

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Notes or taxes; take your choice!

A little inquiry may save a lot of trouble at the detention home.

China threatens to follow Italy's example. It may not work twice.

If Jupiter Pluvius only will consent to an armistice, we think it can be arranged.

Replacement troops are being enlisted for Siberia, for the war is going on there yet.

"Take it or the consequences" is the word accompanying the peace treaty to the Huns.

Two years of neutrality for Fiume may lead to a better understanding of a bad situation.

Pretty soon we ought to hear from "Jimmy" Fitzgerald just what he has prepared for the taxpayers.

If a time limit is to be set on anything, why not on Japan's privilege of exploiting Chinese mineral deposits?

"War almost 'got' the music of America," says a visiting lecturer. What a pity it did not get some that passes for music.

Omaha's \$10,000 club finds its list almost full, but this will not prevent anyone from buying that amount of Victory notes.

Ocean travel by air-plane will be wondrously popular if the schedule is always as well maintained as that for the starting trip.

An upstate editor advises his readers to sign no referendum petitions unless they feel certain the legislature has made a mistake. This is good doctrine.

Uncle Sam is only \$130,000,000 behind on his railroad account for the first four months of the year. This is not a very strong argument for government ownership.

Omaha school teachers are promised a very nice little boost in pay by the Board of Education, which will very likely enable most of them to renew their contracts.

Two only of the heads of hostages butchered by the reds at Munich were recognizable. Further proof of the beauties of the gospel of love as expounded by the bolsheviks.

The award of the court to the effect that kisses at \$50 each were exchanged between principals to a suit may hardly be taken as fixing a definite schedule of fees for osculation hereabouts.

A 10,000-word digest of the peace treaty may sound all right to its authors, but it will not be popular. What the people want is to be told in about one-tenth that number of words exactly what the treaty contains.

Omaha and Council Bluffs are drawn even closer together by the return of their army medical units. These boys did splendid service on the other side, and the welcome the home folks gave them was many times deserved.

The Germans seem to have difficulty in getting rid of the ultimatum habit. By the time they have taken a few gulps of the dose that is to be handed them presently, they will probably cease to think of themselves as dictators to the world at large.

Herr Frederick William Hohenzollern says Herr Ludendorff is a liar, accompanied by certain qualifying adjectives. Herr Ludendorff already had classified the younger Hohenzollern as to his mental capacity and his ancestry, also with vivid description, so the matter stands about all even.

Homesteads for Veterans

One of the subjects to be brought forward early in the extra session of congress is a much more liberal homestead law for the benefit of returned soldiers and sailors. The fact that the new congress is republican in both branches is an assurance that the improvements in the law will be liberal. Legislation of the kind was one of the things quickly accomplished when the republican party regained control of congress 60 years ago. Numerous congressmen are giving the subject consideration, and two members of the cabinet. Secretary of the Interior Lane and Secretary of Labor Wilson, are at work on plans to aid the movement. Secretary Wilson would open to the soldiers mineral, grazing and forest land also. He points out that a great body of such government property is still unsettled and could be advantageously allotted on attractive terms to former soldiers, sailors and marines. All who work on the soil are more prosperous now than at any former time. Farmers are making money and increasing their capital. In various ways the government is interested in homestead measures for themselves, and their projects are generous in the forms of aid to be extended. The United States should realize that the competition in homestead laws will be lively. Naturally, all the veterans are interested in this subject regardless of other business plans. -S. Louis Globe-Democrat

GAMBLERS AND FOOD PRODUCTS.

