

THE OMAHA BEE
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Those midnight thunder showers are just a little bit trying to the nervous folks.

Iowa claims to be the first over the top again for the Victory loan. Hurrah for the Hawkeys.

The airplanes keep right on claiming their victims, just as if the fighting had not ceased.

Yankton has just elected a woman city commissioner, something Omaha will attain in time.

"We for democracy and got flu and prohibition," says a returned Yank. Frank enough.

With the base ball season formally opened, Mars is going to have a hard time to hold the public eye.

It took the president a long time to learn to say "unconditional surrender," but he surely sticks to it.

A world-wide prohibition drive is about to be launched. We want to see it after it has made one round trip.

Making the world safe for democracy ought not to require that we sacrifice friendships that are long established.

If the German delegates hurry they may get to Paris in time to see the finish of a fine row in the Peace conference.

Some further education will probably be needed before the \$3,000,000 county paving bond issue is endorsed by the voters.

Carter Glass sees the Victory loan a success. So do all his fellow citizens, many of whom are backing up their faith with their coin.

Do not be disturbed when the waiter tells you the pot on the plate is something other than butter. The new law requires him to tell the truth about it.

Mr. Burleson has closed the mails to matter criticizing his course as to the telegraph wires. What is the good of being a czar if you can not protect yourself?

As it happens, the sheriff of Woodbury county entertains no illusions as to the desirability of a "Wobly" convention, no matter what the mayor may have in mind.

All the critics of Albert Sidney Burleson must be aware of one big point in his favor. He is the only living man Woodrow Wilson ever appointed twice to his cabinet.

Ejected from England and denied admission by the United States, Miss Troy is in a fair position to recognize the fact that the radical agitator's road is not an easy one among orderly people nowadays.

Those returned army men at the Colorado agricultural school seem to have forgotten the first lesson they were taught in the army, that of obedience to superior officers. Even students are expected to pay some attention to the instructors under whom they are set.

Talk of separate peace between the United States and Germany has a strange sound to Americans, who blush to think their country so long held aloof when the cause of humanity called so loudly for action. The delegates who would return from Paris with a peace pact to which our friends were not parties might better not come home.

Substitutes for the Saloons

The Episcopal church seems quite ready to accept the challenge which has been thrown out that it is the business of the churches to find a substitute for the saloon. That denomination, which two years ago raised \$5,000,000 to pension its clergymen as they became incapacitated, proposes to raise during the next three years a fund of \$20,000,000 for domestic and foreign missions, of which some \$18,000,000 is to be used for several forms of church work here at home.

There are various phases of this domestic mission work, including work among the immigrants, the support of weak rural churches and the like, but the plan which will arouse the most interest is that which the committee in charge states in this way: "Has the church no message or act of sympathy and helpfulness for the millions in our land who after July 1 will be deprived of the only social center provided for them? The saloon has served a community need. Cannot the church provide a better? You cannot take something away from a man without giving him something in return."

This problem is new, being forced upon the country by the war-time prohibition order and the passage of the prohibition amendment to the constitution. The Episcopal church, among others, has contributed to the voting strength which makes the Anti-Saloon League powerful. It is only fair that the churches, having closed the saloons, should provide something which will replace them as social centers. The danger is that the church, with its plan of ample financial backing for the new undertaking, may be too late. The need will begin on July 1 and it will become acute next January, when the constitutional amendment will become operative. Commercial agencies of one sort or another will seek to meet this need as soon as it appears. Some of these may be an improvement on the saloon, but some of them almost certainly will not and they will have won their following before the church campaign is ready to start, unless the church makes haste. Many experiments are likely to be made before anything is found which has the social pull of the saloon without the intoxication which it offers. The church experiment will be the most interesting of them all, and with the support which will enable it to wait for its business to grow it ought to succeed.—Brooklyn Eagle.

TEST OF STRENGTH AT PARIS.

Matters at Paris have reached a point where a genuine test of strength must be taken. Italy resolutely declines to recede from its demand for the port of Fiume. President Wilson definitely asserts that Italy can not have this port. How this deadlock will be solved must await the decision of the other powers.

On this side of the water some wonder is excited as to the propriety of our president engaging to this extent in the adjustment of purely European matters. It becomes him as the great and good friend of all to assist in his utmost in bringing about any adjustment necessary to the preservation of peace there and elsewhere. In this attitude he has the unquestioning support of all. But does this justify him in taking a dictatorial stand such as he has?

