

THE OMAHA BEE

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Seems to be the strikers this time who say, 'The public be damned!'

'Shadowy existence' is right so far as the Germans at the peace table is concerned.

'After you,' says Cost-o'-Living to Wages, as they both approach the getting-off place.

Paper mill men obeyed the War board and went back to work, showing it can be done.

Congress can help Christmas shopping a lot by letting us know what our taxes are to be.

Omahans may yet become addicted to pedestrianism to the extent they have to be coaxed to ride.

Chile and Peru have found out that they can settle without a fight. Their example is referred to others.

The Kaiser has called for his court doctor, but nothing is said as to summoning his American dentist.

Omaha is not on the aerial mail route outlined in Mr. Burleson's report, but maybe we can stand it.

If walking is a preventive or cure for 'flu,' Omaha should quickly resume its top place in the list of health resorts.

Kurt Eisner is to succeed Dr. Solf as foreign minister for Germany, but his whine will be no more seductive or effective.

Telling China to behave is all very well, but suppose the Celestials prefer to pursue their own little civil war in their own way?

It will be no harder to walk to church this morning than to the golf links, but where do you think the bigger crowd will be?

If any member of the cabinet failed to shower himself with bouquets in his report of the year's doings, it was quite by oversight.

If the women really begin to fight to hold men's jobs, what is going to become of the old-fashioned notion of 'division of labor' between the sexes?

The Turks now join the Germans in denying responsibility for atrocities of the war. But somebody did it, and it was neither the Armenians nor the Belgians.

Fall run of cattle is over, but the 'grassers' will soon be coming back from the feed lots, well finished on good corn, and the beef supply will be as steady as the price.

'Get out of the cheap state class,' plead the democrats, who are about to turn over the administration of Nebraska to the republicans, who will not waste money in vain show.

Mr. Baker congratulates the country that seven billions have been saved by cancelling war contracts. He does not speak of other billions that might have been saved by not letting contracts.

The crown prince has followed his father's example, renouncing the crown he has no hope of ever wearing. This act will gain him nothing in the eyes of the world he so greatly afflicted.

President Townley gets a 40 per cent boost in salary as head of the Nonpart league, and now, with his expense account, ought to do much better than when he tried to earn a living at farming the land instead of the farmers.

Again we hear that the Germans are about to begin airship service with America. This was mooted before the war, but the big Zepps were transferred to the military service. However, the history of the German navy may be accepted as an answer to the present yarn.

Democratic Simplicity

The United States always has prided itself on a certain democratic simplicity that it has maintained in its representation in Europe. American ambassadors never have worn court costumes. Their manner of living has been studiously unostentatious.

Benjamin Franklin, probably America's greatest diplomat, set the fashion when he appeared at the gorgeous court of France in his sober Quaker raiment of colonial russet, without a wig, and wearing his famous cap of marten fur.

No American wishes to be penurious in the nation's provision for the comfort of those who shall attend the peace conference. But it is something of a shock to read that the most magnificent hotel in Paris, the hotel always reserved for royalty, has been leased for a year by the United States for \$400,000; that a bureau of public information is to have an enormous furnished mansion at Versailles; and that a former Atlantic liner was refitted to take the members of the mission and their wives, under the escort of a battle fleet.

Evidently an expenditure of several million dollars is planned in connection with America's representation at the conference. This is being done at a time when people are being urged to save every penny possible to invest in thrift stamps to pay the expenses of the government.

The combination doesn't sit well.—Kansas City Star

PLAYING THE GERMAN GAME.