Food Administrator Barnes is credited with saying he thinks the sudden and wide fluctuations in corn may be due to speculative and not to legitimate trade. Outsiders will incline to the belief that the opinion is well founded. The course of the corn market since the opening of the ports by removal of restrictions on food shipments has been so vagarious and unstable as to puzzle even those who are accustomed to following the mysteries of the market. Only a few days ago it was said a certain bunch of eastern speculators had been caught on the wrong side of the market and unmercifully squeezed by the sensational rise in the cereal. Somebody may also have been hurt in its equally astonishing drop. It has gone up and down in price by such jumps as are not likely to be caused by actual transactions in the commodity. In the interests of the public, which has helplessly watched the price of living go higher and higher, Director Barnes should pursue his inquiry to where he can say definitely if any part of this is due to gambling in food products. If he should put an end to speculative transactions, so much the better, for the burden of these operations finally falls on the consumer, who is now paying very dearly for the privilege of watching the bulls and bears toss and worry one another around the corn pit.

Douglas County's Paving Program.

County Attorney Shotwell has raised a very important point in the proceedings for submission of a bond proposition to the voters of the county. He holds that the county commissioners may not in advance of the election designate what roads are to be improved. It has been the opinion, seemingly well founded, that the reverse of this is true, and that it was necessary to specify the exact purpose for which the proceeds of the bonds were to be used. It is possible that a general paving bonds issue would be valid, but it is quite certain that purchasers will scrutinize the record carefully, and if any discrepancy appear, the sale of the bonds will be accompanied by difficulty. What the voters will want to know is precisely what the county board intends to do. It may be all right to set out that the money will be used to pave the county highways outside the city of Omaha, and allow the adjustment of the details to rest until after the election, but differences of opinion as to what roads are to be so improved will not be thus set at rest. These already have been fully threshed out, and not without some acrimony. Mr. Shotwell's ruling, if held good, puts the ultimate selection of the highways for paving into the hands of the county board, with full power to determine where to spend the money. It is well to get all these points cleared up, so that the matter will go squarely before the voters.

Stock Raising in the Arctic Region.

What would Dr. Thomas Malthus say, were he to encounter the Canadian proposal to utilize the Arctic wastes regions by producing food and clothing materials there? It is but little longer than a century since his "Essay on Population" startled the scientific world by its hopeless outlook for humanity. Whether its pessimistic conclusions had any material effect on the outcome need not be considered. Man has continually added to his food producing area, and has met in a way quite efficient the problem of feeding the increasing population. When Vilhjalmur Stefansson went into the north, riding on an ice floe and determined to live off the country, he was given up as lost. He and his companions turned up, well fed and comfortably clad after three winters of a most remarkable experience. Now he has interested the government of Canada in his views on the subject of muskox and reindeer. The United States long ago sent reindeer into Alaska, that the Indians there might have a steady and dependable source of meat supply. Experience has demonstrated the practicability of the plan. If Canada has completely arranged for the settlement and cultivation of all its other waste lands, the step to the Arctic regions will come in order. It is a challenge to the imagination, however.

Faces Saved All Around.

Not Machivelli himself could have proposed a happier solution than is reached in regard to Fiume. The city will be autonomous and neutral for two years, and then go to the Italians. This will remove the crown of thorns and wipe away the tears Gabriele d'Annunzio talked of so feelingly in depicting Italy as a martyr; it will also allow such of the Croats, Slovenes and others who do not wish to linger under the flag of Rome ample time to readjust personal affairs and make arrangements for future convenience. Italy also will have an opportunity to see how completely its commerce and political relations with the rest of the world may prosper without this "musty port," over which so much fuss has been made. Better than all this, each delegate can leave Paris in a happy frame of mind, contented and conscience-clear as regards this Adriatic affair. Faces have been saved all around the board; Orlando furioso becomes Orlando the peaceful and harmony once more will guide proceedings as all with one mind turn again to the German case.

The State Department Declines to Recognize Comrade Maartin as Representing the Government of Russia.

