

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

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DECEMBER CIRCULATION
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Another week of talk in congress is under way.
The auto-stealing business is due for a smash-up.

The broth in the police department seems to have been spoiled, all right.
What to do with the Kaiser? Still he's made a start at answering that question himself.

The city physician pronounces the "flu" epidemic locally dead. No one to object, either.
If King Manuel really has returned to Portugal it is a bigger chump than we took him for.

Even at the risk of letting a bootlegger get away, something might be done to discourage auto stealing.

Taking advantage of the fine weather, the autoists are swelling the list of accidents in a notable manner.

Clemenceau may be a "tiger," but he is also something of a peacemaker when he sets out in that direction.

Hohenstaerns are reported to have voted at the recent German election. Why shouldn't they, being citizens of the country?

The rash to register at the Central High school is a further proof that the war is over and things are getting back to normal in Omaha.

Whenever Nebraska builds a new capitol it must at least be creditable to a great and growing state destined to take first rank in the Trans-Mississippi galaxy.

Clarence Mackay sees no reason for raising telephone rates. Maybe this is because Mr. Mackay does not own an "independent" line that has never paid expenses.

Chicago "reds" certainly gave the "grandmother" of the outfit a regulation reception. She must have thought for a moment that she was back in that dear old Petrograd.

Never was partisanship driven so hard as by Nebraska democrats when in control of the legislature. Why this loud squawking at the prospect of a little of their own medicine?

"Tom" Marshall's pious wish that all bolsheviks be hanged recalls the remark made by George Harvey a year ago: "Can you imagine Newton D. Baker signing a death warrant?"

Omaha parks are to remain primarily parks for the public, with golf as a secondary consideration. This is as it should be. Golf is all right, but it ought not to drive non-players away from the public playgrounds.

A former governor of Nebraska has been elected justice of the peace in Mississippi. Whether or not this is a promotion is not clear, but we endorse the judgment of the voters who selected him for the responsible office.

Secretary Wilson of the Labor department says that within six months business will be in full swing in America. We hope so, but you will note the secretary sets the date after the expiration of the democratic congress.

Another batch of I. W. W. convicts has reached Leavenworth prison. Unfortunately for them, they were sentenced in a civil court, and so can not be given honorable discharge by the secretary of war.

Mr. McAdoo's suggestion that a five-year extension of railroad control is needed to aid in development of the inland waterways comes like an after-thought. No very good reason exists why water and rail transportation may not be developed side by side, to the everlasting good of the commerce of the country.

"Marvels" That Failed

It will disappoint many to learn that the "Liberty fuel" which was discovered by government officials, when put to the test proves to be a benzol compound, not easily produced, not cheap and not more satisfactory than any of the commercial gasolines used for power. At the same time, if this result of the examination of the Liberty fuel by the government experts, including those of the bureau of standards, be taken as it should, the effect on the public will prove beneficial, particularly so if the idea is spread broadcast that in many so-called discoveries of this kind nothing should be taken for granted until competent bureaus of the government have passed on it. For as organized today, the various bureaus of the government present a group of research laboratories manned by experts not equaled anywhere. And if the public may be easily deceived by glib claims of those who would run a furnace on the refuse of ash pits for automobiles on a little kerosene plus water, these government experts are an entirely different group of men. If congress and the departments would but refer all such claims of discoveries and inventions to the proper groups, including the patent office, what an excellent and useful in such things as the Liberty fuel would be quickly definitely ascertained, while the essential monstrosity that lies in new fuels, new gasolines and Garabed motors would be found out with equal facility and duty exposed.

In the present case, the experts are frank as to the real value of the Liberty fuel, but the public is not led astray, nor are those who may use it led into unwarranted beliefs as to its efficacy. Since, as a rule, inventions and discoveries represent slow and penetrating studies and are not arrived at overnight except in the circles of promoters and inventors of unbalanced claimants, it is worth while to have our experts suggest the cautions that the public should act upon.—Philadelphia Ledger

ADJUSTMENT A PAINFUL PROCESS.

Turning from peace to war upset the country to an extent hardly yet realized, and turning back from war to peace overnight has completed the shaking up of business. One of the natural results of this is a confusion of ideas. General March says the plan of demobilizing the army by units was adopted because to have selected for discharge men for whom industrial applications were made would have necessitated examination of each soldier as to his special qualifications. Nathan A. Smyth, assistant director general of the United States employment service, says:

What the country needs is not an indiscriminate immediate discharge of all soldiers; it wants more speed in getting out those who have positions awaiting them. The army is already taking steps to meet this situation. Even more important is the stimulation of industry. The federal government is not only failing to take effective steps to stimulate; it is actively and to a dangerous degree retarding industrial development.

