

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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DECEMBER CIRCULATION
Daily 65,219—Sunday 62,644

Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to them. Address changed as often as required.

But suppose congress does not carry out its orders?
Omaha has plenty of school sites, but really needs school buildings.

Welcome, Mr. March Lion, and let us see you turn into a lamb!

Even the legislature can do nothing to please the democrats. It is an odd world, heigh-ho!

The "baby blizzard" almost grew into a real child of the north wind up in the land of the Dakotas.

The president could trust the democratic congress, for he knew it would do nothing while he was away.

Somebody asks if the right to live in this country is worth the price we are paying for it. Wait and see.

Federal inquiry into the cost of living in Omaha may start out with the premise that it is high enough.

Persons visited by the state booze hounds have no occasion to complain that the search was not thorough.

Jugo-Slavia has faith in the League of Nations, but is getting all ready to fight for the Dalmatian coast, just the same.

Land for the returning soldier is all right, but if he has to wait for the democratic congress to provide it he will never get the farm.

The Prince's island conference is about to be called off, because the bolsheviki have declined to take part in it. Where do we go from here?

Ellis U. Graff has been chosen to high office in the National Educational association, a fact of which his Omaha friends will congratulate him.

If the tentative draft of the league constitution gets such a raking now, what may we look for when the brake is taken off and the real discussion starts?

Now, then, just what did the president say about the Irish question? Nobody seems to know exactly, so will Mr. Wilson please repeat it, loud enough for all to hear?

The chairman (by right of seniority) of the senate's committee on foreign relations is a busy member just now, but does not seem to be making much impression on the opposition.

Airplanes and similar vehicles landing in Nebraska will be searched for contraband oil if joy if the present bill is amended as proposed. Prohibition keeps pace with progress, all right.

A lot of painters are being kept busy marking "U. S." on locomotives, and in a little while they will all have jobs again painting out the letters. The railway administration is nothing if not efficient and economical.

Switzerland is taking no chances on the good behavior of the Bavarian bolsheviki, and has increased its border guard. The Helvetians have not forgotten the lessons they learned from Julius Caesar, although some of their neighbors apparently have.

The bill valuating army contracts to the amount of \$2,700,000,000, has been sent to the president. As these contracts were all verbal, most of them made over the telephone twenty-four hours after the armistice was signed, the affair will one day require a lot of explaining by the administration.

Thomas Riley Marshall, vice president of the United States, is inclined to be testy as the session draws to a close. He must remember he can not stop his fellow citizens from laughing at "Jimmy" Reed's antics any more than the president can keep the senators from talking about the League of Nations.

As more detailed figures are made public of the tremendous purchases by the government for war purposes, the full extent of the wild orgy of buying becomes more apparent. And there is no cause for wonder at the enormous stocks of all kinds which remain in the possession of the authorities. While the war was on, much stress was laid on the fact that civilian experts had generously tendered their services to help get the needed supplies. If they were responsible for what happened, their aim seems to have been to find out the utmost that every mill and factory in the land could produce and then buy it for the government, regardless of the quantity needed or which could be utilized. It appears, also, that deliveries were expedited so that comparatively little of the orders could be canceled after the armistice was signed. This is shown in a statement made by the statistics branch of the War department, issued last week. Only a few of the data are needed to make clear what happened. Of woolen stockings, light and heavy, about 133,500,000 pairs were ordered since April 1, 1917, and the cancellations were little more than 1 1/2 per cent. Underwear was ordered galore, the amount being over \$6,000,000 undershirts and more than 81,000,000 drawers, and the cancellations a little over one-half of 1 per cent. Nine million four hundred and seventy thousand overcoats were ordered, and more than 8,000,000 delivered, while of melton cloth the orders totaled over 94,000 yards, hardly any of which were canceled. Of duck the total ordered was 202,702,000 yards, and of shoes 29,645,000 pairs. These are figures taken simply at random. They help to show why trade was needlessly handicapped and why a pretext was given for exacting high prices.—New York Times.

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SITE FOR THE COMMERCIAL HIGH.

