

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PREMATURE AND INEFFECTIVE.

Serious discussion of the petition to re-submit the question of mayor and council versus commission plan of city government is hardly warranted because the whole scheme is bound to be premature and ineffective.

True, the law under which we established the commission plan in Omaha provides for a referendum for its abandonment, but a vote to rescind would not become operative until the expiration of the terms of the incumbent city commissioners, which, in this case, would be three years hence.

In the meantime we have a home rule charter convention in session preparing to present the existing charter in all its essential features for a reaffirmation at the polls, which would take it entirely out from under the state law governing the adoption and abandonment of the commission plan and call for an entirely different procedure for future changes.

With our home rule charter once nailed down, then, under the terms of the home rule section of the state constitution, the way is cleared for the people to modify it as they may wish, but they must do so by proposing amendments through the council or by alternative initiative measures. With a home rule charter the people of Omaha may at any time decide anew for themselves whether they prefer to continue the commission plan, or go back to the mayor and council plan, or adopt the general manager plan, or take up any other plan of administering municipal affairs. While the home rule charter is pending, however, time spent collecting signatures to petitions to abandon the present form is time wasted.

Why Holland is Worried.

Some of the wonder over Holland's worry is removed by a report from United States Consul Mahin at Amsterdam, dealing with the fisheries of the Dutch. This shows most graphically how German friendship has affected a neighbor, and why Holland has so earnestly endeavored to remain on good terms with all belligerents.

In 1916 the total catch of all fish by the Dutch amounted to 165,513 tons; in 1917 the total was 33,759 tons. Herring, the principal item in the list, dropped from 95,000 tons in 1916 to 300 tons in 1917. In other words, the industry was wiped out. This decline is entirely due to the activity of the German U-boat and destroyer fleet. Instead of directing their efforts against enemy vessels, they have sunk Dutch fishing boats, tore up their nets and generally played hob with the fishermen. In thus shutting down on the work of gathering food from the sea, these energetic exponents of kultur have reduced the available supplies for German consumption, because most of Holland's export trade in food was with the Hun.

Roosevelt and Irish Recruiting.

Colonel Arthur Lynch, member of Parliament and Irish patriot, has urged Colonel Roosevelt to visit Ireland for the purpose of stimulating by his presence and his counsel the work of recruiting among the Irish. This illustrates the deplorable condition into which Ireland's affairs have fallen through the wrongheaded course of the Sinn Feiners on the one hand and the Orangemen on the other. Appeals from their own countrymen have been unavailing to move them from their stubborn demands, in which outsiders can see neither justice nor reason. Sinn Fein requires that Ireland be given immediate political and economic independence; then it will examine into the causes of the war, and take sides as best interest of the new government directs.

Orangemen decline to assent to anything approaching home rule or any other form of separation from the government now existing. Neither side will listen to less than its own plans for Ireland's future, and between them all efforts at compromise or settlement have come to nothing.

While this is going on, the man-power of Ireland is largely withheld from the fighting forces. Sinn Feiners have even conspired with Germany, and this plotting has in part been carried on in America. An alternative has been proposed, that Irish be allowed to enlist in the American army, to fight under Old Glory.

The impropriety of this should be plain to its proponents. Under the new military bill, which went through the senate last week, it will be possible for the United States to recruit and even to conscript nationals of allied or neutral consenting countries who are domiciled here, but it is absurd to talk of our setting up recruiting stations in a foreign land, to enlist aliens for American armies.

What Sinn Fein and Orangemen alike overlook is that they are playing the kaiser's game. Moreover, they are sowing the seeds of a harvest they will reap in bitterness. Those who are fighting in France today or are making sacrifices at home will view with little favor those who have selfishly held back. Irishmen who look to the future, and they are numerous on both sides of the water, see little hope in the situation as it has now developed.

While Mr. McAdoo is snooping around the country, looking for places to improve the railroad service, we timidly suggest that he take another squint at the Omaha "union" depot.

Factors In Community Growth. Industries, Markets, Transportation, Capital and Enterprise.

Carl Hunt in the Nation's Business.

