

THE OMAHA BEE

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MAJOR CIRCULATION
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Home rule for Omaha ought to come first.

Paving and grading plans will follow the accustomed course for the present season, at least.

Tree planting is good practice for Nebraskans, but care should be taken to see that the trees grow.

The legislature has just given Omaha folks another strong hint to adopt home rule. Will it be acted on?

A visiting missionary says the world war was won by Standard Oil. This will relieve a lot of suspense.

Another American has been murdered in Mexico, which fact will very likely call for another ultimatum.

Bolshevism is so popular in Budapest that as high as \$1,000 is offered for an American passport to get away on.

Price-fixing will wait on the president again, just as it did at first. His boards are not even good rubber stamps.

A magician ought at least to control the mind of his assistants, if he professes to read the thoughts of his audience.

Emiliano Zapata is reported killed again, but this leaves him far behind Pancho Villa in the number of lives he has lost.

Ak-Sar-Ben is promised all the help he needs in making his new show go big, for nothing he undertakes ever falls down.

Our absent president seems to have remembered that the home folks also are in need of relief as well as those of Europe.

German delegates will be summoned to Versailles in about three weeks, if you are still interested in the Peace conference.

Director Hines says he is about through raising wages for the time at least. Taxpayers, who are footing the bill, will hope so.

Packers tell us meat prices will continue high until after hungry Europe is fed up. All the more reason for insisting that the bolsheviks go to work.

Do you suppose Newton D. Baker grinned when he awarded the distinguished service medal to General Wood? It was the secretary who kept the general out of war.

Yankee soldiers inclined to mutiny ought to remember that they must come home some day, and that wives and mothers will demand of them full explanation of their conduct.

Quebec has rejected bone-dry prohibition by a broad majority, thus providing a wet spot much nearer to Europe. Montreal may find itself a great tourist center after July 1.

A Roman mob promptly dispersed an attempted parade of Spartacans, as the Roman soldiers disposed of the original Spartacus and his Thracian followers some centuries ago.

If Omaha can make vitrified brick fit for paving roads, let us no longer delay the factory. Millions of these brick have been used here, and millions more will be needed in the future.

Somehow the bootleggers' bund appears to get through any barrage the booze hounds are able to lay down. You know, if there were no bootleggers there would be no booze hounds.

The new "code" law promises business administration to Nebraska, as pledged by the republican platform last year. Incidentally, the democrats are also redeeming their platform pledges—for they made none.

Life in Berlin is just one strike after another, bank clerks giving the latest demonstration. For a well organized capital of a race of supermen, the Berliners are giving a splendid imitation of the damp-hool bolshevik.

Court-Martial Revision

Secretary of War Baker would find his decision to ask for a law to revise our military code received with more enthusiasm had he made the same statements in January that he makes today. No one doubts that all those at the head of the army and the War department were without any desire to set up a mercenary code or to enforce the regulations that exist in a cold-blooded and heartless manner. Yet when the attention of the secretary was called to obviously cruel and unusual sentences and to procedures of the most severe and illegal character, his first attitude toward the public was to deny that any injustices were done, to defend the code in force and to express surprise that any complaints should be made at all in view of the fact that he knew of no valid cause for criticism and was unaware that the evils depicted existed. His bland attitude irritated the critics, and in connection with the animosities developed by the Ansell-Crowder controversy, which had little to do with the real issue, led to much intemperate and indiscriminate abuse of War department ways which was bad for all concerned. This criticism was more or less invited by Secretary Baker's way of dealing with the issue and was justified by incidents cited. Now, however, the War department chiefs, the committee of the American Bar association and the "committee of former justice advocates" should all be able to get together finally and with the facts in hand devise a new code which will make impossible the miscarriages of justice that have been laid before the public by the various official and unofficial critics of the army courts-martial. That is all the people ask for, and the secretary of war might have granted this in January and not delayed his approval for three months, thus maintaining the issue as an open and scurrilous controversy.—Philadelphia Ledger

HOME RULE OMAHA'S GREAT NEED.