Here is a complete indictment of the administration, not on the score of its war program, but for its interference with the ordinary course of business under peace conditions. Congress must share with the cabinet for failure to move. The Weeks resolution, offered many months ago, would have cleared the way to some extent at least; it still lingers in committee, overshadowed by the Overman production, brought in for its political effect and serving to smother what was intended to produce a service the country now sadly needs.

The railroad situation, the seizure of the wires, the delay in enactment of a revenue law and failure to liquidate war contracts—these are the outstanding features of a program of procrastination, interfering with and discouraging enterprise. The country will undoubtedly muddle through this as it has through many other crises, but the process is painful, although at the present time the cause is obvious.

Great Business Secret Exposed.

In the course of his testimony before a congressional committee, Mr. J. Ogden Armour divulged the secret of his concern's success. "Hard work and nerve" is the foundation of the immense establishment of which he is the head. This ought to be true, and probably is true, of every commercial or industrial enterprise that has survived the shocks and surprises that wait along the way. Hard work is easily understood; it is patient, industrious application of every alert faculty to the undertaking in hand. Without it no venture can be brought to profit. But hard work alone is not enough. Along with the application of energy must go direction that is both prudent and daring. Prudence is neither rashness nor cowardice. It is the faculty of carefully weighing all the chances, for and against, and determining the course to be pursued. When this has been chosen, the hard work and nerve will carry the matter along to the goal. But without these factors, failure is foredoomed. No magical formula for business success has yet been discovered, but the combination so tersely stated by Mr. Armour has in it the essential elements on which all empires must rest.

Consolidated Schools in Nebraska.

Failure of independent school districts to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Otis law to effect consolidation has moved some of the legislators to propose making the law compulsory. This is open to some serious objections. The consolidated country school has some distinct qualities in advance of the smaller institutions it is to supersede. It brings the better methods of teaching employed in the communities, and provides for the boys and girls opportunity not to be had in the "district" school. This has been well argued and is admitted by any who have made investigation. The fact that in none of the Nebraska counties has any step been taken under the Otis law does not argue that the state is backward in its educational system. Some other reason should be sought for, and the situation ought to be thoroughly examined before any attempt is made to enforce adoption of the new system. That the schools of the state are coming in for much attention from the lawmakers is manifest by the number of bills affecting them now pending. The Bee ventures to suggest that careful consideration be given these measures from every viewpoint before definite action is taken on any. Much harm may be done in an ill-considered attempt to serve the best interests of the state's educational system.

Russian Muddle Getting Worse.

Evidence is plenty that the Russian situation is not improving under the palliatives sought to be administered from Paris. So far none of the several governments has expressed hearty approval or even concurrence in the suggested conference. On the other hand, the strength of the bolsheviks appears to be increasing. Armed forces of disorder are making headway against the Czech-Slovak army on the one side and the allied troops on the other. Unless the intervention movement is made more vigorous, it will prove a complete failure.

Neither America nor Great Britain is especially anxious to go ahead with the effort to tranquilize Russia by arms. Japan is already withdrawing a portion of the force it sent into Siberia, while France still holds to the idea that only by a sufficient show of power can the bolsheviks be put down. Moderation is for the moment wasted on the anarchists, and the question is narrowing down to the point where the nations will have to decide whether to go in strong enough to control, or to allow the disease to run its course. All are interested in restoring order in Russia, and all agree that this can not be done while the bolshevik madness predominates.

A small expedition has failed; request for conference has been dislaid, and now the final experiment of feeding the hungry is to be tried. If that does not quiet the lunacy, determined intervention or abandonment remain. In the choice America will have much influence. How will it be exerted?

Give the street railway company a credit mark for adding a "stop" for the convenience of strangers going to the station from the group of big hotels on Eighteenth street. Now if the company will only label the cars so incoming visitors can tell which cars go up Farman street, it can earn another credit.

The democrats are always for nonpartisanship when it means water in their mill. Otherwise they're agin' it.

The Constitution During the War and Afterward.

By Henry Wollman, in the Annalist.

PART II.

The government did some radical things as war measures that it could, however, with some added restrictions, and with ample provisions for the protection of the citizens, have done in times of peace. The most notable of these is the "seizing" of the railroads and telegraph and telephone lines.

With the assumption that the federal government has the constitutional right to acquire and operate railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, just as it operates the mails. I do not, at the moment, recall any decisions directly on this point, but I assume that with the present disposition of the courts not to let constitutional provisions interfere any further than possible with progressive legislation, the United States supreme court would decide that the government had the power to acquire the railroads, etc. It could not in time of peace do so by "seizing" them. It would have to pass a law establishing a proper tribunal which, after a full and fair hearing, should assess the value of them, giving the owners and the government the right of appeal to the courts. The government, however, could, after a law of this nature, and which a tribunal established, take possession of the railroads before the value was determined, provide ample and proper provision were made for the payment to the owners of assessed value, as the same should be finally fixed by the courts. I do not believe that the government could appropriate to itself simply the use of the railroads for a definite or indefinite time, except in times of emergency.