There are eight chief factors that enter into such a community development; eight special advantages which make such a city more attractive to others in the same line as a place to locate. In naming them I do not mean that these are the only things which influence the location of factories, for transportation, good homes, schools, pure water, churches and a great many other things influence the location of industrial plants. The eight I shall name are: those advantages which grow especially out of the fact that an industry has already been started. They are:

1. Skilled and unskilled labor, trained in the industry or suitable for such work, is available. The laborer knows there will be competition for his services and that if he should disagree with one foreman he can obtain employment in his line without moving to another city.

2. The center soon becomes an important market for raw materials. Salesmen come oftener and give better service. Deliveries of raw materials are usually better both as to time of delivery and quality, for sellers of raw material realize that the customer in such a city has many other opportunities to buy. Transportation facilities, incoming and outgoing, are better. Manufacturers in the line, buying and shipping together, get better rates and better deliveries. Outgoing shipments are handled better; because the employees of the transportation companies are familiar with the product; with what to do and what not to do.

3. Capital, either for the expansion of the business or for its current operation, is easily obtained. People in Detroit know the automobile business is profitable and will more readily invest in a company to make automobiles. The Akron banker, knowing something of the rubber business, or the Grand Rapids banker, with a knowledge of the furniture business, will more readily advance money for current uses in those lines. He knows what he is about because he has specialized, just as have the manufacturers. Accessory or supplemental plants are usually numerous. In Detroit every conceivable part of an automobile can be obtained. In Grand Rapids varnish and a great many things kindred to the furniture industry are made. There is an advertising prestige such as I have mentioned. Flour from Minneapolis or St. Paul must be all right.

4. The industry receives every possible support from the community. The chamber of commerce, the city officials, and all of the people of the city, realizing the importance of the industry to the community and having pride in the reputation it has given the city, will go out of their way to make the convenience of the manufacturer, their convenience. The manufacturers in the specialized line exchange information and ideas. It is the center of things in the industry. They operate labor exchanges and have uniform labor policies. They often ship together. The rubber board of trade at Akron and the organization of the steel industry at Chattanooga are examples.

5. Briefly, before I tell how the individual community can develop along a certain line, let me tell more about co-operation at Chattanooga. The iron men there have a joint exhibition hall where nearly 50 manufacturers co-operate in the exhibition of the products of the city, and the manager of this exhibit is also the manager of a joint shipping bureau which has saved thousands and thousands of dollars to the manufacturers, especially because so much of the product is heavy and freight is a vital factor.

No manufacturer does his own freight routing. None handles his own claims

Inoperative Blue Sky Laws Reason Why They Do Not Check Get-Rich-Quick Evil

New York Financial World.

Moralists had hoped with the inauguration of blue sky laws by the various states the get-rich-quick evil throughout the country would receive one of its severest checks. But has this proven the case? Evidence of the numerous flotations on the market appealing with a strident and blatant voice for the money of people does not indicate any decrease in the annual despoliation of American capital. Several attempts have been made to explain why it is that the blue sky laws have accomplished so little good. The national vigilance committee that is now doing such good work in behalf of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, in a special bulletin to the members and to the newspapers vouchsafes an explanation for the partial failures of these well-intended statutes. It says that there is a big hole in the laws through which get-rich-quick schemers can find an exit for their schemes. If the law is too drastic in the states in which they have originated they can pack up their belongings and their assets, which they can comfortably carry in their hat, and move to some other state where they know they cannot be molested except by the federal authorities, and they are too busy now, they believe, with war work to bother much with them.

There is truth in this conclusion. This very weakness of the Financial World has pointed to openly. Get-rich-quick promoters travel anywhere. In whatever state they are located they can still ply their business nationally as long as the mails are open and the columns of certain newspapers free to them to advertise. The national vigilance committee suggests a good amendment to the blue sky laws to the effect that newspapers in the states where they are in operation should be included in the category of agents of promoters whose advertising appears in their columns, and if this were done none could consequently advertise in these restricted states, wherever they may be transacting business, unless the terms of the blue sky laws are strictly adhered to. This is a very

Whittled to a Point Round About the State

Baltimore American: It is a pity that profiteers cannot be included in the list of enemy aliens, for they are enemies to their country and aliens to its defense and its interests.

Minneapolis Tribune: A revered symbol of mercy to nations with hearts, the insignia of the Red Cross, seem to be to German U-boat commanders what the red rag is to the goaded bull.