This will be something of a jolt to the comrade, as it puts quite a bar between him and \$150,000,000 in gold held in this country. Morris Hilquit will share in Maartin's chagrin. Vagrant bombs, floating around the ocean lanes, are causing considerable apprehension to mariners, but no more than arises from the vagrant "bums" who infest the land ways. The mother-in-law vindicated her rights in Budapest by ending the agitation in favor of the "nationalization" of women

Trial of the Guilty

From the New York Times. The announcement that the Kaiser and those of his subordinates accused of crimes in the most criminally conducted war the modern world has seen will be placed on trial if treaty provisions now proposed are adopted will satisfy everyone but the guilty men themselves. The Kaiser is to be tried "not for an offense against criminal law, but for a supreme offense against international morality and the sanctity of treaties." Criminal law, it has been held, could not touch the head of a state; but that the Kaiser and his government did commit a crime against the common moral opinion of the world and against international law no man can deny, and it would have been monstrous to allow him to escape punishment altogether. It would seem from this language that he is to be tried solely for his attack upon Belgium. William might have been arraigned as a principal in the prosecution of officers guilty of atrocities, for the German army would never have followed the policy of frightfulness if he had forbidden it. But for such offenses as German troops committed in France and Belgium to which proper penalty, death, and that is a difficult thing to bring about, a capital charge against the former emperor. The tribunal which will try him "with a view to vindicating the solemn obligations of international undertakings and the validity of international morality" will fix the punishment, and it may be presumed that some sort of exile or imprisonment will be voted. It is no doubt due to the fact that Belgium is the victim for attacking whom he will be brought to trial that Belgium has no representative along with the great powers on the proposed court. For the minor offenders against "the laws and customs of war," or those guilty of "criminal acts against the nationals" of the states at the time involved are provided for, it is perhaps unfortunate that the proposal includes an explanation that, since the German government has not provided for punishment of such offenders, the allies must do it themselves. It is notorious that the German government has not shown any inclination to take this step, which would have been one of the most convincing tokens of a real change of heart in Germany; and the language may suggest to the Germans now that they may be able to avert vengeance upon the guilty by hurriedly announcing their own determination to institute proceedings which will end, as in the Fryatt case, with a complete whitewash of all Germans involved. The theory of jurisprudence expressed by the court which is to be called the International Criminal Court may be summed up in the assertion that all things are lawful for Germans, and nothing for anybody else. It is not to be supposed of course that the allies would be deceived by any German proposals to try the offenders at this late date but there is a possibility that the attempt at deception might lead to some delay, and a chance might be given to the guilty of the most outrageous crimes to pose as martyrs. How far justice will be attained in these minor trials may be doubted, for undoubtedly many of the most guilty are dead, and most of the others will probably disappear, with the connivance of the German government and people. There is no reason to expect that the Germans will or more than they are compelled to do in the production either of defendants or of evidence, which is one ground for satisfaction that German war prisoners on the western front are still held. Among them are doubtless some of the guilty, and it may be possible to catch others. At any rate, it seems that an attempt at punishment is to be made, and the more attempts ought to go some distance toward vindicating the universally accepted standards of decency—though whether the Germans will be impressed remains to be seen.

The Fresh Boy

The teacher's favorite is not always the good boy, who comes to school on time, who keeps his eyes demurely on his book, who has the answer ready and right, who minds his own business and keeps out of mischief. Nor is such a lad invariably the one who in the long run forges to the front and makes good. There is a line to be drawn between the "bad" boy and the boy whose irrepressible animal spirits are always tempting him away from the printed page to play a prax. Because he is vivacious he is not necessarily vicious. Because he is mettlesome and even meddlesome, he is not of the lowbrow Lombroso order of ruffian. Let it be recognized that it is a priceless quality in the human animal, this exuberance that becomes tiresome very quickly to anemic, conventional, delicate people. There is great hope for the boy who is "too fresh." He is a trial indeed in the days of his childhood. He is impertinent and insatiable. He is a Paul Pry ever exploring and asking questions. He burns his fingers, monkey-wise, with insane experiment. You cannot say what he will do next, and he keeps the parental heart in the throes of nervous expectancy. As the years roll past, circumstances will conspire to wear him down—to quench his enthusiasm—to persuade him to desist and submit, and take things easy, and go tamely through the motions instead of with an ardor, splendidly. The boy who seems "too fresh" is often the boy whose appetite for information is a hopeful sign, though his perpetual interrogation may provoke his elders to snub him and may make him a trying traveling companion. That a lad who wants to know so much should be found exasperating is sometimes to the discredit of the one who is exasperated. Undoubtedly in many instances it is a sad mistake to rebuke the attentiveness of a child to whom all the world is a miracle. The child that "only seems" to annoy because he knows it teases" is not to be confused with the child who sincerely wants to be told the meaning of picture and sound about him. With the world aging so rapidly there is constantly more for a child to learn. The child who has entered a school since the war has the war to memorize as well as everything else. The world never was so full of a number of things for the school child as it is at present. One must come "fresh" to one's desk of a morning to be ready for such a lot of learning as there is to absorb nowadays. Let us give thanks, therefore, for that unspoiled, upspringing verdancy of childhood, even as we give thanks for the radiance of grass and flowers newly brought by the coming of spring.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Today

The Day We Celebrate. Earl of Rosebery, former prime minister of Great Britain, born in London 72 years ago. Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the National War Garden commission of the United States, born at Lexington, Mich., 62 years ago. Joseph C. Cannon, Illinois congressman and former speaker of the house, born at Guilford, N. C., 83 years ago. Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker, former president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, born at Petersburg, Va., 58 years ago. William A. MacCorkle, former governor of West Virginia, born at Lexington, Va., 62 years ago.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Mrs. Jenness Miller of New York addressed a large audience of ladies at the Y. M. C. A. on the subject of "Dress Reform." Nat Goodwin appeared at the Boyd in "Lend Me Five Shillings" and "Turned Up." The second students' concert of the Omaha College of Music was given at Washington hall under the direction of Miss Lizzie Isaacs. A distinguished party of land agents arrived in Omaha and left later in the day for points west on the Union Pacific. They were joined here by J. C. Bonnell and A. V. S. Saunders.

Our Free Legal Aid

State your case clearly but briefly and a reliable lawyer will furnish the answer or advice in this column. Your name will not be printed. Let The Bee Advise You. Live Stock Running at Large. E. M. R.—Are the owners of live stock liable for damages which runs loose on the public highway and trespasses upon the premises and fields of their neighbors? Answer—Sections 109 and 110 of chapter 2 of the Statutes of Nebraska for 1913 provide that the owners of cattle, horses, mules, etc., who are kept in this state shall hereafter be liable for all damages done by such stock upon the cultivated lands in this state as herein provided by this article. All damage to property so committed by such stock running at large shall be paid by the owners of said stock and the persons whose property is so damaged thereby may have a lien upon the property so committed by such stock for the amount of damages and cost and may enforce the collection of the same by proper civil action. It is further provided, however, that to obtain a lien upon any stock so trespassing, any person claiming the same must notify the owner of such stock in writing that such lien is claimed immediately after taking up the same. It is further provided that cultivated land within the meaning of this article shall include all forest trees, fruit trees and wooded, or planted, lands, and also all land surrounded by a plow strip not less than one rod in width, which strip shall be plowed at least once a year. Are property owners compelled to keep their gates closed leading to the public highway so stock running at large cannot enter upon their land? Answer—You are not compelled to keep your gates closed and the provision of this statute above quoted is applicable where stock running at large enters and does damage to your property.

War Insurance.

I hear that government insurance is only paid at the rate of \$50 per month. Is this correct? Answer—The government insurance issued on the lives of soldiers under the war insurance provision in case of loss is payable to the beneficiary at the rate of \$57.50 per month. This manner of payment may be changed under the new policies into which the soldiers may convert their former war insurance.

Descent and Distribution.

F. G.—Advise me if in Nebraska a wife has any claim to a man's estate outside of the children, if he has never had any children? Answer—Under the laws of this state the surviving wife or husband of a man who has no children, or if there be one or more children, take one-half of the property of the deceased if there is no will disposing of it otherwise. This provision applies particularly to real estate and the manner of distribution is the same in regard to personal property where the value thereof exceeds the sum of \$500. In case it does not exceed the sum of \$500, the total amount may be assigned to the survivor after the payment of funeral charges and expenses of administration.

