THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG

"Big Jeff" for congress.

Another political machine gone to the scrap heap.

Sheriff Mike Clark is some runner, whether after bootleggers or after votes.

Still, that dark horse gave certain members of the water board the scare of their lives.

A lot of the "boys" had a nice little exercise gallop, if they didn't win much else in the race.

August seems to have entered the sign of Aquarius, whether the rest of the summer did or not.

And the real beauty of it is that none of the losers will dare to say the ballot boxes were stuffed against him.

Now we may look for a brief respite from politics until after Ak-Sar-Ben, and then a strenuous windup of the campaign.

The Hun has discovered that, while he may start things on the western front, he can't halt them without the consent of the Allies.

"Just a little common courtesy" was the request the crew made of the captain, adding, "and the commonest kind of courtesy will do." This story might be emblazoned in some railroad offices alongside the recent note from Secretary McAdoo.

This is a bad time for the ice men to begin to rock the boat. Omaha is not the only community suffering from a shortage of ice, but the fact that we have company will not reconcile the villagers to any fooling with prices that already are high enough.

Now that the first poltical flurry is over, our city commission should establish a rule and give notice of its strict enforcement that anyone holding a salaried nonpartisan city hall job who files for nomination for a political office will have his resignation accepted forthwith.

Spain threatens to seize interned German ships to replace Spanish losses incident to U-boat activities, but it will not be surprising if the Spaniards find the wily Germans have practiced sabotage on their own ships, as they did on those tied up in American harbors. Just as the kaiser's pirates make war on all nations, so they trust none.

Redrawing the Industrial Map.

Senator Pittman of Nevada enlivened proceedings of a sultry "morning hour" in the greatest debating club of the world by introducing a plan proposed for redistributing industrial plants after the war, to stabilize life in America. The idea flows from C. C. McChord of the Interstate Commerce commission. It is to follow an adjustment of freight tariffs that will put each community, large or small, on a parity. Without artificial advantages now existing by reason of unequl transportation costs, the building up of industrial communities in the great open spaces where only farms exist will come naturally, and the congestion along the eastern seaboard will be broken up. Neither Senator Pittman nor Commissioner McChord has indicated how some other factors, such as natural deposits of raw materials, or needed supplies of any kind, will be adjusted, but the presentation of the matter did permit Senators Fletcher, Smoot, Sherman and Johnson to descant on what the railroad service is not doing at present, the latter being led to remark that if "government ownership can withstand the present management, its future is not in doubt." All of which forces us to the conclusion that the senators are enjoying their vacation period handsomely, and that the "silly season" has not been adjourned, although politics has.

A GOOD COUNTY TICKET.

Despite the light vote and lack of interest in the primary, the republicans have managed to pull out a good county ticket which may be presented to the voters for the November election with confidence in its strength.

For the main offices present republican incumbents are given deserved endorsement by way of renomination. For sheriff, Mike Clark heads the ticket with a complete vindication, and Harry Pearce for register of deeds, Frank Dewey for clerk and Lou Adams for surveyor, bring with them the power and prestige of satisfactory public service. Shotwell for county attorney and Shriver for treasurer will also prove to be pulling horses, and the legislative and county commissioners, although the exact lineup may wait on the official canvass, form a phalanx which republicans can back up without apologies to offer.

The campaign against the democrats, to be sure, is not begun, but in the personality of the leaders the weight of superiority is plainly on the republican side.

"Big Jeff's" Smashing Victory.

In the first scrimmage of the campaign, score for "Big Jeff," who has won out over his opponent in the republican primary by a 2 to 1 majority.

This smashing victory presages well for the next offensive, which will have as its objective going over the top in November as against the present democratic incumbent.

"Jefferis for Congress" is a good standard to rally under and should appeal strongly to everyone enlisted in the "win-the-war" movement.

It should appeal also to everyone who wants this congressional district to have in Washington an active and energetic representative constantly on the firing line for America first and unceasingly alert to the interests of Omaha and Nebraska.

While it will not do to underestimate the strength of present democratic congressmen up for re-election, the primary gives such a good start that "Big Jeff" need only keep his speed to make the winning race.

Substantial Help for Italy.

