

THE OMAHA BEE
DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY
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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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Sunday Extra will give a line on the weather.

Americanism is the first doctrine admissible in Nebraska schools.

Somebody around police headquarters has imitated the parrot of the classic tale.

Near beer is permitted, but it takes a lot of imagination to get any comfort out of that.

A bail bond of \$750 is small enough for a man accused of systematically debauching little girls.

Minnesota wants to be allowed to ship live stock to Omaha. They all seek the great market town.

Ten million bushels of grain are held in local elevators, a sign that food shortage no longer threatens.

"The way to suppress it is to suppress," but the difficulty usually encountered is how to make suppression effective.

Lenine tells his gentle bolshevik army to "treat 'em rough." For the love of heaven, what have they been doing?

More Nebraskans have landed at New York on the last leg of their round trip to France. Smiling skies await them at home.

Careful perusal of Leviticus might serve to assist in understanding at least one of the questions that is now taking a good deal of public attention locally.

Parking cars in public streets is coming in for more careful consideration by the authorities. It involves the city's most serious traffic problem right now.

Petty thieves are holding high carnival right now, while the heads of the police department wrangle over who is responsible. What's the matter?

Nebraska lawmakers endorse The Bee's campaign to secure six months' extra pay for discharged soldiers. It is a good thing. Push it along.

Some phases of the war still are on, as persons seeking to go over to Europe are finding out. America is one good country to stay in yet awhile.

Threatened atrocities by the Turks ought to put the powers on their guard. No "concert of Europe" now requires protection of these blood-thirsty marauders.

Omaha ranks third in the list of naval recruiting stations for the war period. Some record for a town that is as far from tidewater as it is possible to get in the United States.

Strikes in shipyards seem likely to help the government out of one of its predicaments in connection with the closing of contracts for ships no longer needed for war purposes.

"Do more and talk less," is the suggestion of the auto-insurance men to the police force, and the public will endorse the sentiment. With an average of three machines stolen for every day in the year, the situation looks bad.

One hundred millions set aside to feed the starving people of the famine stricken regions of Europe and Asia sounds like a lot of money, but it is less than a dollar apiece for those who are in direst want.

The "German people's party" sent a message of congratulation to "Bill" Hohenzollern on his birthday, addressing him as "your majesty." Happily, there are not enough of them to cut much ice, even in Germany.

No one is justified in complaining that free speech is at all restricted in Omaha. About everybody who has anything to say is given every opportunity to "get it off his chest." This unlimited discussion is better than bottling it up till something explodes.

The Air Route to the Pole

Doubtless the proposed aeroplane expedition to the North Pole is feasible in these days of long voyages through the air. The plans of the Aero club have been well worked out, but the purposes of the intended exploration are not so clear. Henry Woodhouse, a member of the board of governors, says that "from a national standpoint it is absolutely necessary to explore and map all the land, island possessions and waterways under the control of the United States."

Most of the islands and waterways in the Arctic north of the American continent are classified as British possessions. Greenland belongs to Denmark. It is only further west, between Beaufort sea and the pole, that the explorers could expect to find new lands in the uncharted waters north of Alaska that would properly come under control of the United States. Of course, every bit of knowledge that can be added to the store of human knowledge is worth while, but in some cases the attendant hardships outweigh the advantages. Great Britain would hardly quarrel with us if we should annex to Alaska some of the ice-bound regions to the north, and the pole itself by virtue of Peary's discovery is already American. But he found there only a vast floating ocean of ice with no land in sight.

A photograph of the North Pole might bear a resemblance to a famous picture of the Red sea after the passage of the Israelites. It was simply a field of plain blue paint. When the artist was asked where Pharaoh's chariots he replied that they had been submerged by the waters. And where were the Israelites? They had already passed over. Only, in the present case, the field would be likely to be pure white instead of blue.—New York Herald.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH OMAHA'S POLICE?

With the mayor, the superintendent of police, the chief of police, the chief of detectives, and the members of the detective force busily "passing the buck," while minor crime is running rampant, the Omaha police force seems sadly in need of a complete overhauling.

Scandal of serious nature has surrounded its operations for weeks, until now a situation has developed that threatens the efficiency of the force. Mayor Smith says he is waiting for a report from Superintendent Ringer on charges that were made openly, reflecting on certain unnamed members of the force. One officer has been arrested on a charge of soliciting and accepting bribes. The chief of detectives has publicly asserted that other detectives are dishonest, and that he "has the goods on them."

