

## THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG

Yes, thank you, no one on earth, not even the ex-killer, is without reason to be thankful.

French aviators are looking for new jobs, while their American brethren expect to become mail carriers.

Preparations for the fifth war loan are in progress, but nothing is said about billions in connection with it.

Nebraska will be host to 1,000 Italian mules during the winter, a tribute to the climate as well as to provender.

If Uncle Sam does take over the Hog Island shipbuilding project, the first thing he should do is to change the name.

It's croo-ell of the president to keep those deserving democrats willing to succeed McAdoo in the waiting list so long.

Another reduction of a billion dollars in army contracts is announced. Slowly we are getting back to normal ways.

"Tom" Marshall's modesty is none the less genuine, because he knew he would not get the chance he declines in advance.

Our mayor and some of the commissioners know something about real life that the superintendent of police is likely to find out.

If the president is only going to be gone six weeks, as announced, are we to conclude that the big show will be over in that time?

While at Brest the president might lift the lid on that fake peace cablegram which hoaxed the country into a premature celebration.

If the mayor starts out to rebuke every citizen who criticizes the federal administration of the railroads he will have a busy time.

"Barney" Baruch is said to have been offered the job McAdoo is to give up. The country could fare a lot worse than to get him.

The sultan of Turkey says he is ashamed of his country's record in the war. Well he may be, but that will not relieve him of responsibility.

Fifty tons of good eatables gathered by the school children as a contribution to Thanksgiving suggests that little real want is abroad in Omaha this season.

Crown Prince Frederick William admits he nurses a hope of getting back to Berlin, but he also had an ambition to go to Paris that was not wholly gratified.

Cardinal Mercier will assist at the American Thanksgiving services in Paris today, a fact of which the nation will take due note. In all the war no figure looms bigger than that of this sturdy and patriotic primate.

War against tubercular cattle is carried on with vigor by the state live stock board, but its efforts are nullified to a considerable extent because of lax laws in other states. Here is a place where interstate agreement would be of great benefit to all.

Listen to the democratic organs clamoring for "merit" appointments by the new republican governor regardless of politics—which means, of course, jobs for democrats. How many republicans received "merit" appointments from our present and past democratic governors?

America's Greatest Battle

After the lifting of the censorship the Associated Press has given us a brief description of America's greatest battle, beginning at Argonne on September 26, extending to the Meuse and ending at Sedan just as the armistice went into effect, November 11. The Germans had admitted their defeat nine days before the end came, when the Americans, by steady advance through thick woods, broken ground, trackless, miry terrain, exposed to merciless fire from hidden batteries, had broken through the most gigantic and scientific defenses that all the skill of the Germans had been able to perfect in four years. The achievement is without parallel in war, but its importance did not arise from the seeming impregnability of the positions from which the Germans were hurried. They were key positions and the Germans brought to the defense all the reserves they had, giving the French and British at other points an opportunity to make uninterrupted and rapid advance. The Germans could not afford to lose the main railway artery and the keystone of their defense.

All other American battles sink into comparative insignificance in the matter of numbers engaged. Grant and Meade had 150,000 men at the battle of the Wilderness, the high mark of strength of a single army in the civil war. But Pershing had 750,000 men under his command in the long battle ending at Sedan. This was eight times as many men as Meade had at Gettysburg. Between September 26 and October 31 it is known that at least 36 enemy divisions were opposed to our 21. Fourteen fresh German divisions were thrown in for five days' fighting in November, but in vain. There was the natural ebbing of lines in battle contact, but the Americans pressed inevitably forward, never permanently losing an inch. Many green troops were used, never before in actual warfare, but they demoralized themselves as veterans. All they did was against military odds and was theoretically impossible. But there was no such word in Pershing's dictionary. Again have Americans demonstrated that they are of the finest fighting stock in the world.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## THANKSGIVING.