Homestead.

E. A. F.—What is a homestead? Answer—Under the statutes of Nebraska, a homestead is a tract of land not exceeding in value \$2,000, consisting of the dwelling house in which the claimant resides and its appurtenances and the land contiguous thereto, providing such property is used and occupied as the home. The definition as given in Bouvier's law dictionary, which has been adopted by the supreme court of several of the states, is as follows: "A home place; the place where the home is; the house and the adjoining land where the head of the family dwells; the home farm." If a tract of land is purchased by the parties for a home and transferred to one of the family and is in good faith occupied by them as their home residence, the land so transferred to them and adjoining land and other improvements placed thereon becomes their homestead. Section 1 of Chapter 29 of the revised statutes of Nebraska for 1913 is as follows: A homestead not exceeding in value \$2,000, consisting of the dwelling house in which the claimant resides and its appurtenances and the land contiguous thereto, providing such property is used and occupied as the home. If the legal title to the homestead is in the husband and there are no claims of his creditors against it upon his death, the homestead vests in the widow for life without regard to its value and in the absence of a will of the husband his heirs will take the homestead subject to the life estate of the widow. But the homestead is subject to execution sale upon judgment against the holder of the title if its value exceeds \$2,000. This limitation is solely for the purpose of fixing the rights of the homestead claimants and the creditors respectively.

Little Folks' Corner

DREAMLAND ADVENTURE

By DADDY.

(Peggy, helping to save Birdland from invading porcupines, finds herself in danger from the strange animals.) CHAPTER IV. The Quill Battle. PEGGY'S first thought was to escape the circle of porcupines by jumping over the animals. But there were so many of them she would be sure to land right in their midst. Her second thought was to run fast and dash through them before they could spear her with their quills, but



Finally there was only one wise old porcupine left.

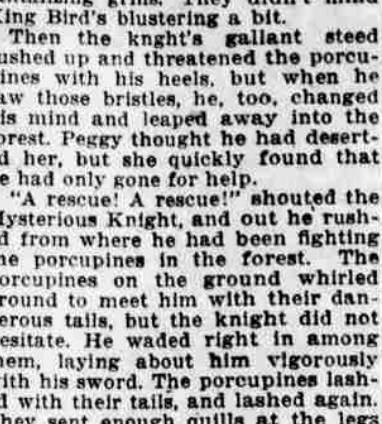
before she could start something happened that made her stop short. Kingfisher was sailing home with a wriggling live fish he had caught in the river, when he noticed the commotion in the woods. Coming closer to investigate, he saw Peggy's peril. This so startled him that he dropped the fish in the path of the porcupines. The fish flopped violently as it hit the ground and then it toppled no more. Without waiting to see what it was the nearest porcupines struck at it with their tails, and in an instant that poor fish was stabbed by dozens of sharp, smarting quills. Kingfisher darted down to recover his meal, but the sight of those quills took away his appetite. He didn't want that fish any more, neither did he want to suffer a like fate from the tails of the porcupines. He halted in his flight and soared up into the air again. Peggy saw what happened to the fish and it was that which stopped her short. She didn't dare get within striking distance of those terrible tails. But the porcupines were coming on—tails first. What should she do? "Somebody save Princess Peggy," shrieked the birds. "Save her, King Bird. Drive back the porcupines, and we'll make you ruler of Birdland." King Bird heard the call and uttered—

V NOTES.

