

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DOING AWAY WITH CONGRESS.

Some extraordinary things are happening at Washington. Congress is supposed to be enacting laws after due deliberation, but instead it is carrying out the president's orders.

For example, there is the Victory loan bill. It is the duty of congress to determine the amount of the loan, the interest rate and other details, but all these powers are being turned over by the law makers to the secretary of the treasury.

He will be given wider discretion than ever was granted an administrative or ministerial officer, because the president has demanded it. This is only one of the singular actions that characterize the close of the Sixty-fifth congress as the most remarkable exhibition of partisan politics ever exhibited in Washington.

If the Sixty-sixth congress were to be controlled by the president's party, the call for the extra session probably would have been out long ago. At any rate, the interim would not exceed a few days in length, and the new congress would soon be grinding away at the tasks the expiring body has so sadly neglected.

That is why the democrats are so energetically playing politics when they should be attending to public business. Mr. Wilson has dealt with the present congress from the beginning as a submissive and docile body, sending over orders for legislation, and receiving laws in return.

He encompassed the defeat as far as possible of democrats who objected to his domination, and sought to influence the general result by his astonishing personal appeal to the people, which proved a boomerang. Now he is insisting that his will be done in the closing hours, and finds his party eager to comply, regardless of cost to the country.

The republicans have prudently determined not to filibuster against the program, even though it might have been a patriotic course to force an extra session. Full responsibility for the blunder, the unformed and indigestible legislation now going through, must be accepted by the president and his party, and the orgy of extravagance, waste and mismanagement will end as it began with the Sixty-fifth congress, which abjectly surrendered control of law making to the White House.

Commission's Power to Fix Rates. The supreme court has passed on two points in connection with the power of the State Railway commission to fix the rate of fare to be paid on street cars in Omaha and Lincoln.

Published accounts are not clear as to the exact terms of the court's decision, but it seems that war conditions are not sufficient excuse for the increase proposed in Omaha. Neither has the commission authority to compel the straining of water out of stock, as was undertaken in connection with the Lincoln case.

On one point the City of Omaha loses. It was contended that the company had no right to earn on extensions paid for out of earnings. Money set apart to cover depreciation when reinvested in plant properly is considered as spent for repairs; if, however, earnings carried over to surplus are used to extend the service, the company clearly has a right to earn income on such investment.

The ruling of the court will no doubt be closely studied, for it affects not only the railway commission, but intimately touches on the relations between Omaha and the street railway company.

Outlook for Wheat Prices. Sir James Wilson of Edinburgh, former British commissioner to the International Institute for Agriculture at Rome, gives his opinion that English wheat will sell at 40 shillings per quarter by August, which is equivalent to \$1.10 a bushel.

He estimates that the wheat importing countries of the world will require but 16,200,000 tons during the year ending with July, 1919, as against a prewar average of 17,000,000 tons.

To provide this he finds an exportable surplus in the producing countries of 24,700,000 tons, available by the 1st of August next. Furthermore, as all wheat-producing countries are making great efforts to increase sowings, the world's wheat harvest in 1919 will be larger than the world's consumption for 1919-20, with a consequent increase in the carry-over of exportable surplus.

With the military situation cleared up, and the law of supply and demand again in control, he feels confidence in his putting the August price of wheat in British markets at not above the figure quoted. This is of great interest in America, of course, for the domestic price of wheat has always depended on the world quotation.

Good Times Ahead.

New York Times. During the last few days the security market has been buoyant, while the commodity market has continued a moderate, orderly decline.

The movements are logical, not contradictory. Stocks rise on the prospect of profits. Commodities fall on the prospect of lower costs. Both movements are prophetic.

The saying that the wheel does not grind with the water which has passed over it applies particularly to calamity news. There is nothing alarming or depressing in the bad news of the past years of terror and destruction.

That lies behind. The future must be better, not only by comparison with the war conditions, but by comparison with the best before the war. We are not on the crest of prosperity. Rather we are rising from the depth of calamity.

It is true that the world never witnessed such destruction of capital. But it is also true that it never witnessed such increased capacity of production. The latter is more important.

The destruction was temporary and has stopped, while the increase of production is as permanent as we choose to make it, under the stimulus of world wants and American capacity to supply them.

The world lacks food and materials to supply every want. There is a total of uncounted billions. Here only is plenty in goods and capacity of quick production. Every consideration of neighborly duty and self-interest constrains us to remove the obstacles in the way of bringing foreign buyers and our sellers together.

It is not practicable to assemble all the facts in this statement of conditions. Only the broadest outline can be given. The great bank clearings attest the activity of trade. The suggestion that the volume is in prices rather than in goods is negated by the tonnage passing over the railways.

Never was there such a volume of business and never sounder conditions among traders, as the fewness of emergencies proves. The largest foreign trade of 1918 was in its last month and the first month of 1919 registered above any other month in all time.

