

THE OMAHA BEE
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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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APRIL CIRCULATION
Daily 65,830—Sunday 63,444

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

Welcome, "Fighting Farmers"

Among others present we note the man with the straw hat.

The investigation ought to go deep enough to find out who is lying.

Our long delayed summer weather is on the way at last, with the customary effect.

Using gospel hymns to camouflage a jail delivery is an old trick, and never discourages the singers.

Greek troops are advancing on Magnesia. When they take the place we may hear the results.

Now, all get ready to attend the Peace conference, which opens at the Auditorium Saturday.

As usual, insanity experts did not agree. They never do, so the jury always has to decide which is nearest right in his guess.

Phone companies are asking permission to hang out war rates. Quite naturally, but let us express a hope that they will not continue the war "service."

Would it not be dreadful if the Paris conference should adjourn before the mayor and the postmaster get their differences settled? Yes, it would not.

A claim of 13,000,000,000 marks is to be made by Germany as damages sustained through the Allied blockade. Why not include the entire German war debt?

Germans at home are not well pleased with the counter proposals submitted by their delegates at Paris. They need not worry; none of them will be accepted.

What good does it do a schoolmaster to hold an \$18,000 job two months if he can not draw any salary? Here is a problem for the next class in arithmetic.

Between the Lincoln Journal's horror of war and the Omaha Hyphenated's dread of republican success, Leonard Wood's candidacy got quite a boost in Nebraska.

When you strew flowers on the graves today, you not only honor the men who have died for the flag, but you consecrate yourself to the cause for which they gave everything.

Navy officials do not exactly agree with the secretary as to the advisability of abandoning the construction program entirely. We will need a navy up to the coming of the millennium.

If the democrats want to run "Mitch" Palmer because he is a prohibitionist, all right; but what would Randolph of Roanoke say to a candidate with only his antipathy for liquor to commend him.

Chairman Wachob of the parade committee should not be disappointed if some of the boys and girls, the fathers and mothers, and friends break through the lines today. It happened on Fifth avenue, and is quite as likely to occur right here in Omaha.

Let us forget, if General Wood's warning had been heeded, the cost of the war to America in dollars and cents would have been very much less than it was, and we would not have been forced to depend upon England to clothe our troops and France to supply them with cannon ammunition.

It is encouraging to note that both the judge and the prosecuting attorney instructed the jury in a sensational shooting case that there is no unwritten law in Nebraska. Processes of the courts afford ample protection to all our citizens in all their rights, and nobody is justified in taking the law into his own hands to mete out punishment to an offender.

THE NEW NATIONAL DEBT
With wise legislation the public debt of the United States, as piled up by participation in the great war, can be reduced as rapidly as was the accumulated indebtedness due to the civil war. It depends now, as then, upon the intelligence and clear foresight of successive congresses and executive administrations. Relative conditions are more favorable than they were 30 years ago. We are a creditor nation now. In 1865 we were largely in debt to Europe and required to pay in gold at a heavy premium. The estimate of interest-bearing debt at this time is \$24,000,000,000 against \$3,000,000,000 following the civil war. About 20,000,000 citizens supported the national government in that period. Americans now number more than 100,000,000 and are a united people, all engaged in prosperous production. The wealth of the country is proportionately much greater than in former years and is increasing by billions annually. The interest paid on the debt is much less than in 1865-75. As we have taken the oats ourselves the interest is paid to ourselves. No such desirable rebating fund was possible half a century ago.

In spite of serious drawbacks not existent in this era, which burdens included the annual interest payment of \$150,000,000 in gold, the debt was greatly reduced within 10 years. Fourteen years after the war ended specie payments were resumed, and the currency that at one time represented 40 cents on the dollar in gold was restored to par, and has since remained there. The interest-bearing debt declined to less than \$1,000,000,000 and could easily have been paid in full. It was not materially increased by the Spanish war, nor increased at all until the world war broke out and compelled us to act decisively and wisely for the opposing line collapsed. Congress has highly important work ahead.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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MEMORIAL DAY.

American soldiers and sailors of three wars will today do honor to their comrades for whom "taps" have sounded for the last time on earth. In the ceremonies they will be joined by many millions of people, who are more and more coming to appreciate the significance of the day.

These wars were struggles for freedom, for the liberties of the people, the rights of man everywhere. Old Glory has been kissed by the sun in every clime, has rippled in the breeze in every quarter of the world, and is recognized and welcomed as the emblem of right and justice, equality before the law, individual opportunity, and the sanctity of man's right to govern himself. Everywhere the oppressed have turned their eyes to this flag of ours, seeing in it the promise of a better day, the harbinger of hope realized and yearnings fulfilled.

The men who have fallen in the wars under this flag have died for the highest ideals that can animate the human soul. Political and religious liberty such as was established by the Fathers in America never was known elsewhere in the world. These have expanded their vivifying influences until many races have felt their inspiration, but only because here was an unquenchable fire, burning on the altar of Liberty, and irradiating its genial light and warmth throughout the world. It was to keep this fire glowing clear our men, and women, too, have offered themselves, unselfish sacrifices against the hosts of injustice, oppression, usurpation and tyranny.

