

THE OMAHA BEE
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The weather man still wears a smile.
Now is the time for all good men to prepare for the "war" garden.

France would like to see the peace council show a little speed. So would all of us.

The "unloaded" gun is as deadly as ever, and requires just as much care in handling.

Our county attorney has a splendid lot of opportunity before him just now, if he will only seize it.

The pest house was never designed as a pleasure resort, but that is no reason why it should not be decently conducted.

At any rate, the police shake-up has resulted in the arrest of one youth charged with stealing autos. Every little bit helps.

Girls keep up the traditions of the Central High school, by leading the boys on the honor roll. Some day this condition may be equalized.

"Save the kaiser!" is the cry raised by some societies in Germany. It will be as empty as a lot of other shouts sent up by the same crowd.

The "Welfare" board is not concerned in a case involving the debauching of little girls, but if it had been a public dance hall—well, that is different.

United States senators are disturbed by the shadow of bolshevism, but still waste time in talking about it. A little action in Washington might help the matter.

French socialists who cheered President Wilson will get themselves in bad with American "comrades," who spend most of their time berating the government.

Secretary Baker is in bad with the senate again, but the senators had better be careful if they do not court the trouble that has befallen critics of other cabinet officers.

"Bill" Hayward's outfit looks better every time the light is turned on it. The boys were dark enough in color, but they could fight, and the regiment certainly had a colonel!

"Charley" Dawes is another Nebraskan who will come back from France with honor and glory and medals 'n' everything. This state has a right to feel good over its share in the war.

Putting an embargo on hog shipments does not worry the producer a great deal, as he manages to keep the pens at the stock yards well filled with nice fat pigs to sell at a nice fat price.

Interest on Omaha school bonds may be paid in any kind of coin, but what the taxpayers would like to know is why the bonds were sold at all before any contracts were let for the building.

Fifty-three thousand, four hundred fifty-three Nebraska boys in the service! Some little army in itself, even as armies go these days, and a lot more who were ready to follow when the war blew up. Nobody will ever ask where Nebraska stood in '17-18.

Congress has just arranged to liquidate \$2,750,000.00 of contracts concerning the legality of which there is grave doubt, but argues over making good to the farmer on wheat. Why this favoritism? Is not the man who manufactures food stuff as good as him who makes munitions?

Having decided that all the world shall be a paradise and all men of one household and brotherhood, the meek and lowly bolsheviks are now raising an army to carry out their beneficent designs. They have even recognized the necessity of having trained officers, and so are forcing into the service all the intelligent men they have not murdered. The "reds" are long on consistency.

Railroad Revolving Fund
The bookkeeping of the federal railroad administration may or may not be intelligible to the average citizen. But when Walker D. Hines, the new director general, explains that the so-called revolving fund has failed to revolve back and is practically exhausted and asks for an additional revolving fund of \$750,000,000 of taxpayers' money, one thing is clear to every man and woman who can think at all.

The clear thing is that the 100,000,000 men, women and children under the American flag, on an average, have contributed or pledged themselves to contribute \$5 each and are now asked to contribute or pledge \$7.50 in addition for the financing of railroads that used to finance themselves and used to furnish better service at least a third cheaper than that which the government is furnishing. Hundreds of millions in wage-raises and back pay have been poured out to placate labor unions. Hundreds of millions have gone to the railroad companies and their stockholders for the use of the roads, for direct loans, for improvement expenditures. Among the direct loans is one of more than \$51,000,000 to the New York, New Haven and Hartford system. The fund of \$500,000,000 that is lost or in hiding represents only the margin, not the bulk of the waste.

Descent into a certain place is easy, but getting back, if ever possible, is very difficult. The practical problem before congress is gravely puzzling. The Hines demand is made. To say "No" flatly means railroad chaos, financial chaos, conceivably industrial chaos, and even a series of strikes against wages that are getting back to earth. To choose this alternative is a very serious responsibility for any legislative body. Part or all of the Hines requisition will have to be honored. But the appropriation bill should hedge about the expenditure of the money with safeguards not put into the former revolving fund bill.—Brooklyn Eagle.