The trade of January put the world in our debt \$410,000,000, against \$470,000,000 for the entire fiscal year 1914. Undeniably food is dear, but wages are high and give no sign of immediate fall.

They need never fall if labor will earn them. High wages and cheap living are a contradiction only seemingly. They are reconciled by quantity production, capable of immeasurable increase if labor and capital meet with open hands rather than with clenched fists.

No true picture is without shadows, but the shadows only prove that there is sunshine. Living is too high for many, even with high wages. But the act of buying and selling an accumulation of goods that is almost a scandal.

We have taken from the soil in the last year more money than we have raised in Liberty bonds, and we are almost dreading the bounty of next year's harvest. How shall we pay for it, or store it, or move it from the farms? Never was there in eight such a total of living and slaughtered food animals, although never did them. There is so much cotton that the planters are planning to restrict production.

Once we were to be ruined by Chinese cheap labor. Now some seem to think that we are cursed by abundance. That is not true because foreign needs are greater than domestic supplies. The problem of bringing them together is far from insoluble.

A Produce Exchange meeting of the trade last week resolved that the embargo on exports of oils and fats should be removed, seeing that the present supply is 970,000,000 pounds, against 580,000,000 a year ago. In the House of Representatives there were protests last week against the embargo on cotton exports, and against the requirement of licenses for trade with neutrals.

People You Ask About

Information About Folks in This Column in Answer to Readers' Questions. Your Name Will Not Be Printed. Let The Bee Tell You.

Franco-American—Georges Clemenceau, premier of France, near the half-mile post of his 78th year, born September 28, 1841.

In the range of his studies and activities no man of his time, excepting Colonel Roosevelt, approached his record. Clemenceau has been a physician and medical writer of distinction, a war correspondent, soldier, a teacher in a young ladies' seminary at Stamford, Conn., a novelist, critic, playwright, and above all, a journalist of the greatest and most permanent achievement.

His most important leadership of France during the last year of the war. The passing years to date, though less brightly, physically and mentally he shows the working endurance, the staying power, the aggressiveness and quick grasp of affairs which distinguished leaders in their prime. It was his conspicuous vigor in the crisis of the war which prompted Lloyd George to salute him as "The grand young man of France."

Dr. Livingston Farrand, the new chairman of the central committee of the American Red Cross, is a well known educator who has devoted much of his time and talents to public health movements. He has served as treasurer of the American Public Health association and as executive secretary of the national society for the study and prevention of tuberculosis. A native of Newark, N. J., Dr. Farrand studied in England and Germany after graduating from Princeton in 1883 and received his medical diploma from Columbia university three years later. Since 1914 he has been president of the University of Colorado.

The daylight saving law may or may not switch the hands of the clock on the opposition putting through a repeal amendment or rider during the dying hours of congress. Whatever happens the hands of horological time will ever point to Senator William M. Calder of New York as the foster daddy of the law. The senator is a native son, born in New York City, just 60 years ago.

His education was had in the public schools and in Cooper Institute, and his early workday life, that of a broker and contractor. His political career began in 1894 when he represented the Sixth New York district in congress for five terms and then won nomination to the United States senate. One of his first acts on entering the upper house was the introduction of his pet measure for "daylight saving."

The death of George F. Edmunds of Vermont, at the age of 94, recalls the name of a distinguished group of national notables well beyond the fourscore milestone of life. The dean of the group is Levi F. Child, now 96 years old, who is president of the United States, 1889-92, who will soon celebrate his 94th birthday. Judge Charles Andrews, formerly of the New York bar, died in 1918, just over 81. He was admitted to the bar 70 years ago. Next to Andrews in age, ranks Roger A. Taylor, 90, a southern banker, who has his distinction in the legal profession in New York. Among the notables in the 80's are President Emeritus Eliot of Harvard, 84; Cardinal John A. Heenan, 83; and John Burroughs, the noted naturalist, going on 82.

Hastings Tribune: There is about as much excuse for the proposed bill as there would be in a bill compelling every minister in Nebraska to submit his sermon to a board of censors.

Fairbury News: One of the follies before the Nebraska legislature is a bill to create another high school of Omaha. The school is to be named after Mark Twain's characters who said to his son: "I can't read nor write, yet mother couldn't read nor write, yet she died, and I ain't going to let you know more'n we do."

The national educational director advocates the teaching of foreign languages in the American schools. It is an absolute fact, demonstrated by years of experience, that a person cannot learn to speak a language "like a native" unless he either learns that language in childhood or resides in a community where that language is spoken almost exclusively.

Imagine a condition where the ideas of the chauvinist prevail. Only one language would be understood by the next generation. If we should have another war with a foreign power (non-English) we would have no native-born citizen who would understand the language of the enemy—who could speak it properly and be useful in the intelligence department of the army. We must have bilingual children.