Our government has taken a long delayed but very necessary step to give Italy aid in the matter of financing its share of the war. While the Italian government has been favored along with our other allies in the matter of extension of loans, the fluctuations in foreign exchange have been so strongly against the lire that even with the help of American money Italy has been at great disadvantage in making purchases. It is said that Italy has been compelled to pay 20 cents for 9 cents' worth of material because of the rate of exchange against that country. To correct this the United States government has arranged for an oversight of transactions, to the extent that whatever may be done to stabilize the rate and give Italy an even break will be done. The government at Rome is not strong enough to protect its own financial standing, and certainly deserves the assistance given. This is the more apparent because the adverse quotations are largely through Switzerland and Spain, where German influences have worked to discredit the Italian issues. Our own government was tardy enough in coming to the aid of this important associate, but now that it has taken cognizance of the situation, we have a right to expect that early correction of the discriminatory exchange will take place and that Italy will no longer be left a victim to the extortions of foreign money changers.

Economic Pressure a War Measure.

Germans already realize something of the harvest that is ahead of them in the increasing agitation for an economic "war after the war." They quite deliberately prepared for this by destroying in Belgium, France, Poland and other countries they penetrated every vestige of industrial undertaking, that Germany should have no nearby competitors after the war. German peace terms include an allotment of raw material to be supplied by the rest of the world in such quantities as the Germans deem requisite. Other plans for carrying on the business of the world under direction of Berlin were elaborated. These are now beginning to bear fruit. Lloyd George outlines British sentiment when he says:

> An agreement among the Allies means that the economic fate of the world will be in the hands of the great allied powers federated together at present. The longer the war lasts, the sterner must be the economic terms we impose on the foe. I think the sooner he realizes that the better. He is fighting to impose his own economic terms on the Allies. He will never succeed in doing so.

Mr. Wilson's own expressions on the point are not so pointed, but are susceptible of somewhat similar interpretation. While no definite agreement for such a boycott is likely, it is plain that under the most favorable conditions the Germans will have great trouble in restoring their trade relations with the world. An outraged civilization will find means to repay such offenders in ways they will not misunderstand.

"Bingo" Bing is back in line, and promising to redeem the mistake he made at Cambrai so long ago. He is making his name respected in Berlin.

War Risk Bureau Delays

Overlapping Control, Neglect of Men, and Other Causes

Louis Seibold in New York World.

An investigation recently completed of the war risk insurance bureau has served to disclose some of the defects of the system of insuring the lives of the soldiers and sailors fighting for the country and providing for their dependents during the war.

The report of the committee making the investigation explains to a very large extent the causes for complaints made by the dependents of the nation's warriors that the government has been derelict in the performance of its obligations to them.

No concealment is attempted by either the war risk board or the finance and accounting division of the quartermaster's corps that there have been hundreds, perhaps thousands, of complaints received from relatives of men bearing the arms and following the flag of their country in France, Italy and Russia.

As a matter of fact, the two bureaus which divide the work of allocating to the dependents of soldiers and sailors allotments of their pay invite persons who believe themselves entitled to a part of the pay of a relative in the military service to establish their claims, and point out the responsibility for the miscarriage of such gratuities or failure of the government to perform its duty in this respect.

Although the report of the investigating committee does not say so, an impartial inquiry by a disinterested observer justifies the statement that much of the criticism of the tremendous enterprise undertaken by the government is due to the divided authority of two co-ordinate, though separate, departments of the government—the War and Treasury branches.

A great deal of the confusion resulting in hardships to many dependents of soldiers and sailors is unquestionably due to this cause. It is the opinion of army and navy officers generally that the work of the war risk bureau should be divided—that relating to the allotment of pay be given to the two fighting arms of the service and the insurance of the men themselves to the Treasury department.

The phenomenal growth of the war risk bureau was obviously too rapid to permit of satisfactory adjustment. From a subordinate bureau, manned by five employes to insure hulls and cargoes from destruction by enemy submarines less than four years ago, and administered at a cost of $44,000 a year, the expanded department now employs more than 9,000 clerks, supervises the applications of 3,023,007 persons engaged in military service and up to date has mailed 4,724,998 checks covering allotments of monthly pay to the descendants of soldiers and sailors.

Checks of this character are going out at the rate of 1,000,000 a month. The total amount of insurance taken out by 3,000,000 of the nation's fighters and written by the government is very close to $26,000,000,000. The average amount of insurance taken out is in excess of $9,000, the maximum being $10,000.

