

## THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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## VOTE THE ROAD BONDS.

Voters of Douglas county are called upon to approve authority for a \$3,000,000 bond issue, the proceeds to be used in road improvement.

In amount this is the biggest bond issue ever asked for such purpose, or for any other purpose, for that matter except to buy a public service plant, but Omaha and Douglas county are doing things on a big scale nowadays and the big figures should not scare us off.

All must realize, if they do not already, that a complete transformation of our transportation methods is in progress, that we are almost over from the era of horse-drawn wagons and carriages to that of motor cars, trucks and tractors and that present road needs for the day-by-day traffic are entirely different from what they formerly were. Money put into temporary road work or paving surfaces inadequate to this traffic is money wasted, and it would be better to do nothing unless we are prepared to build roads that will meet future requirements.

Douglas county in years past has spent a great deal of money on county road building without satisfactory returns. If the \$3,000,000 bond issue is now voted, the tax-payers who foot the bills will have to see to it that there is vigilant oversight over its expenditure and make sure that this money is not also wasted. They must, furthermore, insist that the selection of the roads to be improved by paving will be highways promising the most benefit to the in-and-out traffic of the city rather than roads that benefit but a few or tend merely to raise the value of tracts belonging to favored land owners. The civic organizations that are backing the bond issue may, we believe, be relied on to continue their interest to the proper expenditure of the money, and this should remove any hesitation or reluctance to approve the bond proposition.

## Back to First Principles.

The police investigation discloses a peculiar condition in which we see the commissioner in charge of the police department actively defending the officers under trial for misconduct and at the same time sitting as a judge in the case.

This anomaly apparently grows out of a patch-work of laws superimposing our commission plan of government on the old mayor and council system. Under the old regime the police were subject to a board of fire and police commissioners, and the police board in turn accountable to the mayor and council. To safeguard police officers from arbitrary action, they were entitled to a hearing on charges before removal, and it is specifically provided that "this provision shall not be construed to prevent peremptory suspension of such member by his superiors in case of misconduct, neglect of duty or disobedience of orders," and to prevent needlessly prolonged suspension, the trial was to be held at the second meeting of the board thereafter. In the case of a police commissioner charged with misconduct the council was similarly to grant a hearing and reach a decision upon the testimony within a reasonable time.

The absorption by the council of the powers of the police board under the commission plan and the assignment of one of the council to superintend the police department has obviously confused all the checks and balances, and it is time to get back to first principles. If the police commissioner wants to be executive head of the police department and share the blame for all the misdeeds of his subordinates, defending them as his own, he should not sit as judge in his own case. On the other hand, if all the councilmen are to serve as judges in these cases, the one assigned to supervision of the police department should act as the law templates, only through his chief of police, holding the chief responsible for the force under him and keeping himself in position to be fair and impartial in deciding on complaints that come up to him. There is a time-tried and accepted rule that no man can properly be judge in his own case, and this applies to a city council acting as a court the same as to any other judicial body.

## A Questionnaire Unique.

It has been demonstrated as a result of the war that there can be no such thing as a fifty-fifty American loyalty. In consequence of a resolution presented by a democratic member from Texas and adopted by the lower house of congress, we may have some light soon upon the prevailing percentage range of obligations to the government of pay-roll employees in the hire also of private individuals or corporations. The resolution calls upon the heads of each of the government departments to report at the earliest possible moment "the names of all government employees of that department who are also employed by any person, firm or corporation, the name of such employer, the hours of service given to such employer and the amount of compensation received by such employee per month for such outside service."

The inquiry is plainly aimed at some flagrant abuses. In urging this resolution its sponsor, Congressman Blanton, declared that he knew of one instance where the head of an important bureau, drawing \$4,500 from the federal treