

THE OMAHA BEE
(MORNING) — EVENING—SUNDAY
FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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

Night shifts are called on at Lincoln. The end is not far off.

The Omaha Federal Land bank is some institution, thank you.

Chicago will have a good chance to prove its sanity, if not its loyalty, today.

March was a real nice little lamb, at that. Now, let us have the April showers.

Eleven stubborn men can make a lot of trouble for the one who is in the right on a jury.

An all-year dog pound will create a few permanent places on the pay roll, so why not have one?

"The first clear day in May" is set for the transatlantic flight. That might mean any day out here in Nebraska.

"Sheelytown" streets need improvements, but for the matter of that, they have needed it for thirty years or longer.

Harry Ladd fired the first shot for the Victory loan in Omaha, and the bombardment will soon be general. It must be victory.

John D. Rockefeller, jr., says he no longer has interest in making money. He can have fun enough watching what he has multiply.

Townley is facing a serious revolt in North Dakota, just showing that any leader can get into trouble when he overplays his hand.

General Wood is good enough soldier always to show a firm front to the foe, but he doesn't hesitate to retreat when a politician comes at him.

General March's instructions that promptness be observed in discharge of men from the army is timely, and ought to produce good results. Demobilization may well be speeded up.

It does not require the gift of prophecy to predict a bumper winter wheat crop for Nebraska. Each field in the state is now a living proof of what is to come.

Boys held in the air service at a Texas training camp may be justified in their desire to get out of the army, but not in raising the red flag over a field dedicated to Old Glory.

The Corn Products company has dismissed its appeal from the verdict in favor of the government. If it is hit no harder than was the tobacco trust, or the Standard Oil, its stockholders need not worry.

The send-off given Admiral Sims on his departure from London leaves little room for doubt of the cordiality existing between the greatest navies the world ever saw. It was this spirit that won the war for democracy.

The League of Nations pact certainly will be no weaker if amended as suggested by Elihu Root. It was drawn by a great idealist, and it will be strengthened if the suggestions of a great constitutional lawyer are heeded.

The supreme court has denied Eugene V. Debs a new trial, and now nothing stands between him and prison save the devotion of his comrades who have threatened to save him or go to jail with him. Here is where we see the efficiency of a bluff as opposed to the law.

One of the most impressive criticisms on present day conditions is accorded by the paroled prisoner, who asked that he be readmitted to the penitentiary because of his inability to earn a living outside. Something is very wrong here.

That sale of Mexican land to a Japanese syndicate would look a lot more like a menace to the United States, were it not being promoted by a group of California capitalists who have long protested their super-loyalty to the country. An investigation may do no harm.

Why "Carrie" is "The Boss"
Representatives of the 2,500,000 women in the National American Women's Suffrage association are meeting in St. Louis. Their proceedings up to date seem to indicate that Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is the dominating personage. She is going to have her league of women just as President Wilson is going to have his league of nations. That league will not affiliate with either, or any, political group, though the leader graciously accepts an amendment that will leave individual women free to be enrolled republicans or enrolled democrats. Opposition matters, but does not break forth. The identity of the woman higher up is not questioned.

Why, then, is Mrs. Catt "the boss"? She is, indeed, a woman of high ideals, of organizing capacity, of many friends. But three years ago she was not a paramount figure, or an irresistible force.

Mrs. Catt is the trustee of more than \$1,000,000 under the will of Mrs. Frank Leslie, to be used for the furtherance of the suffrage cause. She is, of course, incapable of making what she regards as a use of those resources to maintain control of the movement. But women are in their conservatism. They stick to their own.

The Libbie Beecher-King murder trial is on in the district court, County Attorney Mahoney prosecuting and John C. Cowin defending.

South Sixteenth street property owners met in C. E. Squires' office to devise ways to induce the motor companies to build a street railway to South Sixteenth and thoroughfare.

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ROOT ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The most notable contribution to the literature of the League of Nations is that of Elihu Root, experienced in statecraft, not of his own country alone, but of the world. Mr. Root makes his position plain in his opening sentence: "I am sure that all of us earnestly desire that there shall be an effective international organization to preserve the peace of the world, and that our country shall do its full share towards the establishment and maintenance of such an organization."

He not only endorses the principle of arbitration for all justiciable questions, but would amend the draft to make such arbitration compulsory instead of optional as it stands. Moreover, he would bring within the scope of the league's council questions that are purely political, and give it jurisdiction over matters that are not justiciable in the ordinary sense. This may be achieved through the power of the league to call conferences whenever political disputes of a serious nature arise.