Wall Street Journal: "Attilla the Hun could always be found in the thick of his battles." But Wilhelm knows where the going is safe, and foresees that Attilla was neither a liar nor a hypocrite.

Minneapolis Journal: Interest on the German war debt has been paid out of additional loans. Now it is announced from Berlin that only 3 per cent will be paid, and the rest added against the principal. This is the financial "good night."

Louisville Courier-Journal: According to the report of the federal trade commission one of the most flourishing of the industries now is that of profiteering. And the investigations of the commission are fully borne out by the observations of the profiteer.

New York World: Red Cross subscriptions in the second war fund drive now amount to \$170,000,000. The significance of this large sum is to be found in the fact that it represents gifts from which the only difference is consciousness of an act of mercy.

The Bee's Letter Box

German "Propaganda" in Reality.

Omaha, July 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: The excellent article on "Samples of German Propaganda" from Current Opinion, which you re-produced in The Bee of June 28, reminds me of a very striking and unusual incident I happened to observe more than 15 years ago, and which I recently related to a prominent gentleman from San Francisco, who urged me to give it to the press as one of the most unique and forceful illustrations of what American citizenship means to the foreign-born that he had ever heard. Thinking that a brief recital of this incident might be acceptable for publication, I will repeat it.

I was on my way to California, and beyond Cheyenne I noticed opposite me in the Pullman car a middle-aged man and a small girl about 10 years old. The man was well dressed and of prosperous appearance. He spoke good English and in every respect looked the part of a well-to-do, prosperous business man of the good old U. S. A. The little girl spoke German, but she was eagerly and almost frantically endeavoring to learn English. From early morning until late at night she was practicing on the pronunciation of the simpler common words which we use in ordinary conversation, and she appeared to be wonderfully delighted when she could say "Good morning," "Good night," "Fine day," etc., to the passengers and conductor on board our train. But the most peculiar thing about the surroundings of this man and little girl was the fact that they had their section in the car decorated with American flags, and the man seemed to be particularly anxious that those flags should not be disturbed by the porter or anyone else, and he frequently showed the little girl how they should be placed and draped to the best advantage. He appeared to be very proud of the fact that the Stars and Stripes were over his head and that he was an American citizen.

The next day as our train began to climb into the foothills on the western edge of the great desert between Salt Lake City and the Sierra Madre mountains he came over and sat beside me, giving his name and his residence and inquiring of me as to the same particulars. "I suppose you have wondered," he said, "why have our section decorated with American flags. Well, I shall be mighty glad to tell you why. I feel more grateful than I can tell to that flag and the country it represents than to any other flag in all this world, and it does me good to tell it. I was born in Germany. At the age of 16 I came to this country as a stowaway passenger. I landed in New York with about 50 cents in my pocket, and no friends or relatives there to help me. By hard work I finally saved enough to take me to California, where I knew some people from Germany, who were engaged in raising grapes and making wine, near Fresno. I got steady work and good wages out there, for I knew a good deal for a boy about the grape-growing business. To make a long story short, I have done well on there during the last 25 years. I am not boasting, understand, but I am well off. I own large vineyards and wineries, and I have all the money I will ever need, and more. Last spring I concluded to make a visit back to my old home in Germany. I wanted to see my father and mother, who are now old, and my three sisters, who are married and have families of their own. When I got back there I could hardly believe my eyes. The old country did not look like it seemed to me in my boyhood. Everything looked so squalid and shabby, and the people looked to be half fed and overworked. It made me feel sick. My father lives in the country and at the worst fast table the first morning after I got there I asked him if he could not take me in the buggy and go over about four or five miles to see my sisters, who also lived on farms. My father refused, saying, 'No, I cannot spare the team from the field.' 'I reminded my father that I had not seen my sisters for 25 years and I felt he ought to be willing to take the team and go with me to see them. He still refused, until I got pretty hot and threw a \$10 gold piece on the table and told him I would give him that for one day's use of the team. I also told him that no American citizen would hesitate for a minute to take a team out of the field when his son, who had been gone for 25 years, had come 3,000 miles to visit his people and his old home. He finally