Thanksgiving day will be observed today as never before in the history of the festival. Americans, especially, will feel such deep and abiding gratitude as seldom flows from the human heart. Three times the occasion found them thankful for blessings enjoyed and mercies shown, particularly that they had been spared the awful visitation of the war, but sorrowfully apprehensive because its dreadful shadow steadily crept closer. Last year the heart of the nation was sore because of its trial, but staunch because of its faith in the justice of the cause it had espoused in the war. Humble and contrite, but full of confidence, its prayers went up to Heaven, and its feasting was tinged with the awe that came with high responsibility and sacrifice.

These have passed. Americans again look forward to the pursuits of peace and the comforts and pleasures of life that attend industry and sensible thrift. Prayers that go up today will carry an incense of profound thankfulness for dangers endured and for preservation assured, and of sorrow and sympathy for those on whom the burdens have pressed with undue weight. Mindful ever of our own privileges and opportunities, we should not forget those who have less, and to our prayers for their well being and advancement should add the efforts that bring hope to fruition.

With joy soberly tempered by a realization of the plight of others as worthy, let us today return to God in some way a token of our deep sensibility of obligation, as individuals as well as nationally, to Him for His goodness. And let us also not forget in our own rejoicing any whose hearts are sorrowful, or whose needs cry out for succor. Thus may we truly show our thankfulness and continue to deserve the favor we have so long enjoyed.

## When the President Goes Abroad.

Who will be president of the United States when Mr. Wilson goes to Europe? Thomas Riley Marshall, vice president of the United States, says he has not contemplated assuming any of the duties, powers or prerogatives of the chief executive during the absence of his chief. The constitution of the United States says: "In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice president." If this provision is to be closely construed and the president be absent from the country for a period of six weeks, or longer, it seems reasonable that the duties of the office shall devolve on Mr. Marshall. To get around this it is proposed that absence does not necessarily entail inability to discharge the responsibilities of the office, the argument being that Mr. Wilson will remain always in close touch with Washington, and wherever he may go will constructively be on American soil whenever at an embassy or on a government vessel. Whatever may be the final decision on the point, it is not likely to materially affect the plans of the president for attending the peace conference, but it will have to settle down as to just what the constitution means by "inability." The country undoubtedly will survive a six weeks' period under the tutelage of Vice President Marshall, while the precedent may be of great service some time.

## Extraditing an Emperor.

The world will watch with deep interest the progress of the law in its efforts to overhaul William Hohenzollern, emperor of Germany. Demand for his extradition has been made by the governments of England and France on the Dutch government, the latter being inclined to interpose some obstacles because of the possible concern of Germany in the case. Offenses ordinarily extraditable are charged against the man sought as principal to grave crimes, but his character as head of a great government is assumed to give him a peculiar status. And this emphasizes another feature of the kaiser's predicament which should not be lost sight of.

Under the German constitution he is hereditary head of the empire. This office he has renounced, but his renunciation may be recalled at any time until the Germans have formally changed the character and form of their government. Great Britain still regards the kaiser as the head of the German empire. In this light the attitude of the Dutch may be seen more clearly. They also look upon William Hohenzollern as head of a nation with whom they are at peace, temporarily domiciled within their country. To surrender him for trial at the behest of other countries is not to be lightly approached. Plain William Hohenzollern might be handed over without much fuss, but the kaiser is a different proposition.

It is quite likely, too, that those who are anxious to see justice done will want to see the kaiser tried as such, and not as a mere individual. His crimes were committed as head of an organized government, and as such he should be brought to bar. It is against Kaiser Wilhelm II outraged humanity calls aloud, rather than William Hohenzollern.

## Powers of Railroad Administrator.

While the war was on few cared to question seriously any act of the railroad administrator, all of which were taken primarily with a view of being helpful towards victory. Now that peace is coming again, some objection is being taken to acts of Mr. McAdoo. One of these takes on the form of a petition for a restraining order, applied for by the receiver of the "Clover Leaf" route, who asks to be relieved from necessity of taking on a large order of box cars assigned to the road by the administrator, for which it has no urgent need nor money to pay. Such a suit ought nearly to reach the fundamental principle involved; whether the control by the government is to be confined to war emergency, or if it is to be extended to peace times, and includes matters that should be left entirely to the owners of the roads. The issue will come squarely between public and private ownership and should be soon determined.