One of the weaknesses of the document, in Senator Root's view, is that it does not make ample enough provision for the development of international law, leaving determination of disputes to rest on or be governed by expediency rather than right. His language on this point is worthy of close attention:

No method is provided, and no purpose is expressed, to insist upon obedience to law, to develop the law, to press forward agreement upon its rules and recognition of its obligations. All questions of right are relegated to the investigation and recommendation of a political body, to be determined as matters of expediency. I confess I can not see why the judgment of three generations of the wisest and best of American statesmen, concurred in by the wisest and the best of all our allies, is thus held for naught. I believe with them that, necessary as may be the settlement of political questions upon grounds of expediency, it is also necessary to insist upon rules of international conduct, founded upon principles, and that the true method by which public right shall be established to control the affairs of nations is by the development of law, and the enforcement of law, according to the judgment of impartial tribunals. I should have little confidence in the permanence of an international organization which applied no test to the conduct of nations but the expediency of the moment.

This language gives vitality to the utterance of the president at New York last September, when he declared for justice to all without regard to the selfish interests of any. That the United States can not withhold from such a league is the opinion expressed in these words: "The allied nations in their council must determine the length of reconstruction [of Germany, Russia, and others of the central European nations.] Their determination must be enforced. They may make mistakes. Doubtless they will, but there must be decision, and decision must be enforced. Under these conditions the United States can not quit. It must go on to the performance of its duty."

Mr. Root is firm for the maintenance unimpaired of the Monroe doctrine, holding it to be not inimical to the interests of any European nation, and absolutely necessary to the development of the three Americas. He offers some specific amendments to the draft as calculated to strengthen it and make it more acceptable to all.

We commend the letter to those devoted patriots who have insisted that criticism of the tentative draft has arisen only from partisan opposition to the president, and who have made the swallowing of it whole a condition precedent to patriotism.

Do the Present Job Now.

There is a disposition on the part of some members of the legislature, which is reinforced by outside advice from different quarters, to defer important legislation because of the constitutional convention scheduled for next year. Why do this, or why do that, it is asked, when the constitution-makers may take up the subject anew and make different arrangements? This is the explanation for killing the suffrage proposal and all proposed constitutional amendments, and it is also being offered as an excuse for opposition to the administrative code bill.

For our part, we see no reason to defer action because a constitutional convention will meet soon, any more than there would be to fail to act because another legislature will meet two years hence with power to undo everything accomplished by the present session.

What is wanted is legislation from time to time to meet present demands, especially since the constitutional convention's work must necessarily depend upon ratification, and the people may not ratify. Experience in this and other states is that about as many new constitutions offered to the people are rejected as are accepted.

Let us do the job that belongs to us as it presents itself. The constitutional convention and subsequent legislatures will have plenty of work of their own.

War Is Not Over Yet.

Two men of vision, widely separated in their ways of life, brought the one message to Omaha yesterday. Leonard Wood, major general of the United States army, and Harry Ladd, music hall entertainer, each a student, something of a philosopher, and withal a man of action, told large bodies of hearers the war is not over. Looking at the situation from widely divergent viewpoints, they see one common situation. While the strife on the field of battle has terminated, the struggle for democracy is fiercer than ever. Its foes are not soldiers of autocracy, marshalled in arms, but the agents of disorder who assail from within and without by their tongues, their pens, and whatever means they may employ to delude, deceive and destroy. Americans are amply warned against these. No reform will be achieved, no millennium set up, by tearing down all that exists. "The old order changeth," but the process is not cataclysmic if good is to result. Beware of the man who proposes to save society by destroying the fruits of civilization.

Sympathy for Poland is more or less dissipated by the persistence of the Paderewski-Pilsudski government in demanding a large slice of East Prussia because "access to the sea" was included in the fourteen points. The course now followed is more likely to alienate than to gain support for the revived nation.

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Hot Air Heroism

Stars and Stripes, France.

They are getting away with a queer line of stuff in the states these days. Here is a sample, an excerpt from a Brooklyn newspaper: "The 149 fighting civilians" all wearing khaki and attached to the 47th regiment United States engineers, who returned Wednesday aboard the United States hospital ship Tenadores, were mustered out yesterday in the Hudson Terminal building. These men wear the gold service stripes on their sleeves, and braved shell fire, gas and machine gun nests the same as their military brothers. Many went overseas never to return. Cambrai, where most of the fighting civilians fought the Germans with picks and shovels, best illustrates their part in the war.

"At the front the minimum pay of the 'fighting civilians' is \$7 a day, equal to the pay of a major. The detachment that was mustered out built about 500 river barges, which were used for the transportation of troops across streams and moving ammunition along the waterways to the front. Barges were built in record time. Thirty-six hours from the time the first spike was driven, a barge would be launched. The men built bridges over night, and if the German bombing planes laid them in ruins, they would be rebuilt the next night.

"The men, all artisans, were exempted from military duty owing to dependents, but their patriotism was not allowed to flag at home, and they volunteered for the skilled labor battalions and worked with the engineers."