If the government desires to acquire the railroads, the question will arise, must it pay for them in money, or can it pay in bonds or other securities? I am inclined to believe that while a corporation like a street railroad, for the use of which property is condemned, can pay only in money, where the government takes property under its power of condemnation, it can pay for it in bonds or securities that would be regarded as the equivalent of money. What I have said and will say about railroads, does and will apply equally to telegraph and telephone companies.

Personally, I am opposed to any government owning and operating anything that can be operated as well and efficiently by individuals, with no greater expense to the state or consuming public. I believe that in a republic, which is and always should be the land of opportunity, no avenue of competition that can safely be kept open should be closed, and that no chance for the individual to climb by his own exertions, from the very bottom to the very top, should be taken away. I hope it will always be possible in this country to start a boy in a small way with a railroad, a messenger or water boy, or something else equally as unimportant, and in 15 or 20 years, become the president of the road, as is the case with more than two-thirds of the present presidents of railroads in this country. The public will get better service where the individual operates the railroads than where any government operates them.

I believe that a private corporation could take a contract to operate various departments of the city of New York or the United States at 75 per cent of the present cost and, although calling on the employes to work exactly the same number of hours, could do the work as well or better than it is now done, and yet earn very handsome profits. No one who has had occasion to use government-operated railroads or telegraph lines in Europe could or would, on the ground of service to the patron, favor governmental ownership of railroads and telegraph companies in this country. Let the railroads and telegraph companies fight and compete with each other as to who can give the best service, and, by thus winning favor with the public, obtain the greatest patronage.

The government, after the close of this war, should return the railroads to their owners, but treat them with justice, which it has not done for quite a few years, i. e., it should give them a decent chance to live.

While I believe that the government should not acquire these public utilities, I am of the opinion that it has the legal right to do so. Has the government, however, the right to continue to operate the railroads 10 years or even five years after the close of the war, as it has been suggested that it should do? I think not. If the government wishes to continue to operate them, for anything beyond an absolute necessary period after the termination of the war, it must acquire the actual ownership of them under proper legal proceedings.

Many conservative, high-class financiers would like to see the capital issues committee, which decides what stocks and securities may be issued or may not be issued, continued for all time by the federal government. I do not see how it can be done constitutionally. Every lawyer must, however, hesitate greatly in expressing an opinion as to whether a proposed new issue will be declared to be constitutional or unconstitutional. What would have been held to be rankly and shockingly unconstitutional in 1900 might be decided to be perfectly all right in 1919.

As to whether a law will be declared to be constitutional or otherwise depends to no little extent on the personnel of the tribunal that passes upon the question. I believe that if Judge Hughes had not resigned from the bench of the United States supreme court the Adamson eight-hour law, which, by a narrow majority, was declared constitutional, would have been declared invalid. Many important laws that have been adjudged constitutional were so decided by a badly divided court, and the reverse of the coin equally true. The margin between deciding in one way or the other was almost a "loss up." So, how can any one, in an age like this, say with any degree of positiveness or assurance that any law is constitutional or unconstitutional?

Some of the states have passed what are called "blue-sky laws," prohibiting the wild and reckless creation and sale of stocks, the value of which was to be found only in the blue skies. A state may lawfully enact laws that the federal government, under its much more limited legislative powers, could not pass. The "blue-sky laws" passed by the states were deemed by some to be infractions of the state constitution, and the federal constitution as well, but they were sustained by the United States supreme court. As a ground for sustaining the constitutionality of a federal law creating a capital issues committee in times of peace it might be claimed that as long as the government may be compelled to issue Liberty bonds it ought to have the right to protect itself against unfair competition from wildcat issues of stocks and bonds.

(To Be Continued.)

Today

The Day We Celebrate.
G. A. Rohrbough, president American Security company, born 1859.
Rear Admiral H. G. O. Colby, U. S. N., retired, who rendered notable service as a war worker in France, born at New Bedford, Mass., 73 years ago.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago.
The Elks held their lodge of sorrow with Gen. John C. Cowin as the eulogist.

Corrine appeared at the Boyd in Monte Cristo, Jr., but it is remarked she is no longer the little tot she used to be in the grime and dust of Cinderella's kitchen.

Cigars were the order of the day at the meeting of the county board at the expense of Commissioner Corrigan. It's a boy.
Postmaster Gallagher had a combat with the curbstone on stepping off of a cable car at Twentieth and Dodge, with the result that he is wearing his right optic in mourning.