Some influential democratic organs are just now, consciously or unconsciously, assiduously devoting themselves to the service of Germany. In Germany all classes look ahead with apprehension to the assembly of the peace conference, realizing that only through mistakes of disagreements of the Allies and America can the Teuton secure terms to their liking. The statement has frankly been made that it is to Mr. Wilson the Hun must turn if he gets off lightly; he can expect nothing from Great Britain, France, Italy or Belgium. Nor will Serbia, Roumania or any of the smaller nations that have felt the oppressor's power be inclined to temper justice with too liberal an admixture of mercy. With this state of affairs so clear before us all, and acknowledging the weight of our president's presence and counsel, it is astonishing to find democratic newspapers exploiting gossip that must mar the harmony if it does not exactly produce a split in the council. Magnifying mere rumors into proofs of jealousy and distrust on part of the nations of Europe will not help our co-operation with them, and we must work together in full harmony if the victory for democracy is to be made complete. Mr. Wilson is to be a consultant and not the umpire at Paris and at Versailles, and it is very unwise for Americans to get into any other way of thinking.

Our Army on a Peace Footing.

Just what will be done with the American army cannot yet be told. In his report to congress Secretary Baker postpones his answer to the question, pending proceedings of the peace congress. His present belief is that the future of the army will be somewhat dependent on international relations as they may be established by the expected treaty. Also, as he says, the present organization cannot be dissolved immediately, and so we will have for quite a while a very large force of men under arms.

In the tentative discussion so far the probable size of the reorganized army has been put at 500,000 men. This figure may relate in some degree to the report made by the War College to Secretary Garrison in 1915, when asked for a categorical answer to the question of a proper policy for the military defense for the United States. At that time the War College experts set the minimum figure for the standing army at 600,000 men. This gave full weight to the military and naval strength of Great Britain and Germany and their readiness to speedily transport large forces.

While the factors of the problem may have changed in some sense, its general terms have not, and the public mind has been well opened to the possibilities only the experts could then foresee. That Mr. Baker has been in any degree shaken by his pacifist attitude is the best possible evidence of this. His willingness to recommend what he considers a force ample to serve as a nucleus for national army, however, may not mean all that advocates of readiness look for. Regardless of anything that may transpire at Versailles, short of universal disarmament, America should not be allowed to relapse into conditions that formerly prevailed.

Revising the Colombian Hold-Up.

The president's recommendation to the senate that the treaty with Colombia be ratified will revive the dispute over that heritage from the time when Bryan was secretary of state. The document carries with it the admission that this nation has done a grave injustice to a weaker one. If such a charge could be substantiated by reasonable proof the simple act of reparation would scarcely suffice.

The facts are that Colombia undertook to hold up the United States on the Panama canal matter, and persists in pushing a claim that rests on a condition it has not been able to establish to the satisfaction of the best lawyers of the country. Mr. Bryan took the Colombian end of the case, presumably because it afforded him an opportunity to reflect on previous republican administrations. He proposed that, in addition to an apology, we pay several millions of dollars to the 'outraged' Colombians, the sum even exceeding that for which they originally sought to negotiate the sale of the canal zone and rights.

The history of the affair is one of intrigue and political thimblerrigging in Colombia and patient effort on part of the United States to deal fairly with its southern neighbor, at the same time holding firm to the determination to construct the canal and so serve the world. Just why we should now submit to the belated extortion proposed in the Bryan treaty is hard to understand.

Adopting a New Constitution.

Nebraska is moving in order to the adoption of a new constitution, but some folks are evincing signs of impatience. This is not well. Time should be taken to properly frame and thoroughly digest the document intended to embody the fundamental law of the state. That Nebraska has need of a new constitution has been affirmatively decided by the voters. Common sense suggests that its adoption be deliberately approached. The legislature will designate the time for choosing members of the convention, and also has power to set a date for a special election at which the voters will pass on the work of the convention. Ample time should be given for full discussion of the document, that changes it proposes may be understood, and its effect on the future may be made as clear as possible. Haste anywhere along the line will be found dangerous. The state will do well to profit by the unfortunate experience of Omaha in connection with its home rule charter.

No More 'Bosco' at State Fairs.