A robin sat a singing high in a polar tree. On the trunk of which was posted an enormous letter V. The words of his song I could not tell, but the insistence of his tone compelled me to go to the nearest bank and take out a Victory loan. A Red-Wing sat a corolling upon a lakeside stalk. His voice sounded in a farmer's ear like some "fool grand spew talk." But the "durn thing" grew so insistent that the farmer turned his head and saw a post with a fresh-painted sign. "Buy Victory Notes," it said. A meadow lark sang convincingly from the tip of a maple tall of a world made free from tyranny—of an equal chance for all; He sang of this beautiful old U. S. And stamped on his radiant yellow breast Was that forceful reminder, V. —BAYOLLE NE TRELE.

tering fierce cries, darted down at the porcupines. Peggy thought he was going to rescue her, and her heart beat high with hope. But King Bird saw that stuck-up fish and he saw the bristling tails swaying menacingly. They caused him to change his mind in a hurry. He screamed and scolded over the heads of the porcupines, but he was mighty careful not to get within the reach of the tails. The porcupines wrinkled up their funny noses in tantalizing grin. They didn't mind King Bird's blustering a bit. Then the knight's gallant steed rushed up and threatened the porcupines with his heels, but when he saw those bristles, he, too, changed his mind and leaped away into the forest. Peggy thought he had deserted her, but she quickly found that he had only gone for help. "A rescue! A rescue!" shouted the Mysterious Knight, and out he rushed from where he had been fighting the porcupines in the forest. The porcupines on the ground whirled around to meet him with their dangerous tails, but the knight did not hesitate. He waded right in among them, lying about him vigorously with his sword. The porcupines lashed with their tails, and laughed again. They sent enough quills at the legs of the knight to cripple him and bring him tumbling in agony to the ground where he would be at their mercy. But, to the surprise of the porcupines, the knight didn't tumble. He lay on his back while they swung his sword lustily to right and left. And every time the sword

Daily Dot Puzzle

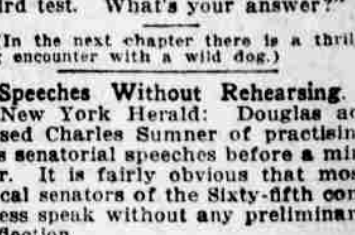


To which service does Tommy belong? Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

wished it cut a porcupine right in two. Finally there was only one wise old porcupine left, and he showed his wisdom by making tracks away from there at such a lively pace the knight couldn't catch him. "Fair Princess, your foes are vanquished," said the knight, bowing low before Peggy. "With the spoils they have left behind them I'll make you a wonderful Indian necklace and a beautiful quill dress." Before Peggy could thank the knight there came another cry of alarm—this time from the marshes. "Wild dog! Wild dog! Save our little ones from the wild dog!" The knight faced King Bird who was looking down at the dead porcupines from the safety of a tall stump. "Do you hear the call, King Bird? Birdland folks are in danger. It's the third test. What's your answer?" (In the next chapter there is a thrilling encounter with a wild dog.)

Speeches Without Rehearsing.

New York Herald: Douglas accused Charles Sumner of practicing his senatorial speeches before a mirror. It is fairly obvious that most vocal senators of the Sixty-fifth congress speak without any preliminary reflection.



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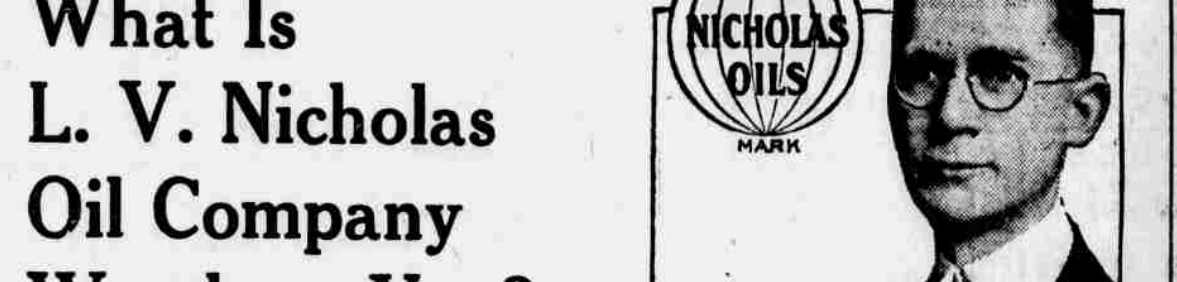
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