consented to take me to see my sisters, and he finally gave me the team and the driver. I went to see my father and mother, and my three sisters, and they were all well and happy. I stayed with them for a week, and then I went back to California. I have never been back to Germany since, and I never will. I am an American citizen, and I love my country and my flag. I feel more grateful to that flag and the country it represents than to any other flag in all this world, and it does me good to tell it. I was born in Germany. At the age of 16 I came to this country as a stowaway passenger. I landed in New York with about 50 cents in my pocket, and no friends or relatives there to help me. By hard work I finally saved enough to take me to California, where I knew some people from Germany, who were engaged in raising grapes and making wine, near Fresno. I got steady work and good wages out there, for I knew a good deal for a boy about the grape-growing business. To make a long story short, I have done well on there during the last 25 years. I am not boasting, understand, but I am well off. I own large vineyards and wineries, and I have all the money I will ever need, and more. Last spring I concluded to make a visit back to my old home in Germany. I wanted to see my father and mother, who are now old, and my three sisters, who are married and have families of their own. When I got back there I could hardly believe my eyes. The old country did not look like it seemed to me in my boyhood. Everything looked so squalid and shabby, and the people looked to be half fed and overworked. It made me feel sick. My father lives in the country and at the worst fast table the first morning after I got there I asked him if he could not take me in the buggy and go over about four or five miles to see my sisters, who also lived on farms. My father refused, saying, 'No, I cannot spare the team from the field.' 'I reminded my father that I had not seen my sisters for 25 years and I felt he ought to be willing to take the team and go with me to see them. He still refused, until I got pretty hot and threw a \$10 gold piece on the table and told him I would give him that for one day's use of the team. I also told him that no American citizen would hesitate for a minute to take a team out of the field when his son, who had been gone for 25 years, had come 3,000 miles to visit his people and his old home. He finally

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People and Events

No objection is likely to come from persons concerned should the government include hay fever in the list of nonessential industries. It is possible to invent an equally good excuse for an August vacation.

Reports and experiences combine to show a larger and smoother volume of profiteering among New York hotel men and restaurateurs than has been uncovered by the Federal Trade commission. The crush of visitors renders the task an easy one.

Truly the joys of democracy follow the flag. With the king of England sailing aboard the battleship, the ball and calling for a second helping of ragtime music, the American invasion is fairly complete. The spirit of the third George is too dead to scream.

Classing railroad literature as a non-essential industry may be as good as it looks through political spectacles, but the loss far exceeds the gain. No other industry equalled it in fostering the joys of anticipation in vacation time and luring the coin for a transit slip to the summer glories of pen and picture. The price was a mere incident to the pleasure of basking in the radiant smiles of the ticket man. Now mark the vacant shelves once graced with the artistry of head work and ink. True the ticket man survives, but his radiance is gone. Drop a sigh and let it go at that.

Twice Told Tales

Inefficiency in the Navy. First Bluejacket—Hullo, mate! I thought you was ashore with the captain, playing golf. Second Bluejacket—Well, so I was. It's like this 'ere: 'E gives me 'is sticks to carry, and then takes one and put a 'il' white ball on top of a bit of sand, and my word! he catches the ball a fair swipe. Must 'a gone 'miles. Then 'e turns to me and sez, 'Did yer see where that went to?' 'So I sez, 'You might 'ave 'ad a sight from the moment on board, sir.' 'An' 'e sez, 'Go back on hip, yer blinikin' fathead.'—London Punch.

Ready for the Warden. The game warden came upon a youthful angler and to make sure he was not disobeying the bass fishing law, he pulled the boy's string of fish out of the water, finding only catfish, perch and suckers. A few yards further down stream he came upon a large black bass arisling on a string weighted down with a stone. He confronted the boy with it. 'Well, you see, sir,' explained the youngster, 'the warden was looking for all the morning, so I just tied him up there until I got through fishing.'—Boston Transcript.

A Clean Case. 'There was a sensational case of kidnaping on our block yesterday.' 'You don't say so! What was it?' 'The baby in the third house who generally keeps a everybody awake with its wailing at all night.'—Patmore American.

took the team and buggy and we made the rounds of my sisters' homes, but oh, such sights! It brought tears to my eyes. I found two of my sisters—women in middle age—out in the fields, barefooted and with not enough clothes on to swab a