Now, then, the 149 "fighting civilians" were the employes of a contracting company who, a few days after the United States declared war in 1917, were sent to France to get French ports ready for the use of American troops and supplies. They were supplemented a few weeks after their arrival, and eventually superseded by American engineers, hurried from the United States. They worked at Bordeaux, 550 kilometers from the front as the bombing planes whirled (but never did) fly. They never saw a machine gun nest; they never moved ammunition near the front; they never laid a pontoon bridge; they never repaired a trench road; they never got to Cambrai. It was a regiment of railway engineers that fought there. It is not on record that they built any bridges at all. They did build docks and they did build barges.

Considering that they were hired in an emergency; that they got to France and began work sooner than militarized engineers could be got here; that they saved several golden weeks in laying some of the foundations of the American organization which subsequently decided this war, even the soldiers who in the last year and a half worked with them never criticized the \$7 a day they received. Albeit, the soldiers may have been a little envious of the \$7 a day, since recently, when they launched a barge which they themselves had constructed, they christened it the "one dollar" barge. The civilians were capable, but they did not have a monopoly on ability. They may have had the material to make good fighters. But no one knows. It is hard to tell 550 kilometers from the front.

However, the quotation on the "fighting civilians" is just a sample of the prevalent evil in the United States today. Bogus stories of bogus heroes, grotesque and absurd, are seeping back to France from the states in numbers indicating that they may be enumerated not by the dozens, but by the thousands.

A western artillery regiment got over here during the summer, spent a few months in training and got up to the front two days after the armistice. It returned home a few weeks ago. Did its home town paper print anything to indicate that the only thing this regiment brought back was regrets? Ah, no. It was a battered, battle-scarred regiment, returning after the horrors of six months on the western front.

The list of the wounded printed is suspected of containing the names of several members merely detained by the medical corps.

A magazine of national circulation recently began a series of stories chronicling adventures of the air service in France. It quit them in the middle of the series when it was discovered that the stories were made up.

The reason for most of the regulations and laws recently adopted and debated in the United States regarding the wearing of insignia and service stripes was the abuse of these marks of designation. Discharged soldiers and soldiers not discharged were effecting a weird line of personal embellishments faster than the War department could keep track of them. These factors are of the same class as the man who goes home and lies about what he did over here, or who allows himself to be lied about.

There is no law against common lying in the United States, whether it is done by a patch of cloth on the shoulder or by giving an interview to the editor of a newspaper—unless the lying is done to the damage of somebody else. But if congress, or the state legislatures, or the county commissioners, or whoever else has the power, were to pass a law making it an offense for anybody to make false statements about what he did to win the war, verbal or otherwise, they would be doing a favor to about 2,000,000 Americans, most of whom, with tales of their own to tell, are sitting around France just now, and who, while not anxious for mushy eulogizing of themselves, hate to see somebody else fraudulently get away with it.

Passing of a Political Landmark.

Reports are again current in Chicago that the Grand Pacific hotel is to be demolished and the site occupied by a skyscraper office building. The hotel stands near the Board of Trade and was personally conducted by John B. Drake for many years. In the way-back days of the '80s the Grand Pacific was to republicans what the Palmer house was to democrats—the meeting place of men who handled the levers of road rollers and of the boys who supplied the steam. Both hostilities have been outlasted, but are redolent with memories of political hot times.

The Day We Celebrate.

Fred Proctor, mechanical engineer, city building inspection department, born 1873. Fred Metz, retired capitalist, born 1863. Fremont C. Craig, accountant with the Union Pacific railroad, born 1862.

Rt. Hon. James William Lowther, recently re-elected speaker of the British House of Commons, born 64 years ago.

Dr. George Norlin, the new president of the University of Colorado, born at Concordia, Kan., 46 years ago.

Brig. Gen. William H. Arthur, head of the United States army medical school, born in Philadelphia, 63 years ago.

Daniel C. Roper, United States commissioner of internal revenue, born in Marlboro county, S. C., 52 years ago.

Mary Miles Minter, one of the youngest and most celebrated of photoplay stars, born at Shreveport, La., 17 years ago.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago.

The Libbie Beecher-King murder trial is on in the district court, County Attorney Mahoney prosecuting and John C. Cowin defending.

South Sixteenth street property owners met in C. E. Squires' office to devise ways to induce the motor companies to build a street railway to South Sixteenth and thoroughfare.

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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.

M. H.—The 30th infantry is part of the 65th brigade, Seventy-eighth division; its present address is in P. O. 755, which is stationary with the Seventy-eighth division; this organization is scheduled to sail for home in May.