The American people have broken all records in liberality to the various war work and relief funds. In return they are entitled to know where the money goes and to assurance that it is not wasted in duplication nor dissipated in excessive administration cost or needless expense accounts.

Herr Liebknecht clamors for the kaiser's blood, forgetful, apparently, that the kaiser only sent him to jail when he might have faced a firing squad.

## TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

As the Turkish grand zier, Talat Pasha is expected to play a prominent part in the Turkish end of the coming peace conference negotiations. His has been a most interesting career, for it is only 10 years ago that he was working as a humble telegraph operator at Salonica. In that capacity he played a trick on the government. While on duty one night he had to transmit a telegram from Constantinople, ordering the immediate arrest of all partisans of the Young Turk movement. On leaving work, however, he carried away a portable telegraph apparatus, and, connecting it with the government wires, sent another message cancelling the order of arrest. Then he warned the conspirators, who began the successful Young Turk revolution next day.

## One Year Ago Today in the War.

Germans recaptured part of the village of Fontaine Notre Dame. Bolshevik government in Russia began armistice negotiations with Germany.

Papal secretary of state declared the pope was not preparing any new appeal looking toward peace.

## In Omaha 30 Years Ago Today.

The Ladies' Musical society held a session in Meyer's Music hall. Mr. B. B. Young, Miss Bertha Bayless and Miss Liddell furnished the program with Madam Young as accompanist.

The young ladies of the Frances Cleveland club intend to make that



organization a permanent social club, and next week will give their first leap year party.

Lemuel Jacobs and Lizzie Williams were married at the office of Justice O'Connell.

Dr. Clark Chapen has come to reside in this city.

The B. & M. has purchased 20 new engines.

## The Day We Celebrate.

Rear Admiral De Witt Coffman, U. S. N., born in Virginia 64 years ago.

Marcus H. Holcomb, governor of Connecticut, born at New Hartford, Conn., 74 years ago.

David Warfield, eminent actor of the American stage, born in San Francisco 52 years ago.

Swager Sherry, Kentucky congressman recently defeated for reelection, born in Louisville 47 years ago.

Lindley M. Garrison, former secretary of war in the Wilson cabinet, born at Camden, N. J., 54 years ago.

## This Day in History.

1655—Peace between England and France was proclaimed.

1806—The French under Murat entered Warsaw, the capital of ancient Poland.

1853—A government was organized for the territory of Washington.

1870—The French city of Amiens was occupied by the Germans.

1885—Hostilities between Serbia and Bulgaria were ended by Austrian intervention.

1893—A memorial to James Russell Lowell was unveiled in Westminster abbey.

1914—Montenegrins defeated an Austrian force in Bosnia.

1915—Berlin announced the successful conclusion of the campaign in Serbia.

1916—Rumanians removed the government to Jassy as the Austro-Germans closed in on Bucharest.

## Timely Greetings and Reminders.

With deepest gratitude for the blessings of peace the people throughout the United States join today in the annual observance of Thanksgiving day.

Crises have been throughout the world this evening will enter an eight-day celebration of the festival of Chanukah, commemorative of the recapture of Jerusalem from Syrian invaders 2,100 years ago.

The Roman Catholic dioceses of Chicago and Milwaukee attain their 75th year today, having been created by papal decree on November 28, 1843.

Rear Admiral De Witt Coffman, United States navy, former commander of a division of the North Atlantic fleet and recently in command of the Fifth naval district, with headquarters at Norfolk, reaches the age for statutory retirement today.

With the festivities centering in Havana, the republic of Cuba today will hold an elaborate celebration of the American Thanksgiving day as a demonstration of good will toward the United States.

Sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, a celebration of the allied victory is to be held throughout the United States at 4 o'clock this afternoon, when all the people are expected to join in singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Storyteller of the Day.