He argues with some adroitness that the issue of the war has altered conditions that might have supported the Italian claim. This scarcely amounts to a warrant for his request that the treaty of London, under which Italy went into the war, be now revised. Italy had a definite and well understood object in view, and is not in a mood to abandon any part of that quest now, because the president of the United States feels it incumbent on him to favor certain new states that have appeared.

Moreover, surface evidence at least shows that the citizens of Fiume, the port in question, desire annexation to Italy and not to Jugoslavia.

Lloyd George and Clemenceau have said they would stand by the treaty of London.

We should know in a little while how whether the United States of America has risen to the state of arbiter of the world's fate, whether it be for democracy or not. It will also concern us greatly as to what course Mr. Wilson will take in the not impossible event of the decision being against his announced determination to award Fiume to the Jugoslavs.

Also we may get an early notion of the road along which the League of Nations is leading.

Burleson's Tyrannical Censorship.

Albert Sidney Burleson is having a lot of trouble in regulating the transmission of public intelligence, but he is doing the best he can to see that nothing gets out but what he wants to go. His worst break came on Sunday night, when the New York World sought by wire to offer simultaneous publication in newspapers outside of New York an article reviewing the Burleson regime.

Telegrams proffering this article to other papers were refused transmission by both the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies. It is explained that the managers of these companies acted on their own initiative, and they set up as defense that the matter involved was libelous, and they were justified in suppressing it as far as possible.

Control of means of public communication can not be carried farther. Mr. Burleson has now absolute sway over the mails, the telegraphs and the telephones, and is not bashful or diffident about asserting it. He excludes from the mails or forbids transmission over the wires, at his own pleasure, and is answerable to no one save the president, whose twice named him as postmaster general. His censorship is complete and absolute and tyrannical as well. If other members of the cabinet were to follow his example, we would soon have to appeal to somebody to make America safe for Americans.

Nature's Invitation.

If ever Nature holds forth invitation to man, it is now, in these early spring days, when budding tree and shrub, the grass wet from last night's rain, the soft breeze, the whistle of the lark, the buoyant lilt of the robin's melody, and every aspect of the great outdoors is an inspiration and a promise. Across the sky of April float the great clouds, argosies of rain, sent up from the southland to refresh the northern fields. Between shines a sky of such blue as painter never put on canvas, and the warm sun wakes to life the things that have slumbered all the weary months of winter through.

Rivulets trickle along the little gullies, and brooks broil madly to join the creeks, now swollen far beyond their normal flood. Rivers are at freshest stage, and everything gives evidence of the great creative forces sprung into vital action again, starting a new round of the cycle of existence, birth, growth, decay and death. A walk in the park, a stroll along the street, or better still, a ride into the country, will give the weary city man the relief he can not find in his office. Nature asks you out of doors, these April days. She is donning her new garb, and would like to have you watch as she decks herself in finery that soon will shame the utmost pretense of man. It is spring, and the world is full of the impulse of life. Let its influence enfold you, and you will be a cheery optimist, no matter how you feel before you start outdoors.

Germans to Have a Voice.

While the dotted line will be carefully pointed out to the German delegates when they reach Versailles, it is not expected that they will immediately sign the peace treaty. Courtesy, even to the vanquished Hun, demands that they be given an opportunity to express their opinions. So it is now announced that the high and well born herts who represent the government recognized will be permitted to argue the point within reasonable limit. It is scarcely conceivable that their arguments will have the effect of securing any material modification of the terms of the treaty, even to the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t," for the document is made up, sentence has been passed, and it will be carried out. Just as the judge goes through the formality of asking the prisoner at the bar if he has anything to say before sentence is passed, so will the Peace conference extend this privilege to the Germans. The latter may well recall what the darkey said just before he was hanged: "Dis am gwine to be a hell of a lesson to me."

Sioux City's mayor let his milk of human kindness overflow enough to obscure his judgment, and is likely to be recalled by his indignant constituents. When the executive of a community forgets what is due the public, and gives aid and comfort to the I. W. W. or any similar organization, he ought to be lifted down from his high place.

Bolshevism may or may not be disappearing in the central European countries, but the bolshevik army is dwindling, under the attrition of the Poles, Czechs and others. That is the most significant sign.

