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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG

The Visiting Nurses deserve it. Director McAdoo is an every-day Santa Claus for the railroad men, all right.

The crown prince of Bavaria can say "I told you so" to Ludendorff, if that will help him any. Today is Omaha Day at the State fair.

British military experts expect Pershing's army to do the mopping up, and the goods will be delivered. Still, the police department of Omaha is not to be made more effective and better disciplined merely by proclamations addressed to the public.

Ludendorff was right once, when he said the war had changed from one of position to one of movement. And his troops are doing the moving toward the rear. The one difficulty about the recognition of the Czech-Slovak republic is that it will eventually restore Przemysl and other geographical jaw-breakers to daily use.

Americans have never yielded an inch of ground, once taken, according to a London paper. Nobody on this side thought they would. Our army has no back-sight gearing.

"Pancho" Villa thrusts himself into notice from time to time, just to remind the world of the inefficiency of the Carranza government. Some time we will have to finish the work laid aside in 1916.

If the Kaiser thought he could finish the job on the western front before the Americans could get into the fighting, he fooled himself badly.

FAIR PLAY FOR COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

Another election has passed and the city of Omaha has again chosen every Douglas county representative in the state legislature from within its own city gates.

The Bee sympathizes with the voters of the country districts in Douglas county who rightly protest against being constant victims of a situation which practically deprives them of representation in the legislature and gives them an officer not of their choosing to look after their schools.

As the remedy for the first difficulty The Bee has urged, and still urges, that members of the legislature be chosen by districts so as to make them truly representatives of a constituency.

As to the county superintendent, whose jurisdiction is confined to the county schools, it is palpably unfair to leave his selection or employment to the people of the city with whose schools he has nothing to do.

Correcting a Diplomatic Blunder. The United States is to mediate between Nicaragua and Honduras, in the interest of peace between those touchy neighbors, and is thereby offered an opportunity to correct a diplomatic blunder.

Planning for defense of the Panama canal as well as to protect the future of American concerns, it was found necessary to secure naval bases on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts north of the canal termini.

One Wonderful Achievement. Sixteen hundred thousand American soldiers are now serving with the colors on foreign soil. Just what is actually involved in this simple announcement by the chief of staff of our army is difficult to explain.

Just 30 Years Ago Today. Chief Seavey has in his possession a half dozen walking sticks which had been dropped between the seats at the "Siege of Sebastopol."

Here and There. Kangaroo farming is an important industry in Australia. American Indians are said to be able to see one-tenth farther than the average white man.

The Lichnowsky Memorandum

By Professor Munroe Smith of Columbia University

Critical interpretation and discussion of this most important war document by one of the world's foremost authorities on historical jurisprudence and the study of comparative international law.

III. Lichnowsky gives us depends, of course, not alone on the witness' knowledge of men and of events, but also on his personal characteristics. It would be an exaggeration to describe the prince as a subtle man, or even as a very acute man.

When Lichnowsky reviews the fateful events of July, 1914, he rejects with the same candor the construction which his government has given to these events and which the German people have, for the most part, blindly accepted.

Against the theory formally advanced by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in his speech of December 2, 1914, before the Reichstag, that Great Britain was responsible for the war because it assured France, and supported Russia, also, of unconditional support against Germany, a theory fully disproved by the documents—Lichnowsky insists upon Grey's earnest desire and persistent efforts to prevent the outbreak of a European war.

To justify Germany's refusal to take part in such a conference, von Jagow now argues that "Italy was Serbophil and, with its Balkan interests, stood rather opposed to Austria." He has Herr von Jagow forgotten that, when he first heard of the proposed conference, he told the French ambassador, Jules Cambon, that he was "disposed to join in," and that it was only when he was instructed, from above, that the conference would be "a court of arbitration" that he changed his attitude.

On the more important question of Great Britain's alleged responsibility for the war von Jagow supports Lichnowsky's view. Britain did not contrive the war; "on the contrary," von Jagow writes, "I believe in Sir Edward Grey's love of peace and in his earnest wish to arrive at an agreement with us."