A brother senator was twitting Senator Jones of New Mexico on the illiteracy of the vast majority of his constituents.

"It's all a matter of the point of view," retorted Senator Jones. "When it comes to breeding and education I am reminded of the self-sufficient young matron in the Pullman car."

"Mary," she said, to her 8-year-old daughter, "don't you see the people looking at you. Stop stretching your gum out into a string. Chew it like a lady."

When the Kaiser Fled.

New York Times: What a spectacle for gods and men! The mightiest military monarch of earth, proud as Lucifer, a most famous swagman, he who went his way and trod under foot all who opposed him, takes to his heels like a scared schoolboy and takes shelter in Holland and under the protection of a loyal and servile people. And that Son of Thunder, the crown prince, accompanies his parent in this flight to a place of safety.

## Spirit of Thanksgiving

By ARCHBISHOP HARTY.

The keeping of Thanksgiving day with becoming solemnity is a religious act perfumed with the fragrance of heaven, for it means that God reigns and that we are grateful to Him. We are grateful for this mighty continent, the crowning gift of Providence to the world. Two great oceans wash its shores. It is rich in soil, salubrious in climate. It is the fairest land in all the world. We are grateful for the American nation and its mission to humanity.

"My country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing."

We think of our men and women with their superb gifts of mind and heart; we think of their skill in commerce and industry; we think of their intense passion for education, but we are more deeply thrilled when we think of our country as the land of human dignity and human liberty.

We think of the mission that is entrusted to its own people, for it extends to all the peoples of the earth to whom its flag, the Stars and Stripes, is the symbol of human rights and human liberty.

To our country we offer our love and fidelity. We will cultivate in ourselves and in others, as far as we may, the spirit of American citizenship, the more so because the war has electrified our patriotism and communicated to us an ardor for our country more intense, effective, vigilant. The patriotism of our men and women, which has saved the nation in war, will uphold it in peace even with greater intensity and vigor.

Only they who are loyal to our country should be allowed to live under its flag. Such loyalty must show itself in civic pride and civic service. It is the service that guards the ballot and all approaches to it; that rectifies public opinion, where the interests of the nation are at stake. This is the spirit in which we will sing our "Te Deum" on Thanksgiving day.

A Sorry Figure in Retreat

"William Hohenzollern" had fallen from so high to his present state less obviously as the result of his own acts there would be some, and even much, reluctance felt for treating him otherwise than as the victim of cruel fate. That, however, he is not, and so deliberate, as well as so serious, was his offending that he has no claim for a closing of eyes to his crimes—no right to expect the tenderness of consideration he never gave.

The chances are, apparently, that he will pass the rest of his life not happily, indeed, but in a retirement untroubled by the material cares common to the great majority of mankind, and it is a source of entirely legitimate satisfaction to call attention to the poor figure he cuts, now that he has been stripped of his crown, his scepter and his imperial robes.

These, as a matter of fact, were all that differentiated him from other folk. In and since his downfall he has shown nothing of the heroic, nothing of the personal courage, of the willingness to die for a cause, that have marked so many million men in so many armies, including his own. If he sincerely believed his right to rule was divine it was the most cowardly form of desertion for him to flee his country the moment he feared for his personal safety. By so doing he made certain and immediate the ruling of Germany by somebody with no pretense to a divine appointment.

Many another villain has dared to die, standing erect and face to the foe, but this poor emperor scuttles off into unwelcome Holland and leaves his sons and his wife to take care of themselves! But it is no wonder he is most of all afraid of his own people. He promised them victory and loot, only to rob them of the wealth, respect and happiness they already had in such abundant measure, and he substituted for it all crushing defeat, pinching hunger and the contempt and destruction of the whole world.—New York Times.