The amount of insurance carried by the government exceeds by $3,000,000,000 that written by all the legal reserve insurance companies of the United States combined. There has been comparatively little difficulty beyond mistakes due to inexperience and lack of system natural in the organization of so great a venture in the insurance feature of the war risk work. The government collects the premiums "at the source;" that is, it takes it out of the pay envelope of the insured soldier and sailor, the monthly premium ranging from 63 cents for a youth of 15 to $3.35 for a man of 65 per $1,000. The keeping of these accounts is attended by only such complications as are to be expected from bookkeeping problems.

The work of allotting to dependent relatives part of the pay of soldiers, in accordance with their wishes, is not so easy, due to many causes that cannot be anticipated or guarded against.

Every enlisted man, whether he has dependents or not, is required to file with the war risk insurance bureau a blank upon which are scheduled facts relating to Class "A" relatives (wife, child or former wife divorced, in respect to whom the allotment of pay is compulsory), and certain information as to Class "B" dependents (mother, father, brother or sister, in respect to whom the allotment is entirely voluntary), which information must include the amount which the enlisted man had habitually contributed to their support prior to his entrance into the service.

Of the 3,023,007 statements on file there are 1,791,028 in which the enlisted men have declared that they have no dependents and, therefore, have allotted no part of their pay. The experience of the bureau has been that in many such cases dependents do exist, and the failure to report them is due either to a misunderstanding on the part of the soldier or his willful intention to misrepresent conditions, so that he may be spared the necessity of allotting part of his pay.

In some cases it has developed that, although he has reported no dependents, the enlisted man has misled the wife or mother by writing to her that he has allotted part of his pay, and that she should receive each month a check from the government. After waiting some time and failing to receive a check, the wife or mother either writes to the bureau or complains to her senator or congressman.

As soon as the bureau is notified of this situation a special application blank is forwarded to the wife, upon which she can lay the basis of her claim, supported by the testimony of witnesses. It is then definitely ascertained whether the man is in the service, and if such is the case an award is made and the commanding officer of the soldier is notified of the facts. The commanding officer then withholds a part of the man's pay each month to reimburse the bureau for the allotment which it forwards each month.

Under the present law nothing can be done in the case of dependent mothers for whom the soldiers have not made allotments, for they come under Class "B," and it is entirely voluntary upon the part of the soldier to make allotment for the benefit of dependents within that classification. In these cases a notice is sent to the commanding officer with the suggestion that he bring the situation to the attention of the enlisted man, and urge him to make suitable allotment so that the bureau may pay the allowance justified by the facts.

In view of the large number of applications alleging no dependents the investigating committee decided to have a more definite warning given to enlisted men, and in the future a warning notice will be printed in large type on each application.

The notice will call attention to the fact that failure to report the existence of a wife or child, or the making of any false statement in such report, will render the offender liable to two years' imprisonment, a fine of $5,000, or both. It will also urge the enlisted men having dependents in Class "B" (mother, minor sister, minor brother, etc.) to allot some portion of his pay for their benefit and to correctly state the amount of the habitual monthly contribution previously made for their support.

Since November 1, 1917, the day the war risk insurance act became effective, up to June 15, 1918, there have been probably 30,000 applications filed by enlisted men claiming exemption from making allotments to their wives upon the ground of desertion, unworthiness or other causes. In many of these cases ignorance is expresesd of the wife's whereabouts. When such application is received steps are taken to ascertain the wife's address, and she is then called upon to reply to her husband's charges.

One of the most common causes of delay, for which the bureau is not responsible, is the giving of an incorrect address of the beneficiary, either through carelessness of confusion on the part of the soldier. In other cases the allottee has moved without giving the proper forwarding address. Over 6,000 checks are returned each month by the postal authorities to the bureau because the allottees cannot be found at the addresses given.

The carrying out of rules issued by the pension bureau in connection with the delivery of pension checks by the Postoffice department has resulted in troublesome delays for allottees under the war risk insurance act. Pension checks cannot be delivered unless the beneficiary establishes, by the possession of an identification number to the satisfaction of the carrier or the postmaster, that he is entiled to receive the check. No such regulation has been established by the bureau of war risk insurance, and the enforcement of the rule by the postal authorities has resulted in numerous complaints. Troublesome cases are gradually being cleared up and the Postoffice department is co-operating with the bureau to that end.

Sabotage in High Places

Not less impressive than the indictments returned the other day by the federal grand jury in the army raincoat scandal cases is the statutory ground upon which the indictments are drawn. This is a section of the so-called sabotage act which provides that—

"When the United States is at war, whoever * * * shall wilfully make or cause to be made in a defective manner, or attempt to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, any war material as herein defined—"

shall, on conviction, be fined not over $10,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

Army raincoats are evidently such "war material," and the further charge is that the contract manufacturers have caused the coats to be made in a defective manner to overreach the government for the sake of profits.