Such allegations deserve immediate and full investigation. Inquiry should be rigid and complete, that the facts may be developed and the innocence or guilt of all the men established. Omaha can not afford to have the present condition continued.

When the present administration was elected it was with the expectation that rumors of graft, incompetency, favoritism, and other wrongs in connection with the police department would be cleaned up. Instead, the turmoil has increased. Efficiency is impossible when the members of the force are at loggerheads with the chiefs.

Something is plainly wrong. An effort to locate the trouble and apply the remedy ought to be made.

Public and Parochial Schools.

Much of the discussion of the public or parochial school question at the moment rests on a misconception of their relation to the state and a misapprehension of their relation one to the other. The people of Nebraska, in common with all patriotic citizens, are determined that the first obligation of the schools is to teach children to become good Americans.

They do not intend to risk a renewal of conditions that prevailed before the war. To avoid this it is proposed to safeguard the source of instruction, by providing for such supervision or oversight of the schools as is necessary to make certain that nothing is taught which might directly or indirectly pervert Americanism.

Many parents desire that their children be given religious as well as secular instruction. Some are of the opinion that this can be carried on simultaneously. Nebraska makes no distinction in religions, but permits the freest practice of any. Denominational schools of many kinds thrive here, and parochial schools of various sects are numerous.

No sound objection can be made to these as such. It is unfortunate that in not a few instances schools were found that had departed from their primary purposes, and in which dangerous doctrines were taught. Such practices, we are told, have been corrected. It is plain the people of Nebraska will never submit to their being resumed.

Needed regulation of the schools should not be undertaken in a spirit of hysteria or bigotry. It is a political and not a religious question. The present legislature is made up of men of vision sufficiently broad, of tolerant understanding and sympathetic interest in the schools to justify confidence in their approach to the needed solution.

Veheement declamation on either side of the question is not likely to sway the final judgment of the lawmakers, who will act for the good of the state, and not with a view of aiding or hampering one or another of the sects.

Woes of the Paris Tradesmen.

Accustomed to the presence of visitors whose wealth does not ask the price, Paris shopkeepers are disappointed by the crowds attending the peace conference. Four years of stagnation in all lines has whetted their taste for the well-lined purse and they are tiptoe in eagerness to pounce upon the foreign bank roll and reduce its dimensions after the fashion they know so well. They find hotels filled and streets thronged with government employes, whose expense accounts are carefully and in some cases parsimoniously regulated. Instead of the expected munitions profiteers the hotels entertain stenographers, clerks and copyists. These may long for, but will not purchase, the wonderful creations that await buyers. It is all they can do to get enough to eat. Soldiers and newspaper correspondents, who fringe the body of peacemakers, long ago learned the value of money by the simple process of earning it, and they are not of the class that creates commotion among dressmakers or similar enterprises. It is not a poverty-stricken lot that Paris is entertaining. From the highest to the lowest, they are there on business, and are attending to their own affairs. Meantime, they occupy hotel rooms and feed at cafes where other customers might be more welcome, and the thrifty citizens of the center of fashion and frivolity will speed them on their way with some enthusiasm as they turn to welcome the guests who come with ampler purses on whose strings the knots are lax.

When the Packers Disagree.

One interesting phase of the meat packing situation is disclosed in the accounts of hearings before the congressional committees. Mr. Armour is reported to have prepared a bill, embodying his ideas of governmental control, which will be presented to congress. Mr. Morris lays great emphasis on his opinion that the government will do well to keep hands off. At the same time the food administration fixes a basic rate for hogs of \$17.50 per hundred-weight for the month of February. The packers frankly admit they dread a drop in prices, as their storage rooms are crowded with meats for which they have paid top figures. Here is the only point of agreement between them on the main topic. In the meantime, the patient public continues to pay for food at famine prices with supplies in sight far beyond any of late experience. It is not so much a question of what is needed as of how to do it, but the puzzle is made the denser by the proceedings at Washington.

Mr. Burleson, with charming frankness, says he took over the wires to save them. A little while ago he argued it was a war measure. The facts will come out some day, and will probably be found that the postmaster general made the grab because he thought the grabbing was good.

The Constitution During the War and Afterward.

By Henry Wollman, in the Analyst.

PART III.—Conclusion.

Is there any way to continue the national food administration, so that it can regulate the distribution, consumption, and price of food-stuffs? Could the coal administration, or any part of it be lawfully continued in times of peace? I do not see how it can be done. Even if the federal government had the power, I am sure that the people of this republic would not permit any such control to be exercised over their business affairs and movements.