A steamer will always be waiting at Brest to carry Mr. Wilson home. The next one will not have so big a load to carry, either.

Between France and Germany

Philadelphia Ledger. Shall France be sacrificed to Germany? This dastard question is constantly cropping up in the cables criticism and local comment on the perplexing and dilatory proceeding in Paris. It is not always put plainly. That would require "nerve" or irresponsible bravado. But it is slyly suggested; it is deftly insinuated as a charge against the policy of this or that leading delegate; it is attached as a necessary or damning consequence to some program or proposal.

It is a question that "begs the question." Every man with red blood in his veins knows the answer. The free and democratic civilization that the valor of France saved will never desert the intrepid people who would not permit the modern Attila to "pass." Nor is this only gratitude. It is intelligent self-preservation. President Wilson will put it that "the frontiers of France are the frontiers of freedom." If we once permit forces hostile to the free, genuinely democratic and well-ordered government of the western world to subdue the magnificent French democracy with its deathless devotion to liberty, the liberties of the rest of us will be in a precarious position.

We cannot give France and Italy—for the loss of France would turn the flank of Italy in a most perilous manner—either to Berlinism or bolshevism and be sure that we can still preserve the free democracy of the rest of us.

One thing may be taken as settled, and that is that spokesmen for the two great Anglo-Saxon nations are coming in for some criticism on this very score. are absolutely determined without the smallest doubt or diversity of opinion that every conceivable guarantee of the integrity, safety and tranquility of both France and Italy, so far as any such guarantee will be more effective than mischievous propaganda imported in any peace treaty that they will sign.

It is a sinister and unpleasant comment on the ingrained spirit of suspicion in human nature that such a statement should be necessary. It ought everywhere and always to be taken for granted. But it is because some writers and speakers approach the discussion of many of the features of this expensively and perilously prolonged pour-parler in Paris with the unfair and untrue intimation that our Latin allies are being deprived of safeguards which both justice and sagacity would award them that we feel it essential to make this point. Nothing of the kind will be done. Nothing of the kind will be done. The Anglo-Saxon delegates are not "dismaying" France through any "tenderness" for Germany. It is infamous that so foul a charge should be so much as hinted.

There may be and seemingly are honest differences of opinion as to the best way to safeguard France and Italy. There are such differences of opinion among Frenchmen and Italians, in spite of the overwhelming popular argument which can always be summoned within any nation to the support of the widest possible expansion of the national boundaries. But a difference of opinion as to means does not mean a difference of opinion as to ends. And, in this case, it is an insulting accusation of treachery, disloyalty, cynical bad faith, betrayal of brothers-in-arms, to intimate that there can be a difference of intention as to ends.

President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George are not using "league of nations" for the purpose of colluding Germany. They are urging a "league of nations" because they—and many others of similar mind—believe that this is the only way to bind Germany over to good behavior. It would be a very simple matter today to carry the French frontier to the Rhine and put aordon of allied troops there to keep Germany from penetrating the frontier. It would be a very simple matter to sign such a treaty—its present government would fall—probably a Spartan government would take its place. But the allied armies are quite capable without much risk or sacrifice of playing the Brest-Litovsk game and maintaining the steel barrier impregnablely placed on the Rhine, and preventing any armed Germans to raise any sort of shiel they wish on the other side of the river.

But would that be the best way to insure the safety, the prosperity, the settled peace of France?

In the first place, we all know that the United States would not consent very long to sustain an effective American army as part of the new "watch on the Rhine." We would bring the boys home again. Undoubtedly the British would do the same thing. If there were nothing more at stake than the industrial and commercial rivalry which will infallibly follow peace, every nation would want its workers to come home and convert their machine guns into spindles. But there would be more at stake—the cost of the armies, the standing provocative challenge to Germany, the danger of bolshevist penetration from east of the Rhine, and a score of other accessory burdens and dangers.

Would you not be better off if the alleged and sneered at and bitterly attacked "idealism" of Wilson and Lloyd George should manage to present them with a neighbor who had been terribly disillusioned as to the profits of "militarism" and wars of conquest, and who bore in his own body no heart-burning wounds which constantly remind him to seek the hereditary "restitution"? True, the "idealism" may fail. It will fail if its enemies get their way. But is there not more hope in it than in branding the largest people in mid-Europe with an intolerable shame?