Another forward step has been taken by the associated managers of the state fairs, who have resolved to provide entertainment on a higher plane for their patrons. 'Art' does not necessarily mean 'highbrow stuff,' although even that is far more entertaining than many who reject it without trial ever will know. The point is that the amusement features of the fairs are to be of a quality that will not inherently offend the taste and intelligence of the public. Side show freaks and exhibitions are relics of the day when the bucolic crowd amused itself by watching some fellow distort his visage by 'grinning through a horse collar.' In but slight degree has there been advance from this form of diversion, although all other aspects of the fair have changed in keeping with the increasing dignity and importance of agriculture as an industry. The passing of 'Bosco' will mark another stage in our intellectual growth.

THE DAY

One Year Ago Today in the War.
Jerusalem surrendered to General Allenby and the British forces.
Roumania reported to have agreed to armistice with the Germans.
Generals Kaledines and Kornilov began Russian counter-revolution with aid of Cossacks.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago Today.
Dr. Hanigan was appointed assistant county physician at \$50 a month.

The new dances are described as the 'Glide Mazourka,' the 'Diamond Lancers,' the 'Berlin,' the 'Laravene' and the 'Parisian Gavotte.'

Their 25th wedding anniversary was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Himebaugh by a reception and dance for 300 guests at the Millard. Mrs. Himebaugh wore an elaborately trimmed pink satin gown.

The engagement is announced of Mr. M. L. Roeder and Miss Pauline Goldsmith.

Another engagement is that of Mr. Simon Fish and Miss Addie Bloom of Iowa City, who has visited much in Omaha.

Bishop Worthington is back from Washington.

The Day We Celebrate.
Otis M. Smith, president of the Missouri Valley Elevator company, born 1880.

Admiral Henry T. Mayo, U. S. N. born at Burlington Vermont 62 years ago.

Maj. Gen. John E. McMahon, U. S. A., born in New York 58 years ago.

William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, one of the two American members of the Sacred college, born at Lowell, Mass., 59 years ago.

Walter Irving McCoy, chief justice of supreme court of the District of Columbia, born at Troy, N. Y., 59 years ago.

James P. Austin, infielder of the St. Louis American league base ball team, born at Swansea, Wales, 36 years ago.

This Day in History.
1750—Lady Anne Barnard, author of the popular ballad, 'Auld Robin Gray,' born in Scotland. Died in London in 1825.

1823—Dr. Robert Collyer, the man who rose from the mill to the pulpit, born in Yorkshire, England. Died in New York City, November 30, 1912.

1843—Dedication of Tremont temple in Boston.

1861—Torre del Greco was destroyed by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

1863—Two thousand lives lost in the burning of the Jesuits' church in Santiago, Chili.

1868—Bismarck, having recovered his health, returned to the German imperial chancellery.

1914—Four German cruisers sunk by the British fleet in battle off the Falkland islands.

1915—German troops reached Greek frontier east of Monastir.

1916—Roumanian army, trapped in Prachova valley, surrendered to Von Mackensen.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.
Feast of the Immaculate Conception.
First anniversary of the surrender of Jerusalem to the British.

President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau and other of the notable statesmen of France are to pay a visit to Strasbourg today.

A campaign for \$5,000,000 to relieve the Jewish war sufferers at home and abroad will be conducted in New York City during the week beginning today.

Speakers of international prominence are to be heard at a great meeting to be held in the New York Hippodrome tonight as a tribute to Great Britain and the part she took in the war.

Storyette of the Day.
One mistake often leads to another—and sometimes to a third—as in a story that the secretary of war told in the course of an address not long ago, when he was speaking of the United States army regulations.

One hot day a private sat in a train with tunic unbuttoned. Presently a sergeant strode up to him and said: 'Button up that tunic! Did you never hear of by-law 217, subsection D? I am Sergeant Winterbottom.'