The effort of the school board to change again the location of the High School of Commerce from Twenty-second and Chicago to Thirtieth and Cuming has brought out the expected protest. When money was voted a few years ago for the erection of the school building, the site now owned was purchased, but the structure did not appear. Two years ago the board again approached the voters for authority to issue a million dollars in bonds, specifically for the purpose of constructing the proposed high school. This money was voted, and with the thought in minds of most voters that the building would go up as planned.

Last year, when the bonds were about to be negotiated, some talk of relocation was heard, but this was then discounted. Now it transpires options have been taken on a site at Thirtieth and Cuming streets, eight acres in extent. In defense of this action it is set up that the original site is too small. That depends of course on what is required of it. If it be to accommodate a building for the purpose in view, it seems plenty large; it does not afford the ample campus that goes with an eight-acre lot, but it has some other advantages.

The great Central High school plant is near enough to the Twenty-second street location to afford promise of such economies in operation and instruction and supervision of the two institutions that the size of the lot may well be overlooked. The great campus on which the Central High stands moreover will afford room for all outdoor activities of both student bodies and in point of accessibility is far superior.

The Board of Education will do well to discover, if possible, the desires of the taxpayers and patrons of the schools before it goes too far in its arrangements to purchase another site for the High School of Commerce.

Congress and the Country.

With certain confusion and possible disaster in plain sight, the president positively refuses to call the Sixty-sixth congress in extraordinary session. He insists that the Sixty-fifth complete its work by noon on Tuesday. Experienced members of both houses admit that it is a physical impossibility to achieve the president's requirements.

The great support appropriation bills may be passed, but only in incomplete and perhaps dangerous form. Measures of greatest importance are doomed to failure. Among these are such bills as that presented in May of last year by Secretary Lane of the Interior department, asking funds to carry on reclamation work. It was only brought out of committee this week at the demand of the president. Time for its consideration is not to be had, and if it goes through it will be without debate in either house or senate. The mineral land leasing bill, discussed for months, is finally snagged because of inability to define the naval oil land reserves.

These are but examples of the confusion that prevails. Democrats are desperately trying to accomplish what their party leader now demands of them, with no hope of succeeding. Their struggles are accompanied by charges that the minority party in the present congress is responsible for the failure of the majority to do its work.

What shape the country will be in after Tuesday only can be conjectured. If any of the big supply bills fail, and the president adheres to his determination not to call an extra session earlier than June, it will mean that some part of the government will have to cease for a time for want of funds. If the Victory loan bill is not passed, the treasury will be emptied.

In England, France and Italy the parliaments are proceeding with the business of the country, arranging reconstruction programs; in our own land all this is to be adjourned, pending the presence of the president at the peace conference. It looks as if America were paying a rather high price for the privileges of leadership.

Pay for Police and Firemen.

The new schedule of pay for policemen and firemen in Omaha, based on a liberal rate, awaits only the signature of the governor to become law. It will go into immediate operation, and affects the pay rolls now being prepared at the city hall. While the increases allowed are not all that were asked, they are substantial boosts, and put the pay of these men on a living wage basis. The outcome is commended to the attention of the men, as an evidence that sober action along orderly lines brings far better results than would have attended the radical course favored by some hot-headed outside advisers a short time ago. The men have found that their cause was considered on its merits, and that both the city commissioners and the legislators were willing to listen to them, anxious to do justice rather than to take advantage of their situation. Faithful service is always appreciated by the public, and while it may not always be rewarded in full measure, the public servant with a genuine grievance does not have to resort to violence to secure redress.

"Icy Mitt" for Chamberlain.

Senator Chamberlain of Oregon has been punished for his temerity in trying to force the administration to prepare for war prior to April, 1917, and for his efforts to force the War department to speed up after we had gone in. He has been "slipped the icy mitt" by the president, who can not forgive the man who criticized the dillydallying of Newton D. Baker, in December, 1917, and again in the spring of 1918. Mr. Baker declared the war to be "3,000 miles away," and acted accordingly. Senator Chamberlain, like millions of his countrymen, could see no reason for the cavalier attitude of the War department, nor could he understand why our program should be marked by delay and extravagance, without a protest from the executive. He said as much in public, and brought out a sharp rebuke from the White House. Events proved that the senator was far better informed as to the exact state of affairs than was the president. This, however, has not served to exculpate him in the eyes of the great man of the White House. His fate is a further warning to democrats not to pretend to think for themselves.

