

THE OMAHA BEE DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG A graphic representation of a service flag with stars.

John Bull to Uncle Sam: "Shake, pal!" Santa Claus seems to have aroused Hymen also in this neck of the woods. Mr. Wilson told the boys on Christmas about what any of us would wish to say to them.

Well, other governors have been inaugurated without a ball, but not on account of "flu." Where will the money for increased pay to police and firemen be found? Taxpayers, please stand up. Perhaps the most definite sign of peace is the revival of gossip about spring training trips for base ball teams.

Kansas winter wheat belt under a deep blanket of snow means great demand for binding twine next summer. Congress still has charge of the railroad question, for which the president said he had no solution. What will the answer be?

The blessed bolshevik, who is monkeying with one of Uncle Sam's consuls, should keep in mind that that sport is not always safe. The German democratic party has outlined its program. Here is a hope that it has better luck than the same party in this country.

"Stabilization" of prices may be noted in corn going down and hogs going up, although this is just a reversal of the swing a few days ago. The democrats are busily wasting time on trying to outline a policy for Governor McKelvie when he takes his seat. He knows his own mind.

Another billion and a quarter of loot has been disgorged by the Hun in a lump. This process is really bringing home to the kaiserites the fact that they lost the war. Uncle Sam is going to sell 45,000 head of horses and mules at auction. It will be interesting to note how the prices compare with what he paid for the animals.

Soldiers who happened to be in or passing through Omaha on Christmas day got a very vivid and appropriate idea of how our citizens feel towards the men who wear the uniform.

THE WHIRLIGIG OF POLITICS.

If coming events cast their shadows before, we may be sure the big issue in party politics will soon be the question of private or government ownership and operation of the railroads. When government acquisition of trunk lines and state ownership of branch and subsidiary lines was proposed by William Jennings Bryan in his famous Madison Square speech on returning from his around-the-world trip, the outcry was so strong against it as tantamount to political suicide for the democratic party should he force it to sponsor the plan that Mr. Bryan himself was compelled immediately to hedge and to sidetrack his scheme as a measure of self-preservation.

Where could the whirligig of politics find a more striking example? If government ownership and operation of railroads becomes a democratic tenet, what a lot of back-pedaling democratic organs will have to do.

Bolshevism or Camouflage? Were it not for the fact that people outside of Germany have come to look with something of suspicion on everything emanating from that country, the news coming out of Berlin might be disquieting. That the German mind should be overwhelmed by the simple doctrine of bolshevism does not seem possible. It is, therefore, necessary to look elsewhere for the reason back of the sporadic outbreaks of violence reported from the capital of the empire.

This does not account for the rioting that has disturbed the progress of government. One view easy enough to take is that the provisional government is conniving at the proceedings in hope of influencing the outside world. Propaganda quite as ingenious has been tried with some effect, and in their present desperate situation the politicians who have survived the crash of the kaiser's schemes may see in bolshevism a possible avenue of escape from the sentence to be passed against the German people.

The status of the National Guard has been brought sharply to the fore by the ruling of the judge advocate general of the army that men discharged from the military service of the United States resume their civilian status. This seems reasonable under the law, but it does away with the National Guard, champions of that organization being disappointed in their expectations that the former members would return automatically to the service.

A broader and more important question is opened by the decision. Why should the National Guard be restored? In days gone by it had a purpose, which it fell short of accomplishing. Some states maintained highly efficient bodies of troops, but most of the forty-eight state armies were lacking in all the essentials of real military worth.

Neutral at the Peace Conference. Neutral nations are to be denied seats at the peace conference, it reports from Paris are to be relied upon. This does not square exactly with preconceived notions of the organization of that important gathering.

Freedom of the Air While the diplomatists are trying to define freedom of the seas, a controversy as to the freedom of the air has arisen. The Civil Aerial Transport Committee of England, it is announced, has rejected the ancient claim that the owner of the soil has a right to the air above that soil.

A commission to review the cases of the "conscientious objectors" may save the conscience of the secretary of war, but the great public will prefer to allow the sentences to stand long enough for the culprits to imbibe something of their responsibility to the government under which they are permitted to live.

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight. Emile Vandervelde, who has been named as one of the representatives of the Belgian government in the coming peace conference, is the minister of justice in the present Belgian cabinet. It is as the leader of the Belgian Socialist party, however, that M. Vandervelde is best known.

One Year Ago Today in the War. British troops repulsed a Turkish attempt to recapture Jerusalem. Germany, through Brest-Litovsk conference, offered peace terms to entente allies on basis of no annexations and no indemnities.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago Today. Payton C. Stone, father of E. L. Stone of Dewey & Stone, died at the age of 80. Twenty-eight young women, who want to be teachers, are taking examinations before the board, consisting of W. W. Keyser, Miss S. R. Davis and Prof. H. P. Lewis.

The Day We Celebrate. Walter T. Page, manager of the Omaha plant for the American Smelting & Refining company, born in 1861. Gen. Peyton C. March, chief of the general staff of the United States army, born at Easton, Pa., 34 years ago.