Sabotage is an ugly word. It has heretofore been exclusively applied to the malicious acts of employes in injury of their employer, or, since the war began, in injury of the country's power to prosecute the war regardless of the consequences to the employer. It now reaches out to embrace the grafting war contractor.

And why not? So far as affects the war prosecuting powers of the country there is no difference in kind between the alien or traitor who at wages uses his place to cripple a gun-making machine and the army contractor who palms off for his own profit upon soldiers defective coats or shoes in the guise of good-quality wear which he had agreed to deliver. Sabotage! It is a word which will strike upon the dishonest war-contracting ear with a new sound of warning and a new power, perhaps, for deterring.—New York World.

People and Events

The voters of Wichita, Kan., nominated a dead man for office. There are others, but this one is tagged.

Stealing flags is the latest patriotic caper in New York. General Dix's order must be revised: "If any man steals the flag, shoot him on the spot."

Cheer up! The country is safe. Waiters in dining cars are in a class by themselves, performing a service essential to winning the war. All other waiters are nonessentials and must" work or fight."

Something of a feeler for a price boost may be visioned in the report of an early frost nipping the coffee plantations of San Panto, Brazil. The advance notice might command a glad hand in the morning coffee belt if appreciable symptoms of the frost hopped along with the beans.

For some unaccountable reason state fair managers out west overlook a mighty fine drawing card. The annual pictorial cards of officeseekers constitute a remarkable artistic exhibit. Collected and staged with becoming drapings and shaded lights, the show would beat a midway 40 ways. Perhaps the managers do not need the money or dread a bargain crush.

The Bee's Letter Box

Exploiting Patriotism.

Omaha, Aug. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: It makes no difference how good may be any undertaking, there are always found those who are ready to take over the project from its promoters and conduct it for personal gain. Usually the honest promoter is overwhelmed by the arguments of the other, feels his own insignificance in the presence of so much bombast and unconsciously steps from the front rank to let some brummagem leader take his place.

And so we find a similar situation as a result of our war activities. In Omaha there is no exception and we find a few loud-mouthed persons setting the standard of our patriotism and the public seems so overawed by their accusations and insinuations that they are allowed to occupy the limelight as the quintessence of patriotism, much to the discomfort of those persons who considered themselves patriotic citizens until, in the presence of the personally conducted kind of patriots, they discover their shortcomings.

We generally discover, if we watch closely, that those self-confessed "patriots" are exploiting their so-called patriotism, sometimes for political advantage or for business profits, and sometimes to detract the public attention from some other manner of placing patriotism on a cash basis.

Making mountains out of molehills for advertising purposes is their usual stock-in-trade, and they work at it night and day.

If there is a more despicable person than the profiteer in necessities it is he who exploits his so-called patriotism. NORTH SIDE.

Women in Penitentiary.

Seneca, Neb., Aug. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: Where are the women in the Nebraska penitentiary kept, and how are they employed? Are they permitted to be out of doors? Where is the hospital for them? What hour do they arise? Do they have church services? Under whose control is this place run? QUESTIONER.

Answer—Women prisoners in the Nebraska penitentiary are kept in the section set apart for them inside the prison walls. They are employed at sewing on garments, mending, washing, knitting and doing other work that is appropriate for female labor. All prisoners are entitled to and required to take a certain amount of outdoor exercise every day; some are employed in the open air continually, and all but the most refractory are given an ample opportunity to get plenty of fresh air and sunlight. The hospital for sick prisoners is inside the prison walls. Usually about 6 o'clock in the morning; the hour for arising may vary at the will of the warden or matron, although it is uniform for all prisoners. Services are held in the prison chapel regularly on Sunday, and frequently during the week; a regular chaplain and bands of church workers look after the regeneration of the prisoners. The prison is under control of the state, the governor appointing the warden, who is in direct charge and responsible for its management.

Religion and the War.

Omaha, Aug. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: Just a few lines to express my appreciation of your able editorial appearing in last Sunday's paper regarding the church missing its chance. As was stated by you, it seems that this is a great day for the church to redeem its past record of petty quarrels and miserable dissensions upon dogmatic creeds and "thou shalt's" and "thou shalt not's," which have caused the church of Jesus Christ to present a divided front to the world and give it the appearance of a house divided against itself.