Failure of certain amendments to Omaha's charter to pass scrutiny at Lincoln emphasizes the need of the community for the right to regulate its own domestic affairs. The character of the defeated changes in the city charter is not so important as the fact that their disposal depended on the temper of the legislature. Matters concerning the city alone were being dealt with, and in all fairness these should be left to the decision of the people of Omaha, and not be subject to the mood of the general assembly. It so happens that in this case a genuine favor was done the home owners by the legislature. The city commissioners sought to be invested with extraordinary power in regard to public improvements. The Bee called attention to the bills when they were introduced, and at the time outlined the objections to them. Arguments of much force and weight are made in favor of the measure, but the principle is unaltered. If the citizens of Omaha are willing that the commission should have the power it seeks, well and good, but the authority should be granted by them and not by the state legislature.

A home rule charter, prepared many months ago, was held up by court proceedings, but it surely can not be indefinitely postponed through that means. Now that the charter amendments sought have been denied by the legislature, the whole charter may well be presented to the people for adoption. Then it will be in order to bring forward any amendments deemed advisable or necessary, and allow the home-owners an opportunity to express themselves formally on the point. Let us take advantage of permission given long ago, adopt our own city charter, and cease the biennial pilgrimages to Lincoln to secure the privilege of attending to our own affairs.

German Hunger and Peace.

A correspondent, sending word from Berlin, closes his dispatch with these words: "Finally, remember that the Allies are dealing with a desperate nation—a nation hungry for peace—hungry for bread." It is well to remember, also, that this same desperate nation is earnestly and persistently attempting to capitalize this very desperation, and through its hunger for peace and bread to secure terms more favorable and less burdensome than it knows justice entitles it to. Germany is deeply infected with the virus of bolshevism; its boasted order and efficiency has vanished in a mist of riot and disorder; productive effort has come to a stop; responsible government exists nowhere in the empire, while the only evidence of organized effort is that furnished by the groups contending for mastery. The Germans must be made to realize, to understand fully, that they are making no headway against their fate by the methods they have chosen to impress the world. When they cease their foolishness, their hunger for both peace and bread will be appeased, but they will be required to pay for both. Peace will be righteous, based on justice, and bread will be theirs because they have earned it.

Railroad Wages and the Public.

Walker D. Hines has just announced that another increase in pay has been granted the men in the train service of the roads under government control, amounting to \$65,000,000 a year, or a total of nearly a billion since the Adamson bill was passed. No one will be grudging the engine and trainmen the high rate of pay granted them, unless it be some of the less well paid employes, who may be envious of the success of their thoroughly organized brethren. The public, however, must foot the bill. February reports, unofficially tabulated, showed a decrease in net operating revenue at the rate of \$150,000,000 a year under last year's experience. As the final deficit in operating revenue for 1918 was \$214,000,000, the indications are that for the current year, unless a marked change in business conditions transpires, will be close to \$370,000,000. Add this to the \$750,000,000 appropriation asked for the roads, and the net cost to the people for the second year of government management of the railroads will approximate \$1,120,000,000, which is some load for even the wealthiest country in the world to carry. Private ownership could not support such a drain, and it is questionable if the people long will want to put up with such a plan. The president washed his hands of the problem in December, and the democratic congress passed it along to the incoming republicans who will have here the knottiest of all reconstruction questions.

Congress May Soon Be Convened.

The news that comes from Paris suggests that Mr. Wilson has by now recovered from the chagrin he experienced on his return from France in March, when congress failed to do six months' work in five days. He left Washington decidedly out of patience, almost angry, because of the fact that the affairs of the United States demanded that an extra session of the Sixty-sixth congress be called at once. At Paris he met with another disappointment, for the program there had been delayed beyond all reason. It is now reported that he seriously contemplates calling congress together, to work while he remains at the Peace conference. This will be good news for the country, for it will not only provide means for carrying on the government after the end of the current fiscal year, but will materially contribute to the relief of business by setting the machinery of readjustment into motion. The call might have been issued a month ago without interfering with the job in Paris and perhaps with advantage for America.