This Day in History. 1834—Charles Lamb, one of the most charming of English essayists, died in London. Born there, February 10, 1775.

Timely Jottings, and Reminders. Today is the Feast of St. John, universally observed by the Masonic fraternity. The annual gathering of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its numerous affiliated societies, which is to assemble today at Johns Hopkins university, will direct its main attention to the service of science in helping to win the war.

Stoway of the Day. Toward the end of his speech at the Chambers of Commerce convention at Atlantic City, Charles Schwab spoke about the work of the Emergency Fleet corporation and the splendid loyalty and co-operation shown by most of the men.

'ROUND ABOUT THE WORLD The total fishing area of the North sea is about 300,000 square miles. The ferries of San Francisco carry nearly 50,000,000 passengers a year. Versailles first became a royal residence about the year 1622 when Louis XIII built a hunting lodge there.

The Kiel canal was designed and constructed by Germany principally for her own ships. It cost \$40,000,000 to construct and its maintenance costs \$250,000 a year. With the exception of one or two of the Balkan states, Russia is the most illiterate country in Europe, over 60 per cent of its inhabitants being unable to read or write.

Scrapping of Small Crowns

New York Evening Post. Amid the crash of the imperial Hohenzollern and Hapsburg thrones, little noise was made by the collapse into rubbish of the petty kingly, ducal, or princely seats of the lesser German states. Besides the kaiser, three kings went to the scrap-heap, seven or eight princes, and too many dukes and grand dukes to be counted easily.

About these principalities of opera-bouffe and costume romance hangs an aroma of distance in time and space that makes revolutionary socialism seem impossible. The reigning family of Reuss (area 122 square miles) decided about 1700 that all the sovereigns being named Heinrich, the list should be numbered up to 100 and start with I again.

History with steady spitefulness has refused to look on these sovereigns, posing grandiosely, as impressive, heroic or romantic. The princelings and dukelings first defined their character after the Thirty Years' War, when most surviving noblemen became local despots.

It has been in times of revolution that these monarchs of vest-pocket realms have appeared at their worst. When Napoleon or Bismarck clanked his sword, their eagerness to get into frightened line was pitiful.

Possibly the principle of raising revenue by a tax on profits from the products of child labor may be open to objection. The purpose of the amendment, levying a 10 per cent on such profits is at least morally defensible. The importance of protecting children from economic exploitation injurious to their physical and moral welfare is beyond dispute; many states have laws to this end. It was to make such laws uniform that the federal child-labor bill was passed—a measure which was unfortunately found to be unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court.

All Paris is talking, it seems, because Marshal Foch in making an official call on President Wilson was not resplendent in gold lace but appeared in an old forage cap and well-worn blue uniform without decorations. Stickers for the niecettes of etiquette must admit the gravity of the offense. No doubt the chief honor possible in a regard of similar proprieties by a great general since Grant met Lee at Appomattox wearing a private soldier's blouse with only the straps of a general to designate his rank. And Grant's respect for the confederate leader was unqualified.

Greatness in Working Clothes "All Paris is talking," it seems, because Marshal Foch in making an official call on President Wilson was not resplendent in gold lace but appeared in an old forage cap and well-worn blue uniform without decorations.

IRON A graphic illustration of a person in ironing clothes.

Increases strength of delicate, nervous, run-down people in two weeks' time. Iron is an essential element in the body and its deficiency leads to weakness and disease.

The Bee's Letter Box

"That's All." Omaha, Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have not much patience with the present state of the statesmanship and business sagacity, and since the historical event known as "the adjournment of politics" the democratic method has appeared more and more to me as a cruel and ridiculous thing. It is evident the public is not possessed of any sense of humor in democratic eyes.

Control of the "Flu." Grand Island, Neb., Dec. 19.—To the Editor of The Bee: It is needless to produce evidence in order to prove the existence of the terrible scourge that is holding high carnival in Nebraska. The general prevalence of disease, the high death rate, the cry for doctors and nurses, the cancellation of state gatherings and the closing of schools are all evidence in itself of the gravity of the situation.

When an epidemic is simply a local affair so long as the local authorities are able to deal with it successfully and not they themselves become the victims of commercialism, it is well to leave it with them to deal with, but when a scourge becomes state and nationwide it is, or ought to be, made the business of the state to deal with.

LAUGHING GAS "The world is full of poetry," stashed the poet, as he heaved an exhalation to the editor. "I don't know anything about the world, growled the editor, 'but I know that the world is full of poetry.'"—Kansas Journal and Tribune.

"Willie—Paw, what is meant by retreating to type?" Maw—"That's what a man does when he gets out of town, my son." Paw—"Willie, you get to bed and keep your trap shut."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"And was the widow so inconceivable?" "Oh, yes. Why, they had to hide her powderpuff to keep her from weeping."—Chicago Post.

"Guzzler—Fine. I've just had three—as good as I ever drank.—Topeka Journal.

"I love the ground you walk on," he said. "And a little later inquired: 'Does your father own this property?'"—Kansas City Journal.

"I believe boys are like wheat in one respect. 'What is that?' 'To make them useful they ought to be well threshed.'"—Passing Show.