A gentleman in the seat behind tapped the sergeant sternly on the shoulder. 'How dare you issue orders,' he said, 'with a pipe in your mouth? Go home and read paragraph 174, section M, part IX. I am Major Carroll.'

At that a gentleman with a drooping white mustache interposed from the other side of the aisle: 'If Major Carroll,' he said, coldly, 'will consult by-law 31 of section K he will learn that to reprimand a sergeant in the presence of a private is an offense not likely to be overlooked. I am General Atchison, retired.'—The Bayonet.

IN THE WAKE OF WAR.
The reign of William II. as German emperor lasted 30 years, 4 months and 25 days. It provides that the German government has already taken steps to compute damage done to property in that country by Germans during their occupation.

France's famous tri-color flag was invented by Mary, Queen of Scots, for the Swiss Guard in France—white for France, blue for Scotland, and red for Switzerland.

Two sailors at the Great Lakes Naval station, one directly following the other, each engaged Chaplain Moore to officiate at a wedding. Each when asked the name of the bride, said: 'Edith Steele.' Fortunately there were two Edith Steeles. One now is Mrs. Lester and the other Mrs. Higgins.

One of the most remarkable armistices in modern record was concluded between Spain and several of the South American republics at Washington in 1871. It provided that there should be no renewal of hostilities between the contracting parties, except after a three years' notice, which was to be given through the United States government.

Views and Reviews

Pie and Pie-ty as Pictured in Frank MacLennan's Little Book

My friend, Frank P. MacLennan, who publishes the Topeka Journal, occasionally contributes a personal column to his own paper more or less along the same lines as this one of mine, and has put into book form his write-up of his trip to New York and Philadelphia last spring, a copy of which he has sent me neatly inscribed with his regards and best wishes. I don't know whether the habit on his part antedates the excursion we both made together to Mexico some years ago, when he wrote some mighty interesting observations of the trip, but his present volume, which he calls 'A Kansan in New York,' is cleverly gossipy, or gossipy clever, either way you want to put it. Since the cover carries the notice, 'Not copyrighted,' I take the liberty of quoting this description of meeting and entertaining two women from his home town, especially as one of them used to be an Omaha girl, and the other will soon shine from the Sunflower state:

Walking over to the desk of the hotel, I suddenly heard my name called, and upon turning about found it was my next door neighbor in Topeka, Mrs. Arthur Capper, wife of our honored governor. After exchanging greetings she said, 'Mrs. Mulvane is over at that desk writing a letter. She both came from Washington this morning.'

After meeting Mrs. Mulvane I asked the two if they would go to luncheon with me. 'Oh, no,' said Mrs. Capper, 'you want to talk with the men.'

'No, indeed,' says I, 'I can talk with the men any time.'

Without further reluctance we went into the cafe. All three agreed upon broiled mushrooms. These I brooked good on the menu, and which served my expectations. We were starting out to take something that we do not have often in Topeka.

'I would like some iced coffee with cream in it,' said Mrs. Capper.

'The same,' said the gentleman in the party.

'Buttermilk for me,' said Mrs. Mulvane.

'And I would also like some Boston cream pie.'

The other two said they did not care for dessert.

When the pie course was served for the one who had ordered it, it was about a quarter of a section, a liberal cut. Addressing the waiter, Mrs. Mulvane said:

'Will you please bring me another plate and I will cut this pie in two for the other lady.'

'I will bring you the plate,' said the waiter, 'but I will have to charge you for another portion.'

'All right,' said the man to the waiter.

'Charge, Chester, charge if you must.'

I observed that they knew how to charge, all right, but I was in Philadelphia, and I was endeavoring to do as the Philadelphians did, even if they were trying to do me.