Unless one has watched it very carefully, he would be surprised to see what the federal government has been able to regulate and stop, under the interstate commerce clause of the constitution. I imagine that Alexander Hamilton, if he could get out of his grave in Trinity Church cemetery, at the head of Wall street, might be not a little shocked to see the federal government, to the practical exclusion of the states and municipalities, punishing people for vending impure food. The interstate commerce provision of the constitution is a marvelous thing when an umbrella is needed for certain federal legislation. The courts, at some future time, might think it broad enough to let some department in Washington tell us what we can eat and what we can not eat that has been shipped from one state to another state; whether we can use pure wheat flour or must use mixed flour, how much we must pay or not pay for coal mined in Pennsylvania and shipped here, or whether we must, on certain days, abstain from using coal mined in other states. I hope not and believe not, but who can tell?

The question is now often agitated, Can the United States absolutely confiscate the property of an alien enemy within its territory, or mean impound it and hold it or its proceeds for the owner until the war is over, but keep it for all time or use it in paying indemnity to be exacted from the government of the owner. A government at war with another government, unless prevented by an ante-bellum treaty, has the strict legal right to retain as its own the property of an alien enemy within its territory, but modern ethics and practice are emphatically adverse to that.

Chief Justice Marshall, America's greatest jurist, in Brown against United States, 8 Cranch 110, in deciding a case growing out of the war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, speaking for the United States supreme court, said: "The modern rule, then, would seem to be that tangible property belonging to an enemy and found in the country at the commencement of war, ought not to be immediately confiscated; and in almost every commercial treaty an article is inserted stipulating for the right to withdraw such property."

"The constitution of the United States was framed at a time when this rule, introduced by commerce in favor of moderation and humanity, was received throughout the civilized world. It is urged that, in executing the laws of war, the executive may seize and the courts condemn all property, which, according to the modern laws of nations, is subject to confiscation, although it might be regarded as an act of the legislature to justify the condemnation of that property which, according to modern usage, ought not to be confiscated."

"The rule, like other precepts of morality, of humanity, and even of wisdom, is addressed to the judgment of the sovereign; and although it cannot be disregarded by him without obliquity, yet it may be disregarded."

The United States supreme court, within the last two months, rendered a unanimous opinion, which says in effect to every court in this country that our courts must guard with the utmost care the rights of alien enemies having property and interests in this country, which, by reason of their absence in the enemy territory, are not subject to present seizure. In Watts, Watts & Co. against Union Assurance of Navigation, etc., an Austrian corporation, (Advance Sheets, Lawyers' Edition, November 15, 1918.) the United States supreme court said:

"The respondent, although an alien enemy, is, of course, entitled to defend before a judgment should be entered. It is now represented by counsel. But intercourse is prohibited by law between subjects of Austria-Hungary outside the United States and persons in the United States. We cannot say that, for the proper conduct of the defense, consultation between their respective countries may not be essential even at this stage. The war precludes this."

"Under these circumstances, we are of opinion that the decree dismissing the libel should be set aside and the case remanded to the district court for further proceedings, but that no action should be taken there (except such, if any, as may be required to preserve the security and the rights of the parties in statu quo) until, by reason of the restoration of peace between the United States and Austria-Hungary, or otherwise, it may become possible for the respondent to present its defense adequately."

The courts, during the war, did what it was imperatively necessary that they should do, they sustained all the laws and war measures that were brought before them. It was a maxim older than our constitution, that in the midst of the strife of arms the laws are silent. But now that the war is over and no danger is staring the government in the face, the courts will examine, with their usual care, deliberation, and impartiality, all questions growing out of the war that shall be presented to them for decision.

Etheric Poesy Or Prophecy?

If Marconi is a true prophet as well as a great inventor, earth may yet do better than hitch its wagon to a star. It may hold etheric long-talks with its fellow-wanderers in space. The wireless telegraph is an interesting and a new belief in this possibility. He has already received in the course of his experiments, he says, impulses which may well have been attempted signals from other planets. It is, of course, not the first time that a scientist, happening to be also something of a poet, has had this dream of interplanetary communications. And not for the first time with the portion of the world laugh at the extravagance of such a dream. Perhaps, nevertheless, the laughter will on this occasion be less general, less far-reaching with its echoes. One remembers that since the earlier jeering at visionaries who spoke of talking with the stars the radio telegraph and telephone have come into being. The air has begun to give us its mysteries, to reveal its hidden forces.—New York World.

Today

The Day We Celebrate. Thomas E. Brady, attorney, born 1871. Meyer Klein, cigar dealer, born 1870. John D. Rockefeller, jr., son of "old John D.", born in Cleveland 43 years ago.