KEEP CONTRACT WITH THE FARMER.

The federal government should keep its bargain with the farmers of America, and maintain the price of the 1919 wheat crop on the basis of \$2.26 per bushel.

No contract made by the government in connection with its war activities is more binding in its nature. The food administration, with the consent of congress and under instruction from the president, agreed in advance to purchase all the wheat the farmers of the United States could raise, and to pay therefor at a price per bushel stipulated on a basic rate of \$2.26. The emergency created by the war has practically disappeared, the markets of the world are once more open. Wheat from Australia, Argentina, India and elsewhere is now available, and its presence will result in lowering the world price.

If American wheat is sold on the world market, the price will very likely drop to \$1 per bushel, or even below that. On the expected crop of a billion bushels, this will mean that the federal government will be required to assume a loss of \$1,260,000,000 in order to make good its pledge to the farmers.

But why should not faith be kept with these as well as with others who have served the government? Steps are being taken to make whole other contracts, the completion of which was interrupted by the sudden termination of the war, so that investments in machinery, material and partially completed output will not be lost to manufacturers. Seventy per cent of the 1919 wheat crop was sown prior to November 1, and therefore the manufacture of that great war essential was well under way when the armistice was signed. It can not now be stopped, nor is any salvage possible short of harvest.

No case could be clearer than that of the farmers. If the government is to liquidate any contract, it should be the one made for wheat. Mr. Hurley talks of writing off a billion dollars on the shipping undertaking; why not take the other step, and write off a billion and a quarter, if need be, on the wheat? Let the consumer have his supply at the world price, but make good to the farmer on the price fixed by the government for the 1919 crop. The duty is imperative.

One Appropriation for All Institutions.

In the absence of a budget system for the state a plan has been proposed at Lincoln that will fairly well operate as a substitute. It is to have a single blanket appropriation covering all the state institutions, to be apportioned by the Board of Control. This will require that the board work out a budget of its own, and so regulate expenditures as to effect many possible economies in management.

Under the existing system the manager of a state institution continually feels at liberty to go at least to the limit of his appropriation, and most of them have shown slight hesitation in going somewhat beyond. Authority to expend a fixed sum of money for a specified purpose is but slight incentive to economy at any time.

This is not said with intent to reflect on the capacity or integrity of any of the heads of the state institutions. They are hampered at times by conditions they can not control, and frequently are given tough problems to solve in executing the trust imposed on them by their assignments. With the money in one control, and expenditures made along plans that contemplate the best service at all the institutions, better results are possible.

Common buying of staple supplies has been found to be good policy, and this may easily be extended a little further under the blanket appropriation plan. That will naturally lead to the adoption of a general budget covering all state expenditures, to the adoption of which the republican party is pledged by its last state platform.

Long Distance Weather Guesses.

A learned professor of a well known college has predicted continuance of mild weather for the rest of the winter. He is in a measure safe in this, as the time has passed for the most severe storms, although the season is not yet so far advanced but some general and damaging disturbance is possible. The sun is nearly forty days on his journey to the north, or almost half way to the vernal equinox, a fact that lessens the probability of a lengthy spell of bad weather. But long range weather guessing is about the most unsatisfactory as well as the most alluring indoor sport we have. Here is an almanac, which for over two generations has served Americans as philosopher, guide and friend on weather. For the present days it predicts "Very cold, snow, stormy." It does not say where, however, and maybe some place, northern Russia, for example, its guess is verified. However, it has missed the mark in the latitude for which its astronomical calculations are made. Even the goosebore and the corn husk went wrong this time, and the ground hog yet has to be justified. So, while the venerable college dignitary may be right, and we hope he is, our suggestion would be to keep the coal bin filled and the shovel handy for the next sixty days. If you do not need them, you will be just as well off.

The "General Strike."