Mrs. Capper had a better second thought; she took one of the superfluous plates that were on the table, and that gave her three for the dessert. You want to know what Mrs. Mulvane did with the three plates and the one big piece of Boston cream? The waiter being like all Gail, divided into three parts, part to wait, part to serve, part for cupidity. Mrs. Mulvane was not to be outdone, and with some apparent consideration for the host who had ordered one piece of pie, but was compelled to pay for two pieces, although getting but one—well, here is what she did: She cut that piece into three equilateral triangles and each of us thus had dessert. Q. E. D. This is the way they do in Philadelphia. When you order one piece of pie, then decide to have it cut in two, then when they charge double, and to get partially even you make three slices of it. The bill was \$3.70.

'We have been having a fine time, Mrs. Capper and I,' said Mrs. Mulvane, 'but we have been going at a pretty lively pace. We left Washington at midnight this morning, taking a drawing room, but Mrs. Capper talked to me all night, so I failed to get any sleep. I was breaking when we arrived. I think we will both go to Atlantic City tomorrow to rest up.'

Don't imagine the MacLennan book is given over wholly to pie-ty. It also presents serious and informational material. It has one chapter on 'The Wyandots,' which reminds us that the first and only provisional government of Nebraska territory when Kansas was a part of it was head chief of the Wyandot nation, well educated at an Ohio college, a quarter-blood Indian. He was William Walker. 'Walker's government,' we are told, 'was not officially recognized by the government, but resulted in forcing the democratic party in power to repeal the Missouri Compromise and to organize Kansas and Nebraska into separate territories and really precipitated the civil war.'

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

The agent at Saginaw, Mich., of the new United States Employment bureau has just placed an 81-year-old man at work.

As part of the armistice celebration at Houlton, Me., a 2,000-pound ox was roasted for the populace in a large fireplace built in the square.

A room may be quickly freed from the smell of tobacco smoke by placing in it a bowl of water containing a handful of hay, which will absorb all the odor of the tobacco.

That women workers on the farm are a success is shown by the fact of the Japanese woman in Kentucky who Wash, who is believed to have set a record by picking up 225 sacks of potatoes in one day.

A yellow poplar tree of giant size which was felled recently in Kentucky in the hills of the Cumberland mountains, made nearly 7,000 feet of first-class lumber, with several hundred feet of second-class stuff besides.

A California man was arrested tried and found guilty of killing a man named Henry. The California man was sentenced to 15 years for manslaughter. He went to prison and served his 15 years and was discharged two years ago. Last month Henry, the supposed dead man, was located in Louisiana alive and well.

The rooster now twisting as a weathercock on the clock tower of the First National Bank building in Portland, Me., is 130 years old, his first roosting place having been the top of the old courthouse in Portland in 1778. He weighs more than 80 pounds and is said to have been made of oak. Now he shines with a new coat of gilt paint.

HERE AND THERE

London's telephone and telegraph wires extend to 73,500 miles overhead and 221,000 miles underground.

A woman observed working on a man's job at Los Angeles women's working clothes, including overalls, but on her fingers she had seven diamond rings.

When sailors speak of fathoms they do not always mean the same thing. On board a man-of-war a fathom means six feet, on board a merchantman five and one-half feet, and on board a fishing vessel five feet.

Collecting dandelions an Italian woman living in Philadelphia has been able to save \$2,000 during the last 40 years. She has supported herself since her husband died, 40 years ago, selling dandelions to her countrymen in the Quaker City.

The king of Spain possesses an odd collection of relics connected with attempts on his life. A reminder of the very first attempt on his life is the feat of a feeding bottle, with which an attempt was made on his life when he was only 8 months old.

Judson Grimm of Smithfield, Pa., beat the army censors by writing for the first time in French, in his mother that he could not say where he was, but asking her if she remembered the first four letters of the name of a man who kept a confectionery store in Smithfield. The man's name was Metzler.

Around the Cities

St. Louis City solons, by a three to two vote, ordered the skip-stop system in a city ordinance.

Five German names of streets in St. Louis have been stricken off the corner posts and American names substituted.

New York's taxpayers have completed their annual swearing-out and succeeded in making quite a shrinkage in the assessor's personality total.

