point of view.

**Triumph of the Marines**

That the American marines above Chatou-Thierry, fighting with the French, have achieved the most signal triumph for our colors thus far in the war may be inferred from the strength of the defense they were certain to meet.

Germany's March advance on the Somme and its May advance on the Marne are, roughly, two triangles, each too narrow for comfort and further progress. Between them lie the allies, with shorter local lines of communication. In these June days the Germans have pounded hard to drive a connection westward. As at Chateau-Thierry, so at Torcy and Bourges the Americans have shared no "quiet sector" for instruction, but a place in the heat and brunt of history's greatest battle.

To have held a German advance that had been continuous for a fortnight would be in the circumstances a distinct advantage. To have driven the foe back, in one case even beyond the objective, is a feat of strength, skill and valor that justifies the highest praise. Berlin may yet have to reconsider its contempt for the "wooden sword" of the west.

In their own motto, "The Marines Go Forward." When that is the order, they go forward. A swiftly-growing army of their own countrymen aspires to rival their pace and follow their direction.—New York World.

Whittled to a Point

Washington, D. C.—Kaiser Bill need never become jealous over the honors paid to a German ace, as there is only one German two spot.

St. Paul Pioneer Press: A southern army division has adopted the name of "Stonewall Jackson." Can't have any too much of that stone wall stuff on the fighting front these days.

Brooklyn Eagle: Dividends from surplus accumulated through a term of years are not "income" to be taxed. So the supreme court decided. Common sense reached the same conclusion the moment the issue was raised, but the conclusions of common sense took finality.

Louisville Courier-Journal: Dispatches state that the Germans now are drenching villages in the Ukraine with gas and killing all of the inhabitants as a form of reprisal against peasant disorders. The Ukraine wanted peace at any price. This is part of the price.

New York World: Another nation takes its place in the battle line today. It is Poland. The Polish legions of 50,000 men mainly recruited in the United States, follows in France the white eagle flag. Poland's hope of resurrection is in allied success. She will not abandon hope.

"Well, now," said Ian Hay, "isn't that provoking? It's always my duck to have to stand when that chap Hay lectures."—London Opinion.

Somewhat Personal.

A well-known Englishman was calling on an editor, when he rose abruptly and said: "But I must not further occupy the time of a busy man."

"Not at all," exclaimed the editor: "I am always pleased."

"Oh, I was referring to myself," was the placid rejoinder.—Boston Transcript.

Some Adventures.

Ancient Mariner—You ast me, 'ave I 'ad any adventures?' Wy, I should rather think I 'ave. D'you know that once when I was wrecked and we'd eaten all our food, we ate our belts.'

His Victim—No!

Ancient Mariner—Fact, me lad. An'

when we'd eaten our belts the boat

went overboard.

Ancient Mariner—Fact, me lad. An'

when we was turned turtle, an'

and so we ate that!—London Tid-Bits.

## Hun Pirates Parihs of the Sea

## League of Seamen Fostered by Murder of Non-Combatants

New York Herald.

"I hate to do this. I used to command an American liner and I have some good friends among the commanders of American steamships. But war is war, so we will go through with this little job."

The speaker was the commander of a German submarine, his "little job" the sinking of the freighter Texel—a job that was part and parcel of Hun piracy. Whether that was the same submarine that sank the passenger steamer Carolina, with the consequent loss of life, is not yet determined. All of the Carolina's passengers or crew whose lives were lost are the victims of murder, coldly calculated and deliberate. "War is war," but piracy and the murder of helpless non-combatants are not a part of war as decent people understand war and practice.

"I have some friends among the commanders of American steamships," this German pirate said. Never was Hun more mistaken. He might have been right had he used the past tense, for there was a day when German seamen were admitted to the comradeship of other followers of the sea.

"Never again! American seamen are seeing their dead, as British seamen have seen theirs. Can there be any doubt that German seamen henceforth will be pariahs in the eyes of American, as well as of British, men of the sea?"

The attitude of British seamen is set forth in a recent statement of Mr. Havelock Wilson, president of the Seamen's and Firemen's union of Great Britain, on the subject of the sacrifices of the British mercantile marine and the future punishment of the murderers. In that statement Mr. Havelock Wilson says:

"I shall be well to the uttermost, I can assure them that I have the most positive proof in my possession that the commercial folk in Germany are living in no such fools' paradise. They are very uneasy about it, because they know that we already possess the power and influence to make good our threat, and that public opinion in this country is growing in our favor every day. Almost by every post we are enrolling new members in the Merchant Seamen's league, and we have yet to discover a hall that is too large for our meetings in any part of the country.

"Since the foundation of the league at the Albert Hall last September more than 100 meetings have been held in various parts of the country, and members are being drawn from all classes of the community. We have more than 10,000 members in the league already and the membership grows with every fresh outrage committed by our unscrupulous foes. I am quite satisfied that the policy of the boycott will be supported in this country as the only punishment to fit the crime, and any Briton can think otherwise passes my comprehension.

"Those candidates for Parliament at the next general election who do not definitely pledge themselves to the policy of the league will have a poor chance of finding their way to Parliament. We are organizing branches of the league in every constituency, and shall be prepared to run candidates against those who do not satisfy us on the score of sympathy with our objects. We are not taking this line because we want Parliament to do anything for us. We do not want Parliament to interfere. We want this thing to be carried through by the people."

Replies to the question, "How do you propose to carry out your policy after the war without the sanction of Parliament?" Mr. Wilson said:

"Easily enough. No man can be compelled to work for any particular firm, or buy from any one shop; nor can our members be made to work for firms that deal with Germany, if they make up their minds not to do so. Our league, as well as our union, is in this business to the last man. Masters and officers are with us in hearty unanimity, and it would be interesting to know where the owners—even if they wished to do so—get their sailors from to handle stuff in any way connected with Germany. Five years and a half."

"It cannot be too widely known that the British sailors are in deadly earnest in their determination to apply the punitive boycott to