The boys on the battlefield do not care for the finesse of theological hair-splitting, but they want to know the answer to the fundamental propositions of life. The men who are about to make the supreme sacrifice want to know the simple story of salvation, and they want to know the road that leads to heaven in straightforward terms. They do not care whether you wear your collar backward or forward, or whether you use cigarets or smoke cigars, if you have the answer that satisfies the human soul. Never in the history of the world have the small, mean, insignificant unessentials of the church been brought to light and exposed as they have in this war. We must remember that the only men that Christ condemned were those that put the emphasis on the ritual and the outward show in matters of religion. Those men that have come into large contact with all kinds of men in the army and have met and solved all the great problems that are of real consequence in human life are truly making one of the greatest contributions to the Christian church that has ever been made. It is to be hoped that they will be able to bring the church back from a dogmatic, ritualistic materialism to the simple apostolic Christianity of the early days.

For the Advocate, a Methodist paper, to decry that large sympathy that is now existent among the ministry working with our troops and quibble over the use of tobacco and dogmatize over the things that have no meaning in the larger things in life is to hark back to the days of the Pharisees and hypocrites. It is again to attempt to place the black gate of religious intolerance across the path to heaven and to hurl bleeding humanity back down the hill of yesterday to barbarism. Again, Mr. Editor, let me express complete satisfaction over the splendid vision of your article. WILLIAM H. THOMPSON.

SAID IN FUN.

Mrs. Knicker—Do you approve of your husband's poker games?

Mrs. Bocker—Yes, he gives me Thrift stamps when he loses and War stamps when he wins.—New York Sun.

Vicar (severely)—Ah, it's the old story, unskilled man dodging work he might get.

Tramp—Unskilled, am I? You 'ave a go at dodgin' work these days an' see if it don't take a bit o' skill.—Boston Transcript.

"I hear, James, your master is a perfect ladykiller, especially since he got his new auto."

"'Taint' so, sir. He has run over some, but none of 'em's dead yet."—San Francisco Chronicle.

She—You don't write me now such nice long love letters every day you don't see me. Is it indifference?

He—No, my darling, it is patriotism. The government wants us to save paper.—Baltimore American.

"Oh, would some power the giftie gie us to see ourselves as others see us."

"That would be foolish. Most of us think pretty well of ourselves as things are."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The hyphen is a viper,
It seemed so straight and stark
That Uncle Sammy used it
For a punctuation mark.
But it soon began to wriggle,
And it bit our Uncle sore,
So he set his heel upon its head,
And we hyphenate no more!
—Chicago News.

MEMORY OF A STORM.

What are the wild winds saying,
As they sweep along the earth?
They mourn and sigh in dreadful sound
And all is dark and drear.

What are those dark clouds saying,
As they tour the mountain high,
With lightning flash and thunder roll,
As they go sweeping by?

And the wild waves come with their answer
As they splash the white sand shore.
The white caps rise and murmur
To recede and come no more.

Then all is calm and still—
The sun is shining warm and bright—
The birds will sing their merry song,
And all obey the Master's will.

"Peace be still, Peace be still"—
The winds and the waves obey His will—
They all do sweetly obey His will,
"Peace be still, Peace be still."
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We sell Kranich & Bach, Vose & Sons, Bush-Lane, Kimball, Cable-Nelson and the Hospe Players.

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The discomfort of hearing unfavorable comments upon one's complexion, and of realizing that one's skin is unsightly, can be prevented by Resinol Ointment, which not only heals a sick skin, but protects a healthy one. Aided by Resinol Soap, it heals eczema, helps to remove other eruptions, excessive dryness or oiliness of the skin, and enables one to have a complexion that excites compliment instead of unfavorable comment.

At all dealers.

TODAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Japanese war commission, headed by Viscount Ishii, received in Washington.

German air raid on London resulted in 11 persons killed and 13 injured.

British repulsed fierce counter attacks by the German crown prince on the Ypres front.

The Day We Celebrate.

Burton W. Christie, physician and surgeon, born 1877.

George D. Meiklejohn, attorney-at-law, born 1857.

H. C. Rossacker, chief clerk to the car service agent of the Union Pacific, born 1875.

Maj.-Gen. Francis H. Lincoln, U. S. A., born in Iowa, 40 years ago.

Brig.-Gen. Robert L. Howze, U. S. A., born in Rusk county, Texas, 54 years ago.