Another visitation of German U-boats is expected on the Atlantic coast, but this time they come manned by Yankee sailors, and will be the property of the good old U. S. A., which will make quite a difference.

No amount of investigation by legislative committees in Nebraska institutions will develop a scandal to match with Iowa at present.

Making America Safe for Americans

Frederick Boyd Stevenson in Brooklyn Eagle. Making America safe for Americans is not a trite phrase when used in the broad American sense. If America be not safe for Americans, one of two things will happen.

Either—America will be safe for nobody. Or—America will be safe only for those who are not Americans.

In the first instance America would be overrun by the bolsheviki, as Russia; and, in the second instance, America would be overcome by a foreign power as dreamed by Germany.

No one who is 100 per cent American can object to the phrase. The point is right here: What do you understand by "Making America safe for Americans?"

What does America mean to you? On the answers to these questions—correct or incorrect—by the great majority of the people of the United States—naturalized or un-naturalized—who have arrived at the "thinking age," depends the future of the United States.

If the great majority of the people of the United States answer these questions correctly America will be safe for Americans. If the great majority of the people of the United States answer these questions incorrectly America will not be safe for Americans.

What are the correct answers? In a broad sense America is safe for Americans when the American principles of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln and our ancestors who founded this nation are carried out. In a word, these principles mean that we must be thinking of America first all the time; not from a restricted and narrow viewpoint; not from a selfish standard; not with the idea of exclusiveness or of keeping aloof from participation in the affairs of the world, but with the full knowledge that in order not to be selfish, in order not to be exclusive, and in order that we can do the greatest good when we do participate in the affairs of the world—we must, in thinking of America first all the time, make America so "American" that it will be a leader of nations, and never an imitator.

Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln were Americans all the way through. We must be Americans all the way through or we will cease to be Americans. There can be no compromise. There can be no half-breed mixture with lingering loyalties for other nations. There may be a "melting pot," but we must be certain that only the pure metal and not the dross comes from the crucible.

What are the incorrect answers? We can read them every day in the newspapers.

The Industrial Workers of the World is one. The Navalists another. Profiteers another.

Propagandists still seeking to create sympathy for America's enemies and still seeking to prejudice Americans against its allies another. And so one might reach on into the hundreds, mentioning them by topics, but there are special concrete examples which need attention.

We are beginning to talk about a halt in immigration. We have been very free in opening our gates to all comers. We have been very careless in asking questions. The result has been just what might have been expected it would be—6,000 interned enemy aliens, and there should be 60,000 of them. Some of them may be innocent, but it is a safe estimate that more guilty enemy aliens are outside of the prison bars than innocent enemy aliens are behind the bars.

Keeping these points in mind the real Americans of America are beginning to analyze the different types of peoples who were, previous to the breaking out of the war, flocking to the United States. And they are beginning to notice which types have made good Americans and which have not. They are taking cognizance of the fact that citizens from certain countries, while becoming citizens of this country, still retain greater love, greater sympathy and greater loyalty for their fatherland than for their adopted land.

There are three immigration plans suggested:

1—An absolute bar for four years or more of all aliens.

2—Keep out the indigestibles; that is, discriminate.

3—Assimilate immigrants by educational methods.

Before we enter very largely into any assimilating process by education we should thoroughly consider the great uneducated masses which we already have in this country. Recent figures compiled in the surgeon general's office of the United States show that 25 per cent of the draft army could not read a newspaper nor write a letter. Of the 1,552,256 drafted men examined by the War department, 386,130 were either wholly illiterate or could not pass the simple tests, according to the figures of the last census taken in the United States, 5,500,000 of 8,500,000 immigrants and native illiterate persons over 10 years of age could not read or write English.

And English is the language of the United States of America.

To think in English is to think in "American." No man can think in the terms of a country whose language he does not read and understand.