In the Wake of War

Up to January 1, 1918, Britain had lost in the war one member of the royal family, 21 peers, 31 baronets, 11 knights, 149 sons of peers, 135 sons of baronets and 208 sons of knights. As a result, scores of successions to English titles have changed within the past four years.

One of the most dramatic war endings was the conclusion of the Peninsular war. Wellington had just won his last triumph at Toulouse, the casualties on both sides numbering some 15,000, and the armies were rejoicing or sorrowing, when a tired courier rode up to announce that the war had been ended five days before with the abdication of Napoleon.

Buckingham palace, the London residence of the British sovereign, and where President and Mrs. Wilson are to be entertained by their British majesties, has been described as the ugliest royal residence in Europe. The first building erected on the site was the home built for the duke of Wellington in 1792. It was so hideous that he never completed it. When the crown acquired it in 1825, the building was pulled down and the present palace erected.

EDITORIAL SNAPSHOTS. Philadelphia Ledger: Mr. McAdoo thinks that it will take five years for the people to find out how they want the railroads to be run. Some of them have very definite opinions upon the subject already.

Baltimore American: After all, we do owe something to Germany. The magnificent ships which are now being our conquering heroes home she built for us, even though she didn't know it at the time.

Baltimore American: If even John Dillon has been beaten in East Mayo by the Sinn Feiners, the Irish party founded by Parnell may be in sight of its end. That is rather a sad reflection for many thousands of sane and sympathetic Irish-Americans.

Kansas City Star: The German radical who called Premier Ebert "a shameful smirk on the German government" must have some pronounced ideas concerning that gentleman. Any smirk that caricatures the German government is no slouch of a smirk.

Philadelphia Ledger: An inventory of the ex-kaiser's personal belongings showed that he possessed 598 military and naval uniforms. Germany's change from a monarchy to a republic will effect a considerable conservation of cloth.

New York World: The spectacle of woman suffragists burning in Washington the books and speeches of the president of the United States, who did more than any other president to secure them the right of suffrage, is a strange one. It indicates, among other things, the long gap there is between the reasoning processes of some women and others.

Here and There

Canada has a woman professional undertaker and embalmer. Seaweed offers a prolific source of fuel oil when present supplies are exhausted, according to an English professor, who has obtained seven gallons from a ton of vegetable matter.

Excavating for the new boiler-room of the J. T. Slack corporation at Springfield, Vt., the contractors unearthed a beef hide which must have lain there 68 years and is still in a perfect state of preservation. Chamber of Commerce records at Butte, Mont., show that the majority of the 30,000 inhabitants of the city are unmarried, although of marriageable age. There are about 8,000 families containing 25,000 persons in Butte.

When a man at Reading, Pa., paid Justice of the Peace Henry S. MacIntyre a dollar for legal work, the justice laid the money on a hitching post, by which they were standing, and forgot all about it, and it stayed there for three days. Living together at Bowdoinham, Me., are Mrs. Eleanor Sparks, 100 years of age; her sister, Mrs. Mary A. Green, 98 years of age, and their brother, William K. Denham, 85 years of age. Mrs. Denham was \$5 on November 4.

For some time the United States has been the largest seller to Japan, and its sales are increasing faster than those of any other country; the increase in American exports to that district alone having been about \$146,000,000 in 1917, compared with \$116,000,000 in 1916.

Test for Air Mail Service. New York World: Air mail service has passed the point where it can be called an experiment. But it must be shown by the actual returns to be profitable. There are many other ways in which the office department can spend surplus funds to excellent advantage.

A NEBRASKA IDYL. To a Peace Celebration at war with restraint. Came a man universally known as a saint. He was tall and loose-jointed, his visage was stern. And his patriotism so hard to discern. That his sinking away was but lightly remarked.

At eleven p. m. as he passed through the park. He was bowing to spots where the shadows lay dark. (We'll suppose they were animate objects to him.) With his little unbutton'd, a hat with no brim. And the story is current that—ever since then.

As they pass through the park upon sensitive men. Hear the breeze repeat in a musical way. 'Tis a WON-derful day! 'Tis a WON-derful day! 'Tis a WON-derful day! Fremont, Neb. ISAAC A. KILGORE.

SATURDAY Left Over Day at HOSPE'S THE DOLLAR WINDOW Everything in the East show window displayed all day Friday goes at only ONE DOLLAR EACH Framed pictures, sheet pictures, flowers, flower baskets, mahogany and solid brass candle sticks, shades, decorated candles, silver articles, brass goods, nut bowls, statuary, tapestries, bric-a-brac, photo frames to hang and to stand. A vast variety of high class decorations for the walls and tables of the homes. Some articles cost up to \$10.00 each. We will clean them up Saturday. A. Hospe Co. Everything in Art and Music 1513 Douglas St. The After-Christmas Art and Music Store HOME OWNERS Are you paying more than 6% for the loan on your home? The Conservative has the lowest Association rate in the city—only 6%. If you have ample security, come in to see us. We will give you the benefit of this low rate. No commission charged. Act now! The Conservative Loan Association Resources 141,350,000.00 1614 Harney Street