Let us be frank about it. What made Italy fight? Its "irredenta." What made France accept an alliance with the Russian autocracy? Its "irredenta." What made Roumania fight? Its "irredenta." What made Bulgaria fight? Its "irredenta." What made Greece fight when it got rid of its German king? Its "irredenta." Is an "irredenta" a good thing then to give Germany? Think it over. It is not at all a question of whether Germany deserves for its recent measureless iniquities. It is what France and Italy and Britain and America deserve as the reward of their great sacrifices, their splendid courage and their faith in the glorious future which—in spite of the demonic cataclysm of Armageddon—still beckons the human race.

TODAY

- The Day We Celebrate.
Byron Clark, solicitor for Burlington company, born 1836.
R. C. Peters, president of the Peters Trust company, born 1862.
Gen. Henri Philippe Petain, the famous French commander, born at Gauchy-a-la-Tour, 63 years ago.
William Elliot Gonzales, United States minister to Cuba, born at Charleston, S. C., 53 years ago.
Senor Don Joaquin Mendez, minister from Guatemala to the United States, born in San Salvador, 57 years ago.
John L. Stoddard, widely known as a travel lecturer, author, writer, born in Brookline, Mass., 69 years ago.
Cyril Maude, one of the foremost actors of the English-speaking stage, born in London, 57 years ago.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

- L. M. Rheim, H. D. Shull, L. H. Korty and C. H. Brown left for Lincoln to inspect brick to be used for the paving of Poppleton avenue.
Mr. J. H. Evans is on his way to Europe. Tickets for the Booth-Barrett Shakespearean performances at the Boyd are selling rapidly. Seventeen boys camped all night in the corridors of the opera house to secure choice places in the line of ticket buyers.
The board of councilors works granted the Omaha Motor railway permission to build double track on Sherman avenue from Ohio to Locust and on Twenty-fourth street from Binney to Spencer.

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.

Return of Twelfth Engineers.

Isadora—Thank you for the clipping from the Collinsville paper. We have not yet noticed that the date for the return of the 12th engineers has been fixed. At last accounts this regiment was with the Second Army, engaged in railway operation. As that army is being demobilized and its units sent home as rapidly as possible, it may be assumed that the return of the 12th will not be greatly delayed. The regiment had a very honorable part in the fighting that brought victory over the Hun.

Missing Soldier's Address.

Miss F. S.—Write to the adjutant general of the army for the address of soldier who left Fort Riley with evacuation ambulance company after attending medical officers' training school there. The present address of evacuation ambulance company No. 33 is P. O. 705, located at Bordeaux. Soldiers on station at Fort Leavenworth are under the same military discipline and control as all other military personnel. The disciplinary barracks is really the military prison and soldiers confined there are under stricter discipline and more carefully controlled, as they are undergoing punishment as well as being given a chance to reform. This is an insinuation separate from military post known as Fort Leavenworth.

Many Questions Answered.

Mrs. L. B.—Sorry, but we can not tell you the meaning of the initials "C. T." and "A. R. D." The soldiers have adopted many arbitrary abbreviations which puzzle the civilian.

Mrs. F. V. M.—Military police inspection 223 is in the service of supply and is not scheduled for early return.

Mrs. J. H.—Field remount squadron 342 is in the service of supply at St. Nazaire, and is not scheduled for return; no time of return for the immediate release of a man in this unit should be made to the officer in command, presenting an affidavit setting forth reasons for the request.

Mrs. A. V. B.—Salvage unit No. 218 has been assigned to convoy; efforts are being made to get all these units out of France as fast as possible; watch The Bee for announcement.

Mrs. V.—The Eighth aero squadron is attached to the Sixth army and has not yet sailed from Bordeaux; the unit may return home as rapidly as transport can be provided, but not in any regular order.

Mr. G. D.—See answer to Mrs. V. Soldier's Sister—The 58th infantry is part of the Eighth brigade, Fourth division, and is included in the early return; no time of return has been fixed for its return. The 25th engineers is engaged in construction work with the First Army, and its return is not yet fixed for the request.

Mr. A. H.—Latest word from the 49th military police is that the effect that it has sailed and will reach New York about May 10. The 35th infantry is part of the 89th division, scheduled to sail for home in the next few days, yet has been issued for the return of the Sixth division.