## Delays in Casualty Reports

It is difficult to find an excuse for the delays in casualty reports. We are not referring particularly to the practice of mailing the lists many days in advance of date when they can be simultaneously published in all parts of the nation, although if the newspapers had their way the lists would be transmitted by telegraph as news of vital importance. Our complaint is the delay in direct notification of the nearest relatives. There is a local case where a soldier died of pneumonia October 6 and the telegram announcing the fact did not reach his nearest relative until November 19. It is easy to see how there might be delay in getting battle casualties with sufficient accuracy to warrant their report, but it is incomprehensible how a hospital death could remain so long unreported. Hospitals have accurate records and they make daily reports. With proper attention the death should have been reported by cable to the War department within a few hours after it occurred and, with proper system there, the notification should have been telegraphed immediately to the nearest relative.

There have been some inexcusable errors in reporting casualties, but they could have been avoided by ordinary military attention and necessitating great delay. There is no newspaper or news-gathering agency that would not furnish the military authorities with a system for making prompt, accurate reports if the trouble is lack of system. But whether the fault is in the system or in neglect to use the system properly, it should be corrected, for the sake of the millions of Americans who are made to suffer needlessly through knowledge that there is such a long delay in reporting casualties.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## People and Events

Nevertheless notwithstanding the former kaiser improved his score as a warrior by going over the top—of the boundary of Holland.

Gas mask factories are closing up, although several legislatures will cut loose with the mustard in six weeks. Conservators of peach stones are free to practice on the sparrows.

For a few brief days the war-worked purse is due for a rest. The respite enables the owner to take a survey of his patches and make sure they will sustain the pressure until spring.

Milk distributors in New York City put over the 17-cent price decreed by the distributors' organization. The food board threatened to do things to the peddlers, but when the latter talked back the board saw the light reflected by the milk cans and abandoned the consumers to their fate.

Publicity may cause an immediate change in the passwords of Knights of Pythias lodges, if the open sesame of the Waukegan, Ill., lodge holds good elsewhere. A ministerial member seeking to be elected to the Pythias lodge, a magical words for some moments and finally blurted out: "To hell with the kaiser!" He was admitted.

A recent official report on war charity swindles in New York, the result of one year's investigation, shows that \$4,000,000 of contributions "vanished in thin air." \$250,000 was returned by the fakers, 25 persons were indicted, six of the promoters were convicted and sent to prison for various terms. All known charity crooks were put out of business.

Profiteering butchers in Greater New York, when put on the carpet by the food administration, admitted a progressive gouge of customers. One hundred of the 234 butchers called to time won fines of \$100 each, and were ordered to put signs on their windows stating they were found guilty of overcharging. Enforcement of the law by the food board threatened to do during business hours.

Quite a stiff bunch of money has been paid out by Chicago in years past for expert information on which to base the price of gas to consumers. The result was a reduction of gas to 80 per cent of its former price. Now comes the state supreme court with a decision which says the city is without power to regulate the price of gas. It's a rare day when the franchise joker fails to pull off a surprise party.

## Thanksgiving Poetry

Spirit of the Day.

Be thankful. And remember, ... We have made this day, The last Thursday in November, When all may our tribute pay To the spirit of the day, His infinite strength to share, And never yet sent abroad, That in trust we may not bear.

The day may bring reminders Of bright hours passed away, Since we counted our treasure On our last Thanksgiving day. But we must not all sunshine, And the moon must learn to shed The shadows of all pain, Take the bitter with the sweet.

Let us count again our blessings We have made today, And scarce know we were possessing Until the shadows fell. Some hearts, bowed with sorrow, And the world-wide war has brought: Be thankful that tomorrow Our colors still shall float.

Be thankful for the plenty That is conserved in our land To be spared to cross the ocean To give a strengthening hand. Be thankful with our allies, And the help will come to us From out the wreck and ruins, Some treasures dear and brave.

Be thankful to our soldiers, Who their lives would freely give To insure the world's democracy, Where no autocracy can live. Be thankful to our president, And the peace inside his chair, And all the powers that have strengthened Our soldiers over there.

Be thankful the clouds are breaking, Peace and good will rule again; Be thankful our hearts are aching, We have not our love in vain; Be thankful for God above, And the help will come to us From out the wreck and ruins, Some treasures dear and brave.

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