Memorial Day is the best possible proof that there is in life something nobler than personal gain. On this day we renew our vows, forgotten or neglected for the time, and redevote ourselves to the purposes for which these dead gave their lives. In the immortal language of Abraham Lincoln: "Let us highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that government of the people, for the people, and by the people shall not perish from the earth."

More Disappointment for Democrats.

The democrats have fired their first big shell in the 1920 campaign, and it proved to be a dud. It did not explode. After laying down a perfect smoke barrage in the form of frantic stories from Washington about internal dissensions among the republicans, the opposition blazed away with its biggest gun, intending to split the majority party into irreconcilable factions, but nothing happened. The republican party refuses to divide itself for the accommodation of the minority in the senate. This, to be sure, is not exactly what the democrats would like to see. In fact, they are inclined to look upon the solidarity of the republicans as unalloyed. However, the country at large will appreciate the determination shown by the majority party not to break up into factions over the non-essentials. By keeping on the main line and not chasing off after side issues, it will be possible to accomplish what the people expect in the way of constructive work. The democrats have made an awful mess in national affairs, and then joyously "passed the buck" to the republicans. The big men of the party are under no delusion as to what is before them, and so resolutely decline to jeopardize the public interests by carrying personal differences of opinion as to policy to a point where popular trust would be wrecked by reason of impotency such as the democrats exhibited in the last congress.

Deficit for Year 1920.

Mr. Fess of Ohio and Mr. Moore of Pennsylvania have sharply called the attention of congress to the financial situation. In criticizing the action of the appropriation committee in reporting out without revision bills that failed to pass at the last session, these gentlemen have indicated the possibility of the government being faced with a deficit of \$11,000,000,000 at the end of the year 1920. Such a condition would be calamitous, for it would require another large bond issue to meet the government's bills. The revenue law for 1920 is estimated to produce \$4,000,000,000, and this is not likely to be increased by any revision that is now possible. The only alternative is to carefully revise all the appropriation measures, cutting them as closely as can be done without injury to public service. Even this process will not entirely avert the danger of a deficit. For example, the railroad administrator is asking a billion dollars in addition to the \$750,000,000 carried by the bill that failed; the wire situation will call for a large sum of money, and the liquidation of war contracts yet in process of settlement may also involve considerable expenditure not yet disclosed. The republican congress is faced with the gravest responsibility in this particular, and must move wisely as well as cautiously, if it saves the country from disaster threatened by democratic extravagance and incompetence.

"How to Handle the Crowds."

One of the things perplexing the committee on arrangements for the reception of the Eighty-ninth boys today is how to handle the crowds. The Bee early in the week offered a suggestion that as far as known is not heeded. It was that relatives be provided with some sort of badge or other insignia, that would ensure passage through the police lines. No plan for this has been adopted. While the boys are willing to parade for the edification of the "home folks," they are far more eager to greet and be greeted by the loved ones they have not seen in so long a time. Military discipline may be iron, but it is not strong enough to withstand the natural emotions in a time like this. Police regulations may ordinarily suffice to keep order, but will not keep mother from son, husband from wife, laddie from lassie. The chairman of the committee is well within reason when he says the problem will be to keep the crowds back. It will be little less than a miracle if it is done.

Payment of \$125,000 for a bull may give you a new slant on the cost of living. Yet it is such aristocrats of the bovine world as he that have improved the meat and milk-giving animals to a point where the yearling produces more of edible food now than the three-year-old did in the days of the open range. This high-priced animal ought to earn his cost by his progeny.

Austrian crown jewels are missing, and no one is willing to fix the blame, which must rest somewhere between the aristocrats and the bolshieki, neither of whom has any use for money. It is only the "fat bourgeoisie" who care for dollars and the lil.

When Pershing Was Made Brigadier

George MacAdam in the World's Work.

In September, 1905, Captain Pershing returned to Tokio and took up the duties of military attaché. The following year, two important events came in quick succession. On September 8, his first child, Helen Elizabeth, was born; on September 20, President Roosevelt made him a brigadier general.

Then came the storm! A veritable torrent of indignation and denunciation! A captain had been "jumped" to the rank of brigadier general! People forgot Pershing's long years of service, his splendid record, his achievements in the Philippines. They forgot that almost three years had elapsed since the president urged congress to change the law governing army promotion so that it would be possible to reward an officer "without at once jumping him to the grade of brigadier general," and that during those three years congress had taken no action. They also forgot a series of precedents, a right to which Representative Burckett called President Roosevelt's attention, three years before, when Burckett was urging Pershing's appointment as a brigadier general.