Labor disturbances appearing in all parts of the world may be symptoms of a deep-seated unrest, but more than likely can be traced to the reaction from the war strain. Production had been checked by a cessation of military demands, and the transition to peace industry scarcely was commenced when the strikes began to intervene. Whatever the cause the demonstrations are being carried beyond all reason. General stoppage of work entails hardships on the strikers as well as on the public, a fact they are quite likely to learn through experience. Great political principles will not be in any way advanced by economic disorder, and although the agitator may have his inning for the present, the good sense of the American workman is bound to come to the top in the end. Strikes in this country are not founded on hunger, or any condition of hardship, and while they all seem to be unnecessary, they are dangerous only to the degree that the real work of reconstruction is held back by them. Labor is slowly learning that the general strike is a delusion.

Lincoln correspondents are listing the old familiar measures reappearing in the legislature. Some of these have reliably served for many sessions, and ought to be retired. Can not their promoters think of something new?

Shall We Eat Our Drinks?

Brooklyn Eagle.

The proclamation of the Anti-Saloon league amendment reads about like this: To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: On and after January 16, 1920, it shall be unlawful to use intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, but there is no limit to the ways in which good cooks may prepare such liquors in solid forms appropriate for melting in the mouth or to be eaten.

Take heart of grace. It is well known that alcohol easily works up into shellac. Alcohol fit to drink may as easily be turned into flakes like dry shellac. The amendment simply elaborates and extends the camouflage principle of the old Raines Law sandwich. The new times call for new modifications, that is all. Our chemists will not trouble in turning cocktails of all varieties into chips that will rattle in a bag like so much raw glue.

It is clear that the Anti-Saloon league did not intend to interfere with our eating, only with our drinking; the words "for beverage purposes" stand out like a red cherry. To insure that a man's tea or coffee may be packed with beer, ale, wines and liquors in wobbly gelatine or more compact caramels. Trust our chemists. They know how. The supreme court must decide if a cocktail in a glass inside a suet pudding is a beverage if it is ladeled out as gravy. Then there is a fine line of rum omelets not within the purview of the amendment.

But the chief point to remember is that the smart people who put the amendment through were not smart enough to prevent the people of the United States from eating alcohol in food. Perhaps the reformer will work wonders in saving space in beer kegs and freight cars.

All the old drinks may as easily be eaten; they may be Fletcherized or boiled, eaten straight or chased down with water as a prophylactic against his simple meal of bread and dehydrated gin rickey added to a sufficient number of fizzy capsules will satisfy the most sensitive palate. There will be beers that can be carved like a boiled ham; there will be rye whiskey that will look like a patent breakfast food. There will be other vest-pocket beers that will look like yeast cakes or cream cheese. Tell the American chemist what the need is and he will turn every alcoholic drink into a solid that may be eaten, just as nature turns water into a solid that may be broken by the teeth before it is swallowed. Undoubtedly the supreme court will hold that if a substance can be cracked by the teeth it is not a beverage. The amendment plainly does not prohibit the manufacturing of alcoholic foods; only alcoholic beverages. To secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity it is hereby ordained that the people shall drink nothing stronger than water, although they may eat anything they please. Done (and done good) at the city of Washington this 29th day of January, and so on.

Bureaucratic Treason

In the development of the new treason at Washington we find that John Skelton Williams is considerably in advance of Chairman Moon of the house postoffice committee, who recently laid down the doctrine that opposition to Postmaster General Burleson amounted to the most heinous of crimes. Mr. Williams not only accepts this theory as the basis of his own currency, which is himself, but proceeds at once to organize a court for the trial of an offender upon whom a summary sentence has been pronounced.

The person who outraged the sovereignty of John Skelton Williams was a newspaper correspondent who ventured to suggest in his despatches that the success to Mr. Williams would be a gentleman of another name. To this invasion of royal prerogative Mr. Williams' response was a summons to the offender to appear before him forthwith, and when it was admitted that the culprit had actually given aid and comfort to the enemies of the comptroller of the currency, judgment was passed upon him without delay. He was practically admitted his guilt," says Mr. Williams in a formal statement to the public.