Another decrease of more than half a million tons in the unfilled orders of United States steel may help to bring prices to a better level. Director Hines evidently knew what he was doing when he declined to accept the figures set by Secretary Redfield's board.

The rule against rebating is part of the protection the small shipper has against the big in all properly governed markets. To destroy it simply places the little fellow at the mercy of the larger. Some day the farmer will understand this fundamental business principle.

Sam Gompers is not the only returning American to shed tears of joy at getting back to his own country. If anything were needed to make all citizens proud of the United States as well as grateful for the privilege of living here, it is furnished in Europe today.

Raisuli is back on the war map again, but is fighting Spain this time, as something nearer his side. King Alfonso ought to get a copy of the Roosevelt ultimatum and study it closely.

Publicity and Speed

New York Evening Post. Two main grievances are now being formulated against the peace conference. On the one hand, the conference is wasting time while the world is ablaze. On the other hand, the conference is resolving itself into a star chamber. It was bad enough when a world-meeting of 70 delegates turned into a Council of Ten, gathered in M. Pichon's private offices on the Quai D'Orsay. Today the conference has become a big doing business in Mr. Wilson's private apartment in the seclusion of the Hotel Crillon. Those who were convinced from the beginning that the conference would fashion itself into an instrument of secret diplomacy for the purpose of "putting over" something on mankind are now confirmed in their horrid suspicions. The difficulty is that from this very source most of the complaints about delay in shaping the peace of which Europe stands so badly in need. No one as yet has formulated the method by which the representatives of two hemispheres and two dozen nations may express to the public stenographers all that is in their minds and hearts and do it in the space of 24 hours or more or less.

A breakdown of publicity with respect to the conference would mean an outside world left in ignorance of the aims pursued by the assembled diplomats, their specific demands, and their methods. It can not be truly said that with regard either to aims or demands at Paris the world has been left in the dark. On the question of Russia we have known from the beginning that there is a clash between America and Great Britain, standing for conciliation of the soviet, and France holding out for drastic action, with Italy indifferent. On the question of reparations and indemnity we have known from the beginning that Germany owes and that Germany can pay, and in a general way the alignment of powers on either side. In the matter of territorial claims we have had just the opposite of secret diplomacy: instead of concealing their desires the interested parties have been at pains to bring their maximum claims before the public eye, and the war has been nearer to the ideal of open diplomacy than Italy's recent threat to break up the conference unless she got Giunne. This may be wicked, but it is not secret. What the French would like to have on the Rhine, what the Czechs would like in Silesia, what the Jugoslavs would like to have in the Balkans, and what Germany can pay, and in a general way the alignment of powers on either side. In the matter of territorial claims we have had just the opposite of secret diplomacy: instead of concealing their desires the interested parties have been at pains to bring their maximum claims before the public eye, and the war has been nearer to the ideal of open diplomacy than Italy's recent threat to break up the conference unless she got Giunne. This may be wicked, but it is not secret. What the French would like to have on the Rhine, what the Czechs would like in Silesia, what the Jugoslavs would like to have in the Balkans, and what Germany can pay, and in a general way the alignment of powers on either side.

The progress of the covenant of the league has been in the full light of humanly attainable publicity. It has been built out of material gathered in the open; it is based on ideas developed by Lord Robert Cecil and General Smuts with a large group of coworkers in England; to some extent on the French plan of Leon Bourgeois to submit to the public the draft. It is true that we do not know what have been all the arguments exchanged in the privacy of the commission meetings at the Hotel Crillon; just what have been the French fears about the league, what the exact Japanese reservations, what the inducements offered to the league opponents, what the possible threats uttered by such opponents, what the whole process of give and take. Only that such a conception of open diplomacy is an unattainable ideal.

The ideal is unattainable because in every discussion there are legitimate arguments which cannot be spoken in public or put into print without frustrating a just purpose. We may imagine Clemenceau backing up his demands for large indemnities with a statement of France's unhappy economic condition; but it may not be desirable to reveal the true condition of France either to its own people or to its real enemies. We may imagine Sonnino running the fire of the threat of revolution in Italy; but no government will invite revolution by holding out the prospect of its success. We may imagine Lloyd George citing his labor difficulties at home, but it is futile to think of a statesman announcing to the public "If I don't get the Russian policy I want an end for it."