Mrs. H. V.—Write to the adjutant general of the army for information concerning a missing soldier. The 10th military police is in the service of supply, and the army, intermediate section, with headquarters at Nevers, south of Paris about 60 miles.

A Soldier's Wife—Your information in regard to the 19th supply train is probably correct. The unit has been employed in the convoy service since the 34th division was sent home, and no date has been fixed for its return to the United States.

Mrs. C. S.—Bakery company No. 206 is in the service of supply of the army, and its present address is Montigny-le-Roi, via A. P. O. 757. No time has been fixed for its return to the United States.

A Soldier's Sister and Brother—No time has been fixed for the return of ambulance company No. 40, it being part of the Sixth division, which is likely to be held in France indefinitely.

An Anxious Mother—Application for the early release of a soldier from the service, for any reason whatsoever, can not affect his rights as regards his insurance, which takes the place of a pension, or any of his allowances or standing in the service. The 11th field artillery is part of the 32d division, and is scheduled to sail for home in May.

Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY.

THE POISONED SWORD.

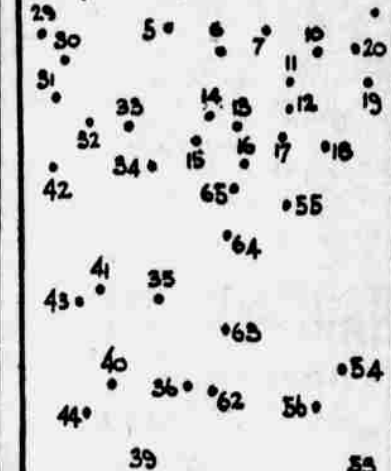
The Mysterious Knight is challenged by King Bird to meet a stranger, the Knight of the Poisoned Sword in combat. CHAPTER IV. The Warrior of Many Swords. THE unicorn was astonished when the Mysterious Knight landed on his back. He reared up and tried to shake the knight off. Then he almost stood on his head trying to pitch the knight forward. But the knight rode him like a cowboy and couldn't be bugged. The unicorn swung his horn wildly around and tried to jab it into the knight's leg.



The unicorn rushed madly for freedom, leaving the knight hanging there.

"Hi, y! This journey is more fun than I've had in a week," shouted the Mysterious Knight, waving his horn at King Bird. Just then, however, the knight's horn took a turn, for the unicorn whirled and dashed off into the woods. As he galloped under a tree the low-hanging limbs caught the knight and swept him from the unicorn's back. The unicorn rushed madly for freedom, leaving the knight hanging there. "Hi, y! Ho, ho!" the knight laughed at his own plight. "Hurrah! The knight has conquered the unicorn!" screamed the birds happily. "Hi, ho! That wasn't a unicorn," laughed the knight. "King Bird's Knight of the Poisoned Sword was only a big horse that came out of an automobile wreck with a spoke of the wheel caught in the bridle so it looked like a horn. You can't fool us that way, King Bird."

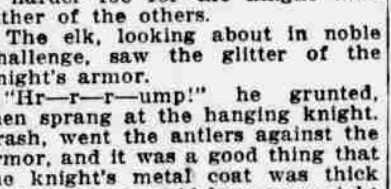
Daily Dot Puzzle



What has Willie drawn? Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

The Bee's Letter Box

Ballot in the South. Omaha, April 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: When Hon. Carter Glass, secretary of the treasury of the United States, speaks here next Friday why would it not be a good plan for him to explain some things to the people of Nebraska, where every citizen can cast a vote freely and have it counted as cast? It is a little hard to explain the reason for keeping 500,000 citizens of the state of Virginia from casting their votes, 300,000 of the 500,000 being white men, while a little band of autocrats run that state, Mr. Glass being one of them, for he helped frame the present constitution of his state, which the greater part of the citizens of his state are without the right of suffrage, under that constitution so skillfully drawn. If the several hundred thousands of young men were good enough to go to France to fight for what Wilson, Glass and others call democracy, why are they not good enough to cast the ballots in the state of Virginia? Mr. Carter Glass would not be secretary of the treasury to-day had it not been for the crooked work done by the so-called democratic party in every southern state in cutting down the right of suffrage, not only to black men but to several millions of white men as well.



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