"Upon investigation (wrote Burckett) I find that among the officers who have been raised to the grade of brigadier general from the grade of captain are the following: Gen. Leonard Wood, captain medical corps, more than 491 seniors; Gen. J. E. Bell, captain cavalry, more than 1,031 seniors, and Gen. William Crozier, captain of ordnance, more than 493 seniors. The "jump" of General Bell is especially large, and perhaps unprecedented, yet I have never heard of a criticism being offered. Among the younger officers who have been promoted recently General Carter had received preferment by appointment into the staff, otherwise he would have jumped, at the date of his promotion, more than 380 seniors. General Bliss would have jumped more than 547 seniors. Among those who are mentioned for promotion to the grade of brigadier general is Captain Mill, who, if promoted now, would jump more than 750 seniors.

The many critics only remembered that Pershing was the son-in-law of Francis E. Warren, chairman of the senate committee on military affairs. His promotion, they declared, was a flagrant example of "pull."

In answer to such criticism, Roosevelt said: "To promote a man because he married a senator's daughter would be an infamy; and to refuse him promotion for the same reason would be an equal infamy."

Senator Warren wrote to Roosevelt saying that he thought this expression was capable of misconstruction. "Dear Senator Warren: It does not seem to me that the quotation in question is capable of misconstruction, whether taken apart from its context or not. Your son-in-law was promoted so strictly on his own merits that I had almost forgotten that he was your son-in-law until I received your letter. Even now, I cannot remember whether he was married to your daughter or engaged to her at the time he won the victory because of which I promoted him. My impression is that he was not yet married to her. In any event, the promotion was made purely on the merits, and, unless I am mistaken, you never spoke to me on the subject until I had announced that he was to be promoted. The article that you enclosed from the Washington Herald is a tissue of malicious falsehoods. It is not a case of a man writing under an erroneous impression, it is a case of a man being guilty of malicious and willful untruth. Faithfully yours,

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Airplane Mail Delivery

The first anniversary of airplane delivery mail was celebrated the last week by putting on a line between Chicago and Cleveland. The air mail reached Chicago from Cleveland in two hours and 13 minutes, a trip of 351 miles, which would have required a train at least 13 hours to make. Mail posted at the Grant Central Station, New York City, at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, at Pittsburgh at midnight and at Rochester at 1 a. m., reached the Chicago post-office at 1:30 p. m. Thursday. Ordinarily these letters would not have reached Chicago until Friday afternoon.

When the air mail service was begun between New York, Philadelphia and Washington a year ago it was publicly regarded as a most hazardous experiment. The record of the entire service between New York and Washington shows 92 per cent performance. This means 128,037 miles traveled and 7,720,840 letters carried. The service cost \$137,900.06, less than 2 cents a letter, while the revenue from airplane mail stamps amounted to \$159,700. There were only two fatal accidents, in spite of the terrific weather. One aviator, who was trying to demonstrate his qualifications, and one mechanic, who fell on the whirling propeller of a machine on the ground, were killed. Of the 1,261 possible trips, only 55 were defaulted, because of weather.

It has been discovered that the mail airplanes are much safer than those used for military and exhibition purposes. Experiments are under way to make still safer and to reduce delays. They will permit an aviator to make minor repairs in flight, through use of a multiple motor, which will avoid forced landings. The two airplanes first used are still being employed. One of them has been in the air 164 hours, flying 10,716 miles and carrying 572,826 letters, and has cost \$65.80 per hour for service, while the year's profits are amounting to \$465. The other has been in the air 222 hours, has flown 15,018 miles and cost \$48.34 an hour for service, while the repairs for the year have amounted to \$1,874.76. The air mail appears to have come to stay.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

British Embargo Lifted.

Consul General Skinner was cabled from London, May 3, 1919, that the British government has removed the export embargo from chemicals, dyes, dyestuffs and rugs. It is supposed that this order includes all of the main chemicals still on the embargo list, as the policy has been one of gradual removal of restrictions on the exportation of such products for use in the textile industry.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

George W. Shields, attorney at law, born 1854.

Rev. William Lawrence, Protestant Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts, born in Boston, 69 years ago.

Bishop Henry Clay Morrison, of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, born in Montgomery county, Tenn., 77 years ago.

Mark Hambourg, celebrated pianist and composer, born in South Russia, 40 years ago.

Dr. John C. Acheson, president of the Pennsylvania College for Women, born at Fairfield, Ia., 49 years ago.

Duke of Norfolk, hereditary earl marshal and premier duke of England, born 11 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

The Memorial day parade visited patriots' graves at Prospect Hill, Forest Lawn, Holy Sepulcher, Hebrew and St. Mary's cemeteries. Major Clark was marshal of the day. The republican ward held a lively caucus, H. C. Akin, chairman. C. A. Potter was nominated for member of the board of education.

L. M. Shaw and wife of Denison, Ia., are in the city.

A concert was given at Washington hall by members of the St. Peter's Roman Catholic church. A duet by Mrs. Howard and Miss Voth, and violin and piano by Baetens won special mention for their excellence.

People You Ask About

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

Mary, Queen of England.

Can you give me the full name of Queen Mary, who is soon