Can a man who can not read nor write nor talk in the English language answer these questions correctly?

What do you understand by "Making America safe for Americans?"

What does America mean to you?

Wet Spots in Washington.

Only one truly-for-sure oasis in the coming American Sahara finds refuge at Washington. All the embassies located at the national capital enjoy rights of extra-territoriality and may stack their cellars from floor to sills with wet goods in defiance of the amendment. In vain will searchers and sleuths scout thereabouts. No doubt the embassies a year hence will enjoy great popularity, and mighty few invitations will be turned down.

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

J. Dean Ringer, police commissioner, born 1878.

Charles S. Stebbins, assistant general auditor of the Union Pacific, retired, born 1848.

F. F. A. Wellman of Bliss & Wellman, born 1874.

William Dean Howells, one of the foremost of American men of letters, born at Martin's Ferry, O., 82 years ago.

Louis K. Anspacher, writer of a number of successful plays, born in Cincinnati 41 years ago.

Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, president of Princeton Theological seminary, born at Ligonier, Pa., 53 years ago.

Osamu Sato, former Japanese ambassador to the United States, born 62 years ago.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago.

Seventeen offers of locations for the new federal building have been submitted to the government. They were opened in Postmaster Gallagher's office and sent out to Washington, No. 2 is the present site, block 86, offered at \$400,000. Block 115, the Eighteenth and Farnam square, is offered at a total of \$361,000. Block 114, immediately west, calls for \$290,000. A. R. Bradon, general manager of the Equitable Life, is in the city.

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.

Many Questions Answered.

E. R.—The 72d aero squadron in the service of supply, A. P. O. 721A, which is at Colombes-le-Belles (Meurthe-et-Moselle), in the Argonne sector. No word as to its return.

J. O. B.—Field hospital No. 37 is at the Sixth division, A. P. O. 717; it is part of the Eighth corps of the Third army, headquarters at Montigny-sur-Aube. In the army of occupation and not assigned for early convoy.

Mrs. L. T. C.—The entire 82d division is scheduled to sail for home on April 26; this should include the 307th field signal battalion, Base hospital No. 120 is at Brest, A. P. O. 716.

C. A. C.—The 60th regiment, C. A. C., was enroute for United States at last report.

A Sister—The 407th telegraph battalion, signal corps, is assigned to early convoy.

"Babe"—We know of no way to keep track of a soldier after he is discharged in this country.

John Remers—The address is incomplete, which perhaps accounts for the delay that had suddenly been kicked. And he had good reason to yell, for Billy had held the sun glass so that its burning ray shone directly on his head. The ray was like a red-hot iron, and it melted a hole right through the Imp's forehead.

It leaped from one high spot to another, but as fast as they went the Frost Imps were faster.

"Go away, or we will have the sun melt your threatened Billy. But the Frost Imps only laughed.

"Ki-yi, the sun is in the sky, away up high," they shouted tauntingly. One of the Frost Imps caught hold of the chariot. "I've got them," he shouted.

Then suddenly his tune changed. "Ki-yi! Ki-yi! Ki-yi!" he yelled, just as the sun had suddenly been kicked.

E. N. L.—Field bakery company 345 is in the service of supply, and is at Tonnerre (Yonne), south of Paris.

M. N. L. S.—The 10th field artillery is part of the Third division; division headquarters are at Schweich; this unit will not be sent home soon.

E. N. L.—The 118th infantry is part of the Fifth brigade, Fifth division, Third army, headquarters at Schweich; its address is A. P. O. 740, and it is in the army of occupation. The 35th transportation corps is not assigned to a division; it is at Gievres (Loire-et-Cher), and its address is A. P. O. 713.

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M. S. E. A.—The 118th supply train, which is with the 38th division in France, A. P. O. 828. Headquarters of this division have been removed to Camp Taylor, in the United States; cannot say when the organization will be returned.

R.—The 15th aero squadron is assigned to early convoy home.

RIGHT TO THE POINT.

Detroit Free Press: The millennium will be here when peace is as easy to make as war.