Ancient Race Awakening

With a prince representing an Arab king present as a duly accredited and officially recognized delegate at the peace conference, memories are revived of the days when the successors of Mohammed ruled a vast empire, which, after the fashion of the time, they had conquered with their mailed and sworded in the fulness of time some real government democrat will appear at Washington with an oratorical club heavy enough to subdue these upstarts.—New York World.

RIGHT TO THE POINT.

Baltimore American: Let the consumer see that his grocer is as prompt to follow the reduction of wholesale prices as he was to put them up. Minneapolis Tribune: If it be true that 13 is the president's lucky number, he would better ditch one of the 14 points. Any one of several might not be grievously missed. Kansas City Star: The enjoining of the new telephone rates in many parts of the country may be taken as a polite way the several states have adopted of hanging up on Mr. Burleson. Chicago Post: Victor Berger avows that he will never give up. Oh, well, that's all right. Many a man who refused to give up has been locked up—for good, long terms, too. Brooklyn Eagle: Starving German children of whom Dr. von Mach wept turn out to be fat and rosy as Coblenz. The opportunity which Dr. von Mach had to weep for the emaciated children of Flanders he failed to improve.

Today

The Day We Celebrate. Carl C. Katleman, attorney, born 1891. Mahlon Pitney, associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, born at Morristown, N. J., 61 years ago. Giulio Gatti-Casazza, director of the Metropolitan Opera company of New York, born at Ferrara, Italy, 50 years ago. They are at least Admiral Charles T. Hutchins, U. S. N., retired, born at Kingston, Pa., 75 years ago. Prof. Lafayette B. Mendel of Yale university, celebrated as an expert on nutrition, born at Delhi, N. Y., 47 years ago. Maxine Elliott, a celebrated actress of the American stage, born at Rockland, Me., 46 years ago. Simeon E. Baldwin, celebrated jurist, former governor of Connecticut, born in New Haven 79 years ago. In Omaha 30 Years Ago. In the special election on the proposed relocation of the city hall, Eighteenth and Farnam won out handily over Jefferson Square—almost 2 to 1. An inquest is trying to settle responsibility for the collapse of the wall left standing after the fire in the old Max Meyer building, by which several persons were killed. The Plymouth club out in Kountze Place has elected J. B. Carmichael president, H. H. Miller vice president, J. A. Bollman secretary and J. H. Conrad treasurer. A. B. Snowden, pioneer druggist, died. He had located in Omaha in 1872. The Albright Methodist Episcopal church was incorporated by T. C. Clendenning, L. H. Edleblute, W. D. Luther, S. C. Hardy, Benton Rice, Amos Spaulding and John W. Sals.

Friend of the Soldier

Replies will be given in this column to questions relating to the soldier and his problems, in and out of the army. Names will not be printed.

Ask The Bee to Answer.

Release of Soldiers. Meadow Grove, Neb., Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: Have any arrangements as yet been made for release of soldiers who are needed at home by their dependents? Answer—An order was issued in America some time ago that any soldier actually needed at home on account of dependents would be given an immediate discharge on making a proper showing of facts. A similar order has just been issued abroad, giving General Pershing authority to discharge any soldier who can make a satisfactory showing.

Premiums on Insurance. Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: I want to keep my government insurance in good standing; how shall I proceed? Answer—Checks for premiums should be made payable to the treasurer of the United States and sent to the disbursing clerk, insurance section, bureau of war risk insurance, Washington. Payments should be made before the first of the month, on the same basis as they were made while in the service.

Missing Soldier. Rainbolt, Ia., Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: How can I get word of my brother present whereabouts in France? He was in an infantry company, but I have lost number of his regiment and division. Answer—Write to the adjutant general of the army, who will refer the letter to the proper department. It is a slow process, though, because it requires a search through the entire roster of the army. You will very likely hear from him soon, as great efforts are being made to clear up the jam in the mail situation.