An ordinance prohibiting the display of the red flag in Chicago was passed by the city council almost unanimously. Two socialists voted for the red, minus the white and blue.

By a simple twist of the wrist the county commissioners of Cook county, which is Chicago, boosted their salaries from \$3,600 to \$5,000 a year. The president's veto of the deal was quickly turned down.

Rivalry and competition ceases among public utilities in the matter of reducing the price. Sioux Falls automatic telephone company boosted rates December 1, just as smoothly as the Bell put it over elsewhere.

A St. Louis cop who worked the habit of noting on his cuff the license numbers of motor cars seen on his beat at unusual hours was rewarded at last by three arrests of crooks. The habit is easily acquired and is not patented.

Des Moines sends out a hurry call to the city of Chicago to head off plans of the public utilities designed to paralyze home rule and home regulation. It is said the utilities will launch a drive on the coming legislature, and a commission which will pass upon franchise problems and rates.

Three federal judges sitting on the case in Kansas City refused to grant the injunctions asked by the city of Chicago to prevent the street railway, which would tie the hands of city and state while the company inaugurated 8-cent fares. The present fare is 6 cents.

The sanitary district of Chicago wants the city of Chicago to dig up \$2,250,000 and started suit to enforce payment of the bill, covering installation of a street lighting system and supplying current.

The treasurer of the city of Chicago says that the treasury is shy that amount and some over.

Newark, N. J., ordains that girls must wear clean faces, and a staff of policemen are enforcing the law. The cops are busy most of the time rounding up powdered and rouged girls and forcing them to wash their faces. Not a dab of color other than natural complexion is permitted. They are tough, but Newark insists on a wash-up or lock-up.

CENTER SHOTS

Minneapolis Tribune: William I. R. may now be interpreted William I. Han.

Detroit Free Press: Secret service men find moonshine easier to detect than they thought it would be. The exact opposite effect.

New York World: Charged with seditious talk, a Dolbecker dentist of Brooklyn says that in Germany one would gladly bear arms. This frank admission shows an accurate understanding that the Bolshevik Soviets and Imperial Germany were war allies.

Philadelphia Ledger: It is not surprising that the soldiers should enter a respectful protest against the design of the Uplifters to see that they get safely home after demobilization. They are only too anxious to go, and they are quite able to look after themselves, thank you.

Brooklyn Eagle: Joining her imperial or ex-imperial spouse at Amherst, Holland, the kaiserin took along twenty trucks of baggage, trunks and boxes. Every married man will understand why Wilhelm didn't meet her at the station. He is an empire smasher, not a baggage smasher.

New York Herald: 'With the ending of the war we find ourselves with the familiar constitutional privileges and restrictions,' says Charles Evans Hughes, 'and it behooves officers of the government to realize that to make a pretense of military exigency for ulterior purposes when military necessity has ceased is simply an abuse of power which will not be permitted to escape censure.' A sagacious word of warning!

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Signposts of Progress

To facilitate writing in the dark an inventor has patented an electric flashlight to be attached to a lead pencil.

An acceptable substitute for absorbent cotton is being made of wood, ground and rolled or spun into sheets.

A powerful wireless station in New Jersey now in government control is exchanging messages directly with a similar station in Argentina.

Eyeglasses for which a British patent has been granted can be folded when idle to resemble a pocket and worn on a chain as an ornament.

A governor for gasoline tractors has been designed that can be adjusted with a wide range of speeds from the driver's seat even when a tractor is running.

There has been incorporated in France a company, which is really a technical commission, for the purpose of conducting commercial operations useful in bringing about reconstruction of the iron mines and steel works of the invaded region.

Vice President Marshall sent his ballot as an absentee voter for election day to Indianapolis by mail, and also sent two telegrams to the Indianapolis postmaster, advising him that the ballot had been mailed in his care, under a special delivery stamp.

A MAIL FROM FRANCE.