

THE OMAHA BEE

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STATE RAILWAY COMMISSION EXPLODES A SHELL.

The finding and order of the Nebraska State Railway Commission on the application of the management of the Lincoln street railway for permission to go to a 5-cent fare instead of the six-for-a-quarter now prevailing there...

The Press and the Courts

Twilight Zone of Press Freedom Advanced by Judges
New York Evening Post.
The question of the freedom of the press continues to claim the attention of the courts.

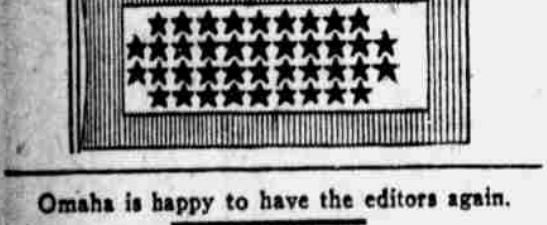
The Bee's Letter Box

Disgusted with Democrats.
Omaha, June 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: At various times in my capacity as a voter during the last 25 years I have put aside prejudice and better judgment and cast my ballot for democratic candidates...

FREEDOM'S CALL

We are coming now at Freedom's call.
Ten hundred thousand more.
From Mississippi's winding stream.
And from New England's shore.

THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG



Omaha is happy to have the editors again.
The Nebraskan is proving a 'bad medicine' boat for the submarine.

Food riots have taken the place of hunger strikes in Mitteleuropa, a very natural sequence.
Do not overlook The Bee's ice and milk fund; the money goes to help Omaha babies who need help.

The latest is said to be despondent, but not nearly so dejected as he will be when justice finally lays hold on him.
Mr. Bryan favors prohibition, but wants it to come gradually. Glad he has found something he can take in moderation.

Minnesota let the wind out of the Monparnasian sails most effectively, and Nebraska need not worry greatly over the Townsleys.
Saving light to save fuel sounds odd in June, but it will be well to get accustomed to the thought, so it can be practiced in December.

The esteemed Chicago Tribune falls into the error of classifying the democratic senator from Nebraska as a republican. We ask a correction.
Fort Crook may in time be utilized by the War department for some adequate purpose, but not so long as it depends on either the senator or congressman from Omaha.

If our hyphenated contemporary will only be patient, the republicans will in good season make their own selection of a candidate to represent the Second district in congress.
Looking up the boys on the battle front will take the place of kissing the babies in the campaign strategy of one Nebraska congressman. The move is at least an innovation.

'Adjourned' Politics in Indiana.
Indiana democrats, responding to the sweet and tender pleadings of 'Tom' Marshall, the 'harmless but necessary' vice president of the United States, have resolved that political exigencies, expediencies and the parous state of the world require that Woodrow Wilson be chosen president for the third time, regardless of precedent. It is not to be alleged that any political maneuvering lies back of this. Politics is adjourned wherever a democrat may be found holding or seeking office. It is just patriotism, and nothing more, that has aroused this enthusiastic outburst in Indiana, where as a rule candidates for the presidency are to be found in plenty. Politics has been adjourned there, also, in favor of New Jersey.

Without going into the complicated legal aspects, the commission's smashing drive at public utility capital inflation seems to us to reinforce The Bee's position for home rule regulation by local rather than state authorities. We know the men interested in these municipal services believe they get away from local prejudice and secure more impartial consideration when they go to state commissions, but in this instance that argument loses all its weight. The people of Lincoln, or the people of Omaha, through their constituted officers, would surely deal as fairly with the utility corporations on which they depend as a state commission of nonresidents personally unfamiliar with what is involved.

A few bombs like the one set off in the Lincoln street railway case will swing the pendulum back to home rule and regulation by the municipality in which the public utility is operating, subject, of course, to review in the courts, as it always is.

Hunger Abroad in Europe.
The part that wheat will play in the war is emphasized, if possible, by accounts of conditions now prevailing in Europe. Likewise, the recoil of the submarine warfare is being felt in quarters where it was not looked for. Instead of starving England and France, Germany's efforts to blockade all ocean traffic has brought want to the neutral nations of the continent.

In Denmark food is scarce, and women parade the streets of Copenhagen, demanding more bread and butter. Switzerland, Holland, Spain, Sweden and Norway have been compelled to put their people on closely-guarded rations, while back of the lines, where food control has been so strictly enforced for almost four years, supplies are exhausted.

Europe, belligerent, neutral and victim alike, is hungry, and the only way by which we can reach the starving people is through the Kaiser's ring of steel, which must be pierced and broken before generosity will be able to relieve the distress of that unhappy continent.

Cutting Down Sugar Consumption.
Americans are asked to voluntarily restrict themselves in the use of sugar. For many years we have been the second greatest consumers of sugar, only the British exceeding us in this. Now the food administrator asks us to put ourselves on an allowance of two pounds per month, or just one-fourth what we have been accustomed to. This is for personal use, however, and will be found to be a fairly liberal allowance. Most of the sugar used in America has gone into foods of various sorts—confections, pastry, preserves, fancy drinks and the like. Thirty-two ounces of sugar a month will allow each individual a little more than an ounce a day. This is quite enough for the ordinary mortal, and those whose fondness for sweets leads them to extravagance in the use of sugar will have to make whatever of sacrifice is entailed in curbing their appetites. The person most to be affected is the one who wastes by dumping into his cup of coffee or glass of tea twice or three times the amount needed, leaving it undissolved at the bottom. Sugar must be saved, just as we are saving meat and flour and other edibles. For the time the effort will be voluntary; it may become compulsory.