Hines Plays No Favorites

The position taken by Director General Hines in refusing to be bound by the steel prices recently fixed by the leading steel producers and the war industrial board is not easily to be assailed. "Stabilized" prices represented some reduction from the war-price level, but they still averaged almost 100 per cent more than the prevailing pre-war prices. They were an arbitrary creation and were recognized as such by the consuming trade, which has accordingly refused to come forward with large orders at prices as highly inflated. Why should the railroads be expected or be forced to do otherwise, and load up with a lot of improvements at such prices permanently capitalized into their plants?

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate. Vice Admiral Sir Rosslyn Erskine Wemyss, first sea lord of the British admiralty during the war, born 55 years ago.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago. Buffalo Bill left Omaha for Washington, New York and Paris. Ed Rothery presented him with an elegant ring whip. Sherman Canfield, who was with him in his recent tour of Great Britain, will join him in Paris.

The old Redfield building on the southeast corner of Twelfth and Dodge streets, in which The Bee was born, is being torn down and will be replaced by a three-story brick building, costing \$6,500.

Jules Levy, the great cornetist, and wife, are at the Millard. Mr. Levy gave a concert last night at the Grand Opera house.

Editor Hitchcock is having lawn tennis grounds made on his Twentieth street lots.

Old-timers remember he had a meeting last night at Kessler's hall on South Thirteenth street. One faction of this association recently elected officers secretly as follows: Capt. J. G. Smith, president; Capt. W. P. O'Neill, vice president; J. P. Henderson, secretary; and Daniel O'Neill, treasurer.

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.

Bonus for Discharged Man.

W. H. Y.—If you were inducted into service and received pay as well as discharge certificate, you are entitled to the 4th bonus. Write to the Zone Finance Officer, Lamson building, Washington, D. C. enclosing your certificate of discharge, or a certified copy of the same. It will be returned to you with the check.

Release for Soldiers.

Mrs. F. M. S.—The Fourth division is in the army of occupation, and no definite date can be set for its return. Enlistments are now being made to replace the drafted men serving with the regular army units in this work. As far as drafted men can be replaced by volunteers it will be done. To secure the early release of your own man, make an affidavit, setting forth the facts and send it to the captain commanding his company, together with a request for his release. Also have your son make a similar request and affidavit and give them to the captain. This is the first step; the rest is done through military channels.

Many Questions Answered.

Miss M. S.—No orders have been issued for the return of the 148th Central Postal Directory, which is in Germany. See answer to Mrs. P. M. S., above. Drafted men may be held for four months after the declaration of peace. A Father—Telegram battalion 414 is in the service of supply at Orleans, A. P. O. 797, and not on schedule for immediate return.

A Soldier's Sister—No orders for the immediate return of veterinary hospital No. 11.

M. A. M.—The Forty-sixth company, Twentieth engineers, is unassigned. Its present address is A. P. O. 781, which must appear on mail intended for men attached to this unit. The postoffice mentioned is at Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Mrs. J. C. W.—Detachments of the 157th infantry arrived at New York on April 2; cannot tell you what units were included.

A. L. A.—See answer to Mrs. J. C. W.

Wife—The Thirty-fifth division is on the sailing list for April and the Twenty-eighth is down for May.

Mother—The Fifth aero squadron is in the service of supply way home; no orders; no orders have been issued for its early return.

M.—Very few transportation companies have been sent home; the Thirty-eighth transportation company is now stationed at Gievros, and not under early sailing orders; the Twelfth engineers is engaged in railway operations with the Second army; their sailing date may be held for four months after peace is declared; cannot tell you about the bakery company at Camp Banning.

V. Y. J.—The Sixteenth balloon company is in the service of supply with the Fourth army corps, and no orders for its early return have been issued.

Anxious Reader—Camp hospital No. 28 is not listed for immediate return. Watch The Bee for announcement of its sailing.