Washington Post: Our final paroxysm of loathing of the Hun will come when Joey Bernstorff comes crawling up, offering to forgive and forget.

Baltimore American: It is to the glory of American manhood that there was more rush to join the Navy when there was actual danger than now in times of peace.

St. Louis Globe Democrat: Prosperity is coming. Maybe, some day, the country will be so rich that ladies' dresses will again sweep the sidewalks with trails a foot long.

Minneapolis Tribune: If the coming league of nations should say: "Let George do it," the king of England, the British premier, the President of France and perhaps George Creel might rise as one man.

DAILY CARTOONETTE

I'M GOING TO PUT SOME FIRE CRACKERS IN THE STOVE AND SURPRISE THE COOK!

He took possession, "He said but true, no part of my body is alien to new. He romped and pounced the whole way 'till."

Mad, mad cough and ache and nose leak, too. Made powder and pills disappear from view.

Hot lemonade and quinine, too. Busted my neighbor's thermometer new, while he was back a dollar or two.

But here's a secret treat me and you. The meanest fire bug that ever flew from quarantines to Timbuctoo, he'll burn you back a dollar or two. Could never say he made me "blue"; Albion, Neb.

"BUSINESS IS GOOD, THANK YOU" WHY NOT? L.V. NICHOLAS OIL COMPANY

Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY

(Prince Bonnie Blue Bell, Peggy and Billy, while taking the growing things in the spring, are attacked by the Frost Imps, who rebel against going to the North Pole, where they belong.)

CHAPTER VI. Making it Hot for the Imps. THE Frost Imps, after their first moment of surprise, took after the flying chariot.

"Ki-yi! What fun, we'll freeze you as you run," they shouted.

The Frost Imps certainly were swift. The White Rabbits skinned over the ground at an amazing pace, pulling the chariot along so fast that

The ray was like a red-hot iron, and it melted a hole right through the Imp's forehead.

It leaped from one high spot to another, but as fast as they went the Frost Imps were faster.

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He took possession, "He said but true, no part of my body is alien to new. He romped and pounced the whole way 'till."

Mad, mad cough and ache and nose leak, too. Made powder and pills disappear from view.

Hot lemonade and quinine, too. Busted my neighbor's thermometer new, while he was back a dollar or two.

But here's a secret treat me and you. The meanest fire bug that ever flew from quarantines to Timbuctoo, he'll burn you back a dollar or two. Could never say he made me "blue"; Albion, Neb.

"BUSINESS IS GOOD, THANK YOU" WHY NOT? L.V. NICHOLAS OIL COMPANY

DAILY DOT PUZZLE

The Frost Imp seemed to go crazy, for he let go of the chariot, clasped his head in his hands and spun round like a top, all the time yelling, "Ki-yi! Ki-yi!"

The other Imps did not know what to make of this, but a second one seized the chariot and he, likewise, felt the sting of the hot ray. He let go in a hurry. Then a third and a fourth got burned, and by that time the Imps saw that Billy's glass was really dangerous.

"The sun is sending his rays down," shouted some of the more timid Imps. "But he has to send them through that glass," shouted bolder ones. "Keep away from that glass and freeze the Rabbits."

The bold Imps darted to the front of the Rabbit team and began to blow their icy breaths upon the rabbits.

And now Peggy jumped into action. She brought out her little looking glass and flashed a spot of light into the eyes of the bold Imps. The Imps were dazzled by this light and alarmed when they saw it jumping around among them.

"The sun's rays are chasing us," they shrieked. "Oh, how it burns! How it burns!" Of course the Imps knew that the sun didn't burn, but the Imps knew that the ray from Billy's sun glass burned, so their imaginations made them feel a hot scorching wherever Peggy's mirror spot touched. And as they danced about trying to dodge the mirror spot the chariot caught up with them, and Billy put the real hot spot on them with his glass. Then they did yell!

"Burn, burn, burn, rays of Father Sun!" shouted Billy.

"Ki-yi!" yelled the Frost Imps. "Flee for your lives. Father Sun is burning us up. To the North Pole! To the North Pole!"

And away they went to the North, licketty-splitter forgetting their rebellion, and anxious only to get