Brig.-Gen. Edward T. Donnelly, U. S. A., born in England, 47 years ago.

Maud Powell, violinist, born at Peru, Ill., 50 years ago.

This Day in History.

1846—Marriage of Lt. U. E. Grant and Miss Julia Dent of St. Louis.

1861—The Confederate Provisional congress at Richmond closed its third session.

1862—Catlett's Station, Va., was captured by confederate cavalry under General Stuart.

1914—Germany made a levy of $40,000,000 on Brussels.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

James Donnelly, Bernard Saches and E. C. Wiggs were elected delegates to the convention of democratic clubs at Lincoln.

The heaviest train ever pulled into Omaha over the Union Pacific, came

in with 35 cars drawn by one locomotive.

The following slate was made for Second ward delegates to the county convention: Thomas Casey, Lew Herman, Walter Brandeis, Patrick Bagley, Andrew Frick, Thomas Lowry and John Zeller. Walter Brandeis and George Kefman will solicit funds for a flag pole.

An "Old Hickory" club was organized by the democrats with the following officers: S. B. Lenno, president; James Fleming, vice-president; Thomas Hoctor, treasurer, and R. J. Carter, secretary.

Over There and Here

Great Lakes Naval training station initiated 22,122 new men during July.

Great Lakes sailor boys this week are staging living flags of all the allies, which photographers will presently send on the rounds. Old Glory heads the list.

Verboten signs are more numerous all over Germany than "Keep off the grass" signs in American parks. Raids of allied bombers on the Rhine cities are doing great slaughter among the Verbotens as well as other Hun institutions.

One of the most interesting of the card indexes of the government at Washington is that which holds the names of 20,000 individuals who subscribed for about $100,000,0000 to the six German war loans quietly put over in this country prior to April 6, 1917.

The new army kitchen on trucks, named in honor of former President Taft and invented in Connecticut, is capable of cooking 3,000 meals in three hours. As the new kitchens carry their own power and fuel, confidence is felt that piping hot meals will keep in touch with the boys chasing the Huns.

A thousand men in training for army service at the state deaf institute, Indianapolis, were crowded for drill ground. Adjoining was a field of wheat in shock, which had not been moved to threshers owing to labor scarcity. "Save the wheat and take the field," said the owner. In 24 hours the wheat and the threshers were hooked up by the men and field won.

Right to the Point

Washington Post: If Secretary McAdoo's sugestnons as to a tax on gasoline go through, every owner of a flivver will regard the revenue measure as a burning issue.

Brooklyn Eagle: Dutch ships will bring us sugar and quinine. If the cud of sweet and bitter fancy is growing tasteless, Uncle Sam still sees the dawn of hope in the orient.

New York World: A short stop in the allies' advance in Picardy gives the average reader of war news time to catch up with his lessons in pronunciation of French proper names.

Baltimore American: The allies lately captured a box containing 450 iron crosses. If they send them over to this side they can be distributed among the U-boat crews who gas broods of chickens.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The submarine commander who sank the Lusitania has gone to his reward, and those who didn't believe in future punishment are hurrying back into the orthodox camp.

Minneapolis Tribune: Secretary Baker could just as well—indeed, much better—have told congress some months ago that "immediate extension of the draft ages is imperative." Plenty of congresmen had the right "hunch" then, but the secretary asked for time to think it over. The secretary does not believe in unseemly haste in preparing for war.

Twice Tlod Tales

The General's Retort.

Sir Henry Wilson, unlike many soldiers, has a ready tongue, and is more than a match for the average politician. His encounter with an eminent, if not too tactful, statesman at an early stage of the war is historic. The latter thought fit when dining with our commander-in-chief in France to observe to the company:

"Is it not curious that so great a war should have produced no great soldier?"

General Wilson replied:

"Is it not, sir, even more curious that so great a crisis in Europe should have produced no European statesman?"—London Chronicle.

Proving His Words.

"Patience and perseverance will accomplish all things," was the favorite saying of an old farmer. He had just made this remark in a train one day on the way to market, when a pompous individual in the next seat turned to him and said:

"Nonsense, sir! I can tell you many things which neither patience nor perseverance can accomplish."

"Perhaps you can," said the farmer, "but I have never yet come across one thing."

"Well, then, I'll tell you one. Will patience and perseverance ever enable you to carry water in a sieve?"

"Certainly."

"I would like to know how."

"Simply by waiting patiently for the water to freeze."—Detroit Free Press.