Mrs. L. H.—See answer to Mrs. P. M. S. at top of this column; no orders for return of aero squadron No. 88, which is with the First army, or for the 168th transportation company.

Mrs. L. S.—The Third pioneer infantry is stationed at Happers (Mexico), and is not attached to its division; its address is A. P. O. 914; no orders yet for its return.

A Soldier's Sister—Sailing dates for companies are not announced in advance; many of these are continually arriving; the forwarding camp at Lamans is a replacement headquarters; watch The Bee for word from the organization you mention.

Mrs. A. F. L.—We have no information concerning camp hospital No. 108; the 800th aero squadron is in the service of supply, and not under immediate sailing orders; base hospital No. 49 is assigned to early convoy, but the sailing date is not yet fixed.

Marion—The Seventh division is in the army of occupation, and will be held in Europe indefinitely.

M. D. M.—The Twenty-eighth engineers are scattered with the First and Second armies; no orders for the early return of this regiment.

Mrs. E. L. B.—You do not say what unit at A. P. O. 705 you are asking for; this postoffice is at Bordeaux, and many troops are stationed there, waiting for transportation home.

A Soldier's Brother—The 83rd machine gun battalion is with the Eighty-eighth division; no date has been set for the sailing of this division.

DAILY CARTOONETTE

I'M GOING TO GET LITTLE FREDDIE A JACK IN THE BOX AS A SURPRISE!

TOYS AND HE DID.

TOYS AND HE DID.

Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY

CHAPTER VI. The Revolvers Are Banned.

The leader of the Hawks held General Swallow in his talons. "Cree! Cree! Everybody for himself!" he shouted, alighting on a dead tree. The knight reached down the sack of wheat and, reaching into a saddle pocket, brought out two large chestnuts tied together with a string. This odd weapon he sent whirling up into the tree. The Hawk never suspected danger until the string hit him and the flying chestnuts wound the cord tightly around his neck and wings. With a choking squawk, the Hawk dropped General Swallow and fell from the tree right into the hands of the knight.

APRIL SMILES.

"Why did you allow those two patients to have adjoining cot? Were you not afraid one might infect the other?" "I wish they would. The first one has insomnia and the other, the sleeping sickness."—Indianapolis Star.

WHEN SPRING COMES.

I would go to the fields where farmers King. Of the ways of their honest toil. I would go to the fields where I could rest. To the tune of the crumbling soil. I would go to the pasture new and green. I would walk in the balmy air. I would stroll in the arm of nature's grace. With the low of the cattle there. I would go to the woods to gather flowers. I would sit by the winding stream. I would list to the song of warbling birds. I would sit through the smiling gleam. I would stroll in the shade of trees. I would coast to the air my weary care. As I'd walk in the open breeze.

"BUSINESS IS GOOD, THANK YOU" WHY NOT NICHOLAS OILS?

NICHOLAS OILS? Why not? L.V. NICHOLAS OIL COMPANY

Daily Dot Puzzle



An Alpine x comes to you. When you've traced to sixty-two. Draw from one to two and so on to end. Head and winked at Peggy in that oddly familiar way. Who was that mysterious knight? And why did she seem to know that wink? Peggy was still asking herself these questions when she returned to her garden, but she wasn't to learn the answers until her next visit to Birdland. (In the next story King Bird finds that being a king is not so much fun as it seems.)



A Grand in a little home

THE WONDER OF IT! So richly toned and sonorous, so graceful and classic, ennobling and beautifying in surroundings. Yet so compact, taking no more room than an upright—and unlike an upright, firing tirelessly in the center or anywhere in the room. Thus the little home with its grand, proudly matches the most palatial of residences. This is the magic of the

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JUNGLE TALES OF TARZAN

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, master-creator of tales extraordinary, has surpassed himself in this, his sixth enthralling chronicle of TARZAN OF THE APES. Never before has an author created a fictional character so fascinating, so universally interesting as TARZAN.

In JUNGLE TALES OF TARZAN we have another entrancing narrative woven about the marvelous ape-man, presenting new adventures and desperate encounters which befall him in the dark heart of his native jungle. All Bookstores A. C. McCLURG & CO., Publishers