The Bee's Letter Box

Extra Pay for Soldiers.

Beatrice, Neb., Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your article in yesterday's Bee providing for six months' pay for returning soldiers and sailors until they can get employment, and a rest home for them, at least partial for some environments, strikes a popular chord and should be not only encouraged but demanded, especially in light of the events of the last day or two when so many cases are being reported of soldiers being stranded in many of our cities. The \$100,000,000 had better be made available for this purpose than that for which it is asked. Surely the government cannot do better. I know of many instances where our soldiers have sacrificed not only their lives but their health and business enterprises and, in some cases, even giving away their last suit of clothes before enlisting for the defense of our country, and while some have relatives and friends to welcome their return, many have not and should be provided for.

Push the movement to the limit.
J. O. DE LAND.

Cause of Bolshevism.

North Platte, Neb., Jan. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: We have been reading so much lately about bolshevism and so many people trying to figure out the cause for its rapid spread amongst us. We believe a little sober thinking will give us the correct answer. We saw a few days ago, that Burke Cochran, an eminent orator and lawyer, defined it as an standing for justice for the masses of the people. If that be true, then we may discover the reason. Ben Howe, secretary of the Community Council of Defense, in the harbor boatmen's wage complaints, under the auspices of the War Labor board, declared that in 1817 every 12th citizen of New York City had been buried in an event of the day in the potters field, and that 20,000 children that are being taken care of by the City of New York. Mr. Howe states, are the children of underpaid people and the high cost of living, he states, are due to profiteering by brokers and sabotage by manufacturers.

Now, the foregoing conditions are not new, but they exist in about every large city in the country and in many smaller ones. Under these circumstances, the congress voted \$100,000,000 to feed the people of other countries, and suggests it ought to be four times as much, and doesn't say a word about their own people that are a corker of a meeting.

North Platte, Neb., Jan. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: I believe it is their duty to first protect; consider this and you will discover the real bolshevism. The longer such legislation continues the more bolshevism will spread and it will be a good and holy thing to be charitable, but don't neglect your own family, whom it is your duty to attend to first.

WILLIAM LYMAN.

The Melting of the Ice.

Omaha, Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: On the 23rd of January, 1919, the melting of the ice, as well as communication and transportation, problems, by favoring a confidence in the people, will cause the appearance of many new unforeseen developments and in all probability measurably facilitate the correct settlement of racial and other issues, formerly considered too deep, or fraught with perilous possibilities.

The removal of imperialistic oppression, race fears and hatreds, besides the holding out of immunity from menacing war, will, in time, raise the aim of humankind and the correct settlement of racial and other issues, formerly considered too deep, or fraught with perilous possibilities.

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When THE BOYS COME HOME
Blew loud the siren whistle,
Made ten thousand kinds of noise,
Let us give a hearty welcome
To the boys who come home.

They fought like men, and not like fiends,
And never once did yield,
A foot of ground they once had won
On battlefields bloody and red.

They never wronged a woman,
They never wronged a child,
They respected laws of warfare,
And no sacred place defiled.

And while we give this welcome,
To the boys who come home,
We think of wife and mother
Who is sitting there alone.

For on the battlefields of France,
There stands a little cross,
That marks a mother's blighted hope,
And marks a mother's loss.

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Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY.

(Santa Claus' reindeer come to Peggy and Billy Belgium in great trouble, because Santa Claus has been lost, with Christmas only two days away. They all start for Santa Claus' home to begin the search there.)

CHAPTER II.
In Santa Claus' Palace.
"INGLE-TANGLE!" jingled the sleighbells in a jolly tune as the reindeer raced over the housetops. The pace was swift, but not too swift for Peggy to see many a hopeful little face looking out for Santa Claus.

In less time than it takes to tell of it, they dashed through a terrific blizzard and found themselves outside a huge palace of ice. But the great gates were closed and the palace seemed silent and dead. The reindeer lined up against the gate, and at a signal from Prancer they began to kick vigorously. They were kicking jingled their bells in a merry Christmas chime, while the beat of their hoofs on the gate was like the playing of a toy xylophone.

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Nebraska City Press: If Nebraska county officials are expected to cope with the organized bootleggers who are operating between Omaha and Kearney in Missouri, they must be equipped with some other sort of motive power than flippers. Chasing a bootlegger who is driving a high-powered automobile with a Henry Ford is nothing less than a farce.

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And no sacred place defiled.

A WELL-KNOWN PHYSICIAN WRITES:

"I prescribe grapefruit for all my patients and tell them to be sure and get ATWOOD GRAPEFRUIT as other grapefruit to the Atwood is as cider apples to pippins."