Telegraph Battalions. Omaha, Neb., Feb. 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: When will the Omaha telegraph battalions be sent to the signal corps battalions to be sent home? Answer—Some of the telegraph battalions of the signal corps are under orders to return now, but no word has been had of the 408th, in which most of the Omaha boys are serving. These battalions are being reorganized in France for occupation service.

General Questions. B. H.—The 408th motor truck battalion is not a part of any division. B. C. M. stands for "British Central Mail." G. G. K.—A. P. O. 731 is located at Neuchateau, France. The Twelfth service company must be stationed near that place if mail to the unit is sent to this postoffice. The unit is not attached to any division. E. R. K.—The Twenty-seventh infantry is one of the units in Russia. L. M. G.—Base hospital 73 is stationed at Toul, France. No mention has been made about the return of the units at this hospital.

M. O. G.—The tank corps is not essential in any way to the army of occupation and they will, therefore, be returned at an early date. The 209th machine gun battalion is part of the 84th division. Mrs. Wilson—The Thirty-fourth arrived January 26. M. J. S.—The Seventy-second Coast artillery has been designated for early occupation. M. G.—The 421st Telegraph battalion arrived on the Nebraska at Newport News on January 27. The 435th Telegraph battalion has not sailed yet. The Forty-first Service company is not attached to any division.

An Ex-Post Facto Kick. Omaha, Neb., Feb. 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: If prohibition diminishes crime: Why has Kansas 91.1 sentence prisoners, 100,000 population, while wet Nebraska had only 65.1.

GENIAL JABS. Orville Wright said at a dinner in Dayton: "Here's to the armistice! Here's to peace! The world can say now about war, as the lunatic said when he discovered whacking himself on the head with a hammer: "It's so nice when you leave off!"

Doctor—"The trouble with you seems to be that you eat too much." Patient—"You must be mistaken, doctor, I dine at the fashionable resorts.—Life.

Patients—I'm burning up with this fever. What is that you are going to put on my head? Nurse—This is an ice can. Patient—"Well, I must say, that is cold comfort.—Baltimore American.

"I asked him to come down and talk things over about the offer we made him. You see, he is a high-priced man. "Then you may be sure he won't come down."—Baltimore American.

Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY.

CHAPTER III. An Old Friend Appears.

"Peggy and Billy Belgium, wandering in the Land of Lost Things, are asked to rescue articles held captive there, but are unable to find even their own way out." "I'll have to think this thing over," declared Billy Belgium, "puckering his face into a frown. "There surely is some way out of here." "When you've found it, tell me, I'd like to know," chuckled Gloomy Nooks. "I feel awfully frowsy. I'd like to have a bath if I'm going back among folks," said the first golf ball. "And I. And I," echoed the other articles. "Here a brook, I'll help you wash up," offered Peggy. In a moment



"Judge Owl!" shrieked Peggy, joyfully.

the golf balls, coins and pieces of jewelry were getting rid of the mold and dirt which made them look dull and tramping. Peggy was astonished at the effect of the bath. It transformed the dingy golf balls into smart, white, swift-looking spheres as class as any seen in a tournament.

"Why, you are fine, new balls," she cried in surprise. "To be sure we are I'm a Silver King," boasted the first ball. "And I'm a Dunlop, and I'm a Dimple, and I'm a Homer." And so the golf balls went on telling their names.

"Why are you waiting your time here?" asked Billy. "Another foolish ball made us discontented," confessed Silver King. "He said there wasn't any sense letting ourselves get banged around the links when we could rest peacefully in the woods. So I got lost and I

tell you I've been sick of it ever since. It's no fun lying molding when one is made for wild, exciting rides on the links." "And I came here because my master was a beginner and was all the time banging me over the head," spoke up the Dunlop. "But I'd rather be banged over the head on the links than sleep my head off here."