Perhaps the most valuable feature of Lichnowsky's memorandum for the future historian, certainly its most interesting feature for us today, is his characterization of Sir Edward Grey. After two years' close association Lichnowsky was assured in a position to form a just estimate of the man as well as of the statesman. Not only is he convinced of Grey's love of peace; he is also profoundly impressed by Grey's complete honesty and unmistakable sincerity.

Whatever questions may have been raised in the past of Samuel Gompers' stand upon domestic questions, there can be few men in the United States who will not echo what Lloyd George, the British premier, said of him yesterday in an distinguished assembly as London could muster.

"No one," said Mr. Lloyd George, "has done more than Mr. Gompers to convince the civilized world that Germany must be beaten; and specifically that 'victory in this war means more for those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow than for any other class.'" He who spoke has the right of one raised by energy and merit from humble circumstances to high place to speak for labor.

Whittled to a Point. Minneapolis Tribune: Congratulations to the modern south that has put the silence on Jim Vardaman and Cole Blaise!

Swilling Told Tales. Food Regulator Merritt was discussing the high cost of living and other things of a rather serious nature.

The Bee's Letter Box

State-Wide Primary and Short Ballot. Lincoln, Sept. 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: Under date of August 22 a Nebraska law of wide experience in politics, and who has been honored by election to several high offices, one of which he holds today, writes:

"It is doubtless apparent to you by this time that our system of nominating candidates by filing and holding a primary election has failed in its purpose. You are the man to make a close estimate of the cost to each candidate and put it in form so that it can be used in the future."

Inasmuch as our law relative to corrupt practices excludes postage, printing, circular letters, traveling and other personal expenses of the candidate, but does include newspaper advertising, the records of the secretary of state and the several county clerks will reveal possibly considerably less than half of what the recent primary cost those who aspired to a nomination.

Revolt against the abuses of the old nominating convention system led to the adoption of the state-wide primary, but no man could foresee that it would emasculate the press, robbing it of its high estate as a reflector of public opinion and making it a mere intellectual taxicab for the transportation of what each candidate has brass enough to say about himself. There is no doubt that the primary brings considerable revenue to the newspapers—and they are very entitled to receive it; but the advertising bills should be borne by all the people directly.

I would not favor abolition of the present primary, and am sure I should favor the so-called "short ballot," even if our constitution permitted it; but I believe a modification of our present law can be made in such a way as to place the burden of expense where it belongs, gain at least a part of the short ballot benefits and return to the state nominating convention purged of its most obvious evils.

There are certain patriots back home who admit that they are willing to support the army program up to a certain point, but who insist that they have a right to rise up at any moment with any criticism they may care to make.

People and Events. Senator John Sharp Williams paid the requiem of his associate, Senator Vardaman, in one sentence: "De mortuis nil nisi bonum and I do not know any good."

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The Family Line. In a way, Mayme followed her father's speculative propensity when she engaged herself to an aviator.

doctor's certificate. To be paid by county; filing fee \$5. Representation based on one delegate for each 500 votes or major fraction thereof cast for the party nominee for governor at the next preceding election.

Immediately after county canvass of primary votes county clerks to report to secretary of state the name, postoffice address, politics and group adherence of each delegate elected.

Such, in the rough, is what I believe would prove a forward step in our political progress. The filing fees are sufficient to insure bona fide candidates, but the burden of expense is placed largely where it properly belongs—upon the taxpayers as a whole.

A WAR ANGELUS. Oh, Thou, who in the hollow of Thy hand Hold earth and sky and sea, Be with our boys—our khaki band—Whatever, their fortune be.

LAUGHING GAS. "That worthy man has halted many people who were going wrong." "Welfare worker?" "Traffic cop."—Judge.

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TODAY One Year Ago Today in the War. First soldiers of national army went into uniform. German army pushed 33 miles beyond the city of Riga. Japanese war mission received in house of representatives in Washington. Two Russian grand dukes arrested for complicity in plot for counter-revolution.

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