It is well to remember, now that the press and censorship are continually coming up for discussion, that the freedom of the press which the federal constitution and the constitutions of all the states explicitly guarantee, was never intended to cover the publication of anything, at any time, regardless of circumstances. Originally, no doubt, a free press meant a press free from government license and control. Control of some sort, however, there undoubtedly must be, and such control, as a legal matter, rests with the government acting under law and in accord with the principles of justice, equity and personal freedom. In this country such control belongs to the federal government and the states. It is not a matter over which a local community has any control whatever. The latter point was clearly brought out a few days ago by Justice Giegerich of the New York supreme court, in granting an injunction restraining the municipal authorities of Mount Vernon from enforcing an ordinance which made it the duty of the city council to circulate the Hearst publications in that community.

What is needed, especially in such a time of public tension as the present, is a sensible and impartial administration of the press laws by the government, and an equally reasonable and unbiased interpretation of them by the courts. The only safe guide, in either case, is the facts. The moment a court, or an administrative official, assumes the existence of an injury or 'embarrassment' which clearly need not be produced, that moment the government enters upon a course which leads inevitably to contradictory policies and decisions, and the hopeless confusion of what is and what is not legitimate freedom of public discussion. The essence of democracy is liberty, defined and safeguarded by law; but the liberty which does not comprehend all reasonable freedom of speech and of the press is imperfect.

By-Products of the War
It is scarcely possible to speak of the things we are already getting out of the war as compensations, for nothing can compensate us for the frightful cost of the war but the saving of the national life for which we are fighting. This will be accomplished before we breathe the word, but there are already many by-products as reward for the doing of our duty.

Keep Your Liberty Bonds
New York Financial World.
After the second Liberty loan campaign was finished those who had been Liberty bond buyers in many sections of the country received offers from all sorts of concerns—brokers, promoters, corporations and what not—suggesting that the bondholder who considered the return for a small return on investment might improve his or her position by exchanging Liberty bonds for stocks or bonds of corporations that paid all the way from 7 to 10 per cent and agreeing to take the Liberty bonds at par, although they sold at a discount. In various arduous ways it was sought to impress upon holders the foolishness of accepting a mere 4 per cent return when there were so many other securities 'just as good' on which the return was from 5 to 12 per cent better. We are sorry to say that this lure was effective and many unsuspecting people parted with their Liberty bonds for all sorts of trash. Some, of course, were fortunate to get good securities, but in the main they plunged from the best investment in the world to speculative investments, or worse.

People and Events
The Rotary club of Champaign, Ill., serves notice on Mayor Thompson of Chicago that his presence in town would be an insult to the people. Evidently the Rotarians know Bill.
Chicago has sent out a tugboat mission to rescue and bring home to Jackson park the caravel Santa Maria, stranded for three years near the mouth of the St. Lawrence river. Attempts were made to navigate the relic of the World's fair to San Francisco's wharf, but the trip ended in Quebec.

Editorial Shrapnel
Shoe and Leather Reporter: Far be it from us to criticize Hoover, but there are persons who would be better off if they were to eat more and complain less.

Twice Told Tales
A Rare Specimen.
Sometime ago an elderly gentleman was traveling on a southern train when he became engaged in conversation with a younger man in the seat beside him. Eventually the talk led to personal experiences.

Domestic Pleasantries.
Telephone message.
'For whom?'
'One of the clerks.'
'Which one?'
'Some game wants to speak to Lovey.'
'Who answers to that name?'—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Heal Skin Diseases
It is unnecessary for you to suffer with eczema, blotches, ringworm, rashes and similar skin troubles. A little zemo, obtained at any drug store for 35c, or \$1.00 for extra large bottle, and promptly applied will usually give instant relief from itching torture. It cleanses and soothes the skin and heals quickly and effectively most skin diseases.

Why Lose Your Hair
The Cause is Dandruff and Itching. The Remedy is Cuticura.
All druggists. Soap, Ointment, 25c. Tubes, 50c. Sample each free of Cuticura Dept., Boston.

The Antlers
Colorado Springs' Finest on Largest Hostelry
CHAS. A. SCHLOTTER, Manager
European Plan Restaurant Famed
In the center of the city, surrounded by fifteen acres of garden and park.

ADVERTISE with Pictures
Made to order at THE BEE ENGRAVING DEPARTMENT OMAHA

TODAY
One Year Ago Today in the War.
Italians extended their offensive in the Tyrol to great proportions.
Federal grand jury in New York indicted Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman for opposing the draft.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
The fifteenth annual meeting of the Nebraska State Sportsmen association was held at John J. Hardin's sporting goods headquarters, with W. H. S. Hughes in the chair. Judge Barnes of Ponca was elected president, B. F. Locke secretary and W. E. Nason treasurer.

Sidelights on the War
Twenty-nine Canadians have won the Victoria Cross in the present war.
The service flag of Columbia university carries 32 gold stars, emblematic of sons who made the supreme sacrifice.

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