"We all got tired of work and wanted a rest," confessed the coins, the jewelry and the other articles. "But please, please get us out of here and we'll never waste another day of our lives." "Can any of you remember which way you came?" asked Billy, eagerly, seeking a possible clue to the path to the outer world.

"No, we've slept so sound we've forgotten all about that," admitted the golf balls. "Might as well give up and go to sleep," chuckled Gloomy Nooks. "You are bound to be my subjects whether you want to be or not."

"Who, who?" unexpectedly hoisted a voice from the tree over head. "Judge Owl!" shrieked Peggy joyfully. "It's Judge Owl!" "Who, who wants Judge Owl?" stammered the Judge in a scared way, sticking his head out of a hollow tree.

"We want you—Princess Peggy and Billy Belgium." "Oh, that's different," hooted the Judge in a relieved tone as he scrambled out of the tree and dropped down to the ground. "Welcome to the Land of Lost Things."

"Is this where you have been keeping yourself?" asked Peggy, who hadn't seen her feathered friend since the night he went wooing Miss Snowy Owl. Miss Great Horned Owl and Miss Screech Owl with such unpleasant results for himself. "I've been safe here even though lonesome. Have you seen those three rampaging female owls lately? Never—when it is dark. Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

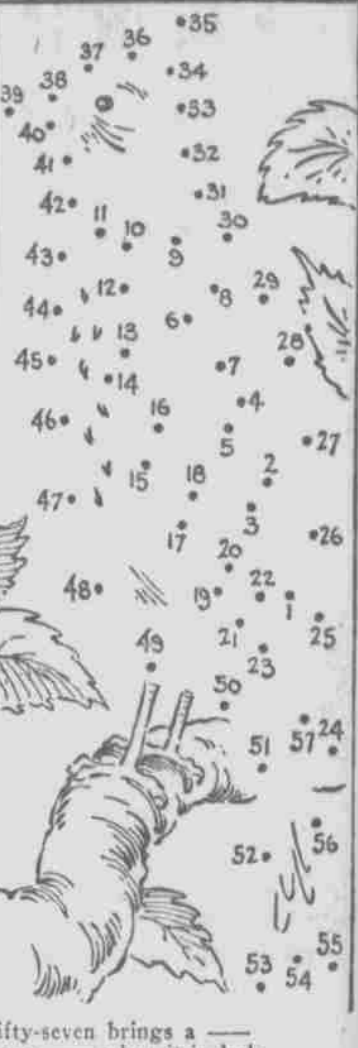
"Good!" hooted Judge Owl. "Now I guess I can go back home. I'm glad you came after me. I'll go along with you." "Fine!" shouted Peggy and Billy together, seeing their troubles about to vanish. "Hurry up and show us the way."

"Why I don't know the way," hooted Judge Owl. "I came here so fast that night I never noticed the direction."

"I know the way," squeaked the saucy rabbit which had been the cause of their getting lost. He had suddenly appeared from the woods. "Follow me and you'll get out all right. With that it whisked away so fast through the underbrush that their eyes couldn't follow it.

"Hee, hee! Better settle down to a good long sleep, for you'll be here a long, long time," chuckled Gloomy Nooks. "Peggy and Billy Belgium cannot find the way out of the Land of Lost Things

Daily Dot Puzzle



Fifty-seven brings a — Never — when it is dark. Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

where, with Judge Owl and many lost articles, they are held captive by the pathless woods.) (Tomorrow will be told how the saucy rabbit finds his revenge turned against himself.)



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The Bee's Letter Box

Citizenship. Scottsbluff, Neb., Jan. 31.—To the Editor of The Bee: A male child was born in the United States of America of German parents; if no naturalization papers are taken out for 21 years, of what country is the son a citizen? H. G. M. Answer—Under the 14th amendment to the constitution of the United States, a child born in this country of parents who are subject to the laws of this country, is a citizen, regardless of whether his parents are naturalized.

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AND HE DID