Duke of the Abruzzi, cousin of the king of Italy and one of the Italian naval commanders in the late war, born 45 years ago.

Romain Rolland, celebrated French author and Nobel prize winner, born 33 years ago.

Bornald Oldfield, one of the most celebrated of automobile race drivers, born at Wauson, O., 41 years ago.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago.

For the first time the Omaha and Council Bluffs motor cars ran on Omaha to Thirteenth.

The Wilkes-Ford Roofing company was incorporated by J. Wilkes Ford, Frank J. Lewis and James O. Hagan.

What is described as a "Wind-fall" occurred when a workman named Wind fell into an excavation made by John Eck at Sixteenth and Webster and left without red light warning signals.

A warranty deed was filed conveying eight acres at South Omaha on which the Fowler plant is located to the Omaha Packing company for a consideration of \$25,000.

The Bee's Letter Box

About Parochial Schools.

Omaha, Jan. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: In Monday's Bee a report of a sermon delivered by Rev. A. A. DeLarna, Baptist minister of this city, was given in which he stated six reasons why the bill introduced in the legislature to do away with private and parochial schools of this state should pass.

The main reasons given by him have been stated and restated many times, and as long as I can remember have just as often been refuted and proven groundless. I have attended both public and parochial schools, and have children who have attended both, and after close contact and association with both priests and parochial schools for more than 40 years, I have never known any of the charges made by Rev. DeLarna to exist.

Now, as to the part of some teaching being done in a foreign tongue. While this is equally true of public schools, it is well known that wherever indulged in it is only a small part of the work, and we can depend on the lessons of the late war and public sentiment to make the proper and necessary correction in both parochial and public schools in this regard, and a law will not be necessary for that purpose.

As to the patriotism of the parochial schools, they demonstrated clearly in their war work that they were second to none, as they have also proven in efficiency in every contest entered into with the public schools.

Now, I will give six good and sufficient reasons why this bill should not become a law:

- 1. The bill is un-American.
2. It is unconstitutional.
3. There is and can be no good or reasonable excuse given for its passage.
4. There is no public demand for it by anyone interested sincerely in the good of the children or the good of the state.
5. It injects religion into the politics of our state, which has been bad for our state and our policies whenever done.
6. It would attempt to deprive parents of the state of Nebraska of their God-given rights without good or just cause.
Each of the above reasons could be established in a court of justice by competent and well known facts. I can't understand how loyal and true Americans can sit silent while the sacred institutions of our government are bombarded and an attempt is being made to tear up and burn the constitution of our country. J. E. R.

Another View of Wilma Rice.

Omaha, Jan. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: Wilma Rice, former patient of the Detention hospital, cannot be as pure as she tells she is, and expects to be the rest of her life. The time I was confined at the home, her colored husband came to see her and bring her out some things, and she almost went crazy if she wouldn't get to talk to him or get a glimpse of him. She is a poor woman, and an example for others. And, also being a dope fiend, getting four shots daily, she cannot be pure as she addresses the consular agent of the First Unitarian church Sunday. Those people don't know about the treatment the girls get at the home. The home is a good place for dope fiends, if they get all they want at Miss Berger is right there with her hypodermic needle.

Because Wilma Rice has been a trained nurse and has a good education, she is not so much of a better than others. Thank God, I am no dope fiend and stick to my own race. I hope this beautiful blonde-haired woman will stay pure, if you can call it the rest of her life. ONE WHO KNOWS.

Both Individualism and Socialism.

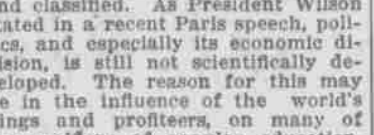
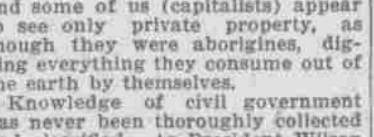
Omaha, Jan. 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: A correspondent of a local paper, who is not aware that socialism intends to socialize every property that is public in its proper function, is afraid that private property, which is not socialized, will be invaded. After drawing a frightful picture of socialism controlling the amount of candy the citizen shall consume, following a dramatic sunrise, he concludes that we can hear a sound drop, he inquires: "Shall we embrace as our political faith of the future, democracy or socialism?"

My answer to that question is: It will be both individualism and socialism, if we know enough to attend to our own business. It will be individualism in all matters of just personal liberty, and socialism in all matters of just common interest. Most of us have not learned to distinguish clearly between public and private property; some of us (communists) want only public property, probably on the theory that there is no such thing as a private animal; and some of us (capitalists) appear to see only private property, as though they were aborigines, digging everything they consume out of the earth by themselves.

Knowledge of civil government has never been thoroughly collected and classified. A President Wilson stated in a recent Paris speech, politics, and especially its economic development, is still not scientifically developed. The reason for this may lie in the influence of the world's kings and profiteers, on many of the molders of popular education. However, the development of true political ideas and ideas in a public work in which we all have a private interest, and the humblest of us should add our bit to the drive, regardless of the discouragement from either autocratic leaders or back-number followers.

WILLIS HUDSPETH.

Daily Cartoonette.



Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY.

(With Christmas close at hand, Santa Claus cannot be found by his reindeer. They seek the help of Peggy and Billy Belgium in finding him.)

CHAPTER III.

Peggy Sees Santa Claus.

PEGGY jumped to see what Billy Belgium had discovered in Santa Claus's All-Seeing glasses. As her eyes gazed into the long tubes she gave a cry of wonder. The vision she beheld was strange and surprising. The glasses revealed not Arctic snow and ice, but a warm land of the east—a land of waving trees, of sunbaked plains, of fruitful valleys, of towering mountains.

In this land, gathered around a well, were many children, hungry-looking, ragged, with long-suffering marked on their faces. They were brown of skin and their cloths were



"Now everybody shout!" Peggy ordered.

foreign to Peggy. Yet in pictures, surely, she had seen just such children. "Who are they?" she asked Billy Belgium.

"Armenians! Starving Armenians! Cruel suffers from the war," he inquired. "Do you see the man near the airplane?"

Looking again, Peggy did see a

EDITORIAL SNAPSHOTS.

Minneapolis Tribune: Columbia to John Barleycorn—Here's your hat, John; what's your hurry?

Baltimore American: Serious rioting marked the first German elections. They seem to be getting the idea of practical politics soon over there.

Philadelphia Ledger: By providing for a simplified form of census inquiry, the senate does its best to diminish the number of foolish questions.

Kansas City Star: The fact that Germany expects to get her colonies back seems to show that one of the serious injuries Germany received in the war must have been to her head.

Washington Post: Americans who are afraid that this country will contribute more than its share to feeding the starving people of Europe should look at the Belgian relief figures. Americans made nearly as much out of Belgium as they contributed.

OUR HEROES.

While shells were exploding, while heavens were weeping, Undaunted they followed our flag 'over there'; And ever defiant kept sweeping and sweeping 'Till foes to his doom in retreat through the glare.

And then in this hour of mad desperation, Our heroes, determined and fearless and brave, Swept through the fight with renewed concentration Till victory was theirs in the battle they gave.

Our heroes have won in the battle's confusion; The world shall give homage to deeds of the brave; The Star Spangled Banner, in freedom's affliction, With honor and glory in triumph shall wave.

America's laurels in splendor are gleaming Far out o'er the seas and o'er boundless domains; The folds of Old Glory are spread and are streaming To welcome our boys to their homeland again.

H. M. HOPEWELL.

Tokamah, Neb.

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THE REAL POINT AT ISSUE



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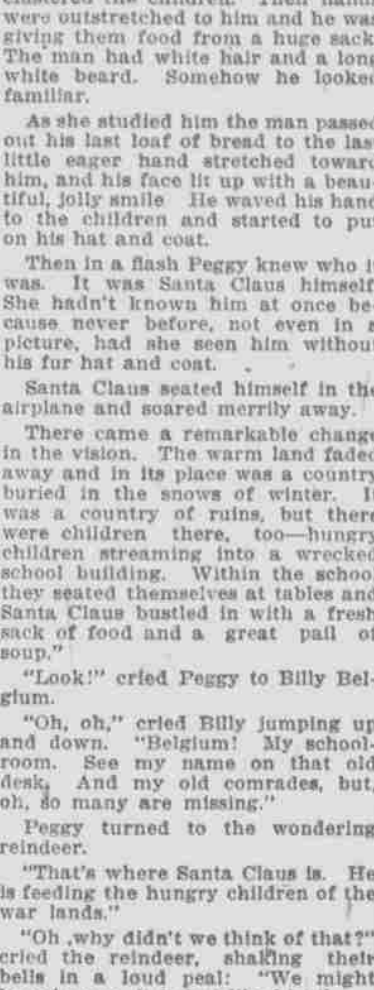
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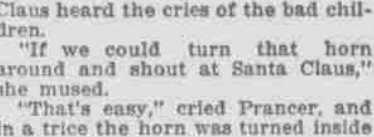
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