EDITORIAL SNAPSHOTS. Detroit Free Press: Germany, evidently, still has to learn that the threat is a mighty poor weapon.

Washington Post: Carter Glass can't count on the stability of the patriotism of the people in pushing the loan over the top if he will only put up some enemy that they can hit.

Minneapolis Tribune: One of the nearest approaches to a certificate of character for the proposed league of nations we have yet heard of is that the German press doesn't like it.

New York World: The fact that nine of the 17,000 foreign-born residents of the United States have not been naturalized or taken out citizenship does not mean that they are citizens. Most of them are children or women naturalized by action of fathers and husbands.

Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY

"FUNLAND"

(In the story Peggy and Billy Belgium have an odd adventure in the realm of King Fun.)

CHAPTER I. A Bump—and What Followed.

BILLY BELGIUM was running along the sidewalk when one foot chanced to land upon a banana peel. Up flew his heels and around he whirled like a pinwheel, his head coming down kersmack upon the pavement.

"What a bump!" cried Billy, sitting up dizzily. "I see—I see—What he saw he didn't say, but a look came into his eyes that scared Peggy, who had run up to find if he were hurt.

"What a bump!" Peggy also cried and then she, too, added: "I see—I see—I see!" "What was stopping right there. He was enough to make anyone halt in astonishment. The bumps had opened the eyes of Billy and Peggy to hidden things, and they had suddenly found themselves surrounded by a score of queer spirits that had a moment before been invisible.

"The sprites were shadowy, misty hurt. Before Peggy could ask him a question her own heels slipped on the banana peel, she turned an unexpected somersault, and there she was on the sidewalk rubbing her head.

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25 51 50 21 15
52 16
24 22 20 17
23 19 18 14 45

When the blow failed to stop, Billy lost his balance, and pitched through Mocker's body to the ground. Astonished at this, he looked up to see Mocker, unhurt, standing over him, and leering into his face.

"In the next chapter Billy proves that brains are mightier than fists."

It can't see that giving the freedom of the city to a fellow does him any good. "Did he in the old days. Might amount to something in the case of a man with a speedy automobile.—Kansas City Journal.

"Did you ever try to convince a man that he is wrong?" "Well, not exactly. I usually get him to believe that I am right, and let it go at that.—Judge.

"Mrs. Flatbush—Well, if you caught such a big fish as you claim, why didn't you bring it home?" "Mr. Flatbush—What was the use, dear? I never could have got it in this flat.—Yorker Statesman.

"Your wife has imaginary ailments." "Um. What kind of a bill are you going to render in this case, Doc?"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

"Is she his first wife?" "Well, as he married her again after divorcing her, she is what you might call his first wife once removed.—Boston Transcript.

"The old man is giving Bill a liberal education." "Well, and Bill is certainly giving the old man an education in liberality.—Boston Transcript.

Guest—Noodle soup, veal with tomato sauce and a cream puff. Waiter (who had been at front.)—How!

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DAILY CARTOONETTE. I'LL WHISTLE FOR MABEL AND WAIT UNDER HER WINDOW FOR HER.

AND HE DID.

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE. Dr. Hays Ganter, dentist, born 1877.

Dr. Ernest Cassel, the English financier, who has recently donated \$2,500,000 for educational purposes, born in Cologne 61 years ago.

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, 72 years ago.

Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Lillis, Catholic bishop of Kansas City, born at Lexington, Mo., 57 years ago.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago. The Omaha Baseball club is complete except one pitcher. The players so far signed are: Clark and Nagle, backstops; Proesser and Willis, pitchers; Andrews, Canovan, Cleveland, Campana, Layton, Strauss and Messitt for in and out field.

The Omaha Mortgage company has been incorporated by Thomas Brennan, Ernest Squires, Henry C. Boynton, Max Meyer, Ernest A. Benson, John A. Wakefield, Jacob Sims and John G. Stone.

Dr. E. Sloman and bride have returned from their wedding trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Muir entertained at their home on Spencer street.

Mr. Alfred Marschner and family are back from Europe.

then either be in ignorance of enemy movements or depend upon foreign persons for our information; either that or we would have by that time created a special class of the children of parents who have been able to send their children abroad for their education, thus making a broad and deep line of demarcation between the children of the rich and the poor. If it is the desire of Americans to create either of these conditions, the attitudes of those who would banish all foreign languages from the schools can be understood, otherwise dense and self-satisfied ignorance is the only excuse.

If we want to meet the world in competition and are willing to take our chances in the rough and tumble of international business then we must train our children in foreign languages and the younger we begin the better. We do not have to laud the country of the foreign language. We can teach American ideas in Swedish, Spanish, French, Bohemian or even in German.

Let us use a little common sense at Lincoln and not make a laughing stock of Nebraska.

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