V. W.—The 80th pioneer infantry is with the First army corps, A. P. O. 755; no orders for its return yet.

J. C. W.—The Seventh field artillery is part of the Second brigade, Second division, in the army of occupation; address, A. P. O. 710; cannot tell you what division the marine unit you mention is in.

E. C. V.—We can not give you the full record of the Seventh division of any of its units. This division was not in the front line at any time.

E. K.—We have no word as to when the engineers or any of the other units of the 40th division left behind were returned. Some are coming from France to Omaha, but no advance announcement of their movements is made.

M. G. M.—We have no record of the sailing of the freighter Melrose. The length of time consumed in passage from a French port to the United States varies greatly, according to the character of the vessel, the route it pursues, and for other reasons. From 10 days to three weeks are required.

Mrs. J. R. J.—The address given by the War department for the 81st field artillery on February 1 was Camp Knox, Kentucky.

Mrs. A. C.—Headquarters of the 28th division is at Houdoucourt, France; this division is under schedule to return home in May; in all probability the 110th infantry will come home with it.

J. I. D.—The 330th machine gun battalion is part of the 34th division, which is scheduled to sail for home in March.

J. E.—See answer to Mrs. A. C. You should write direct to the officer in command of the unit in which your brother served; can not give him name; a letter to the adjutant general of the army ought to bring you more information than you have received in "The Bee's Effects, Hoboken, N. J., also could possibly aid you.

A Soldier's Wife—Town you mention does not appear on any map of the Bee. The 91st division was scheduled to sail in March.

Mrs. A. E. M.—Write to headquarters, U. S. M. C. Washington, for information regarding the marines.

A Friend—No orders for sailing of Company I, provisional labor battalion, now at Le Mans.

An Amateur—Your query as to "18th company, 14th grand division," is not sufficiently clear; we must know what branch of the service you are in order to answer definitely; troops have been sent from France to Russia recently; St. Nazaire is pronounced "Sang Nazaire," and the "14" having long sound; the 88th aerodrome squadron is in the First army in Germany.

Anxious Folks—The 16th engineers is assigned to early convoy home.

Miss B. L. C.—Write to the adjutant general of the army, Washington, D. C., to learn the whereabouts of a particular soldier; the 91st division was scheduled to sail in March, and the 42d is down for an April promotion.

Very Anxious—No orders have been issued for the early return of the Fourth infantry.

Mrs. A.—Ambulance company No. 37, Sixth sanitary train, is in the Sixth division, army of occupation; its address is A. P. O. 777. To get a soldier released for industrial or other reasons, the application must be made to the commanding officer of his company, accompanied by affidavits setting forth the reasons; this is the first step to take.

A Friend—When you moving to release drafted men from service with straddling army units.

An Anxious Cousin—Write to the adjutant general of the army, Washington, for information regarding an individual soldier.

Anxious Mother—A. P. O. 705 is at Bordeaux; balloon company 102 is assigned to early convoy, but no date fixed for sailing.

F. C.—The 302d tank battalion is assigned to early convoy, but no date fixed for sailing.

Susie—No date set for return of F. R. S. 343.

Interested Sailor—Write to registrar of land office, Broken Bow, Neb., who will give you all information you desire regarding lands open for homesteading.

The 11th field artillery is part of the 28th division, now in the army of occupation; it is under schedule to sail for home in June; present address, A. P. O. 918, located at Rimaucourt (Haut-Marne).

C. W. K.—The last published list of schedules for sailing we have was issued at Washington on March 3; it covers movements up to June, and does not include the 36th division; organizations scheduled to sail in April are the 26th, 77th, 35th, 82d and 42d divisions, in order given. We do not know where another paper gets its authority, but rely on the announcements from Washington.

The Bee Subscribers—The 68th engineers is in the army of occupation, and no date set for its return home.

M. E. C.—The 19th engineers is still officially part of the 34th division, although its postoffice address has been changed to A. P. O. 788, which is that of the 40th division in France; parts of each of these divisions were left in France for some reason, and no time is fixed for their return home.

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Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE By DADDY

"THE FOUR GOOD DEEDS" (When Baily Sam, Billy Goat, Johnny Bull and Judge Owl come to be punished for kidnapping the Boy Who Howled, Peggy sentences each to do a good deed.)

CHAPTER II. SUNSET Peggy is Disappointed.

AT SUNSET Peggy and Billy were waiting on the back steps for the Black Hoof clan to report the good deeds performed in atonement for the kidnapping of the Boy Who Howled.

"They waited and waited, but it was not until half an hour after the appointed time that Billy gave a glad shout: 'Here comes Judge Owl. I wonder if he carried me to a sinking ship as he said he was going to do.'"

Judge Owl flopped down upon the porch wearily and cried bitterly. "Hail, our hero!" cried Billy pleasantly. "How many lives did you save?"

"I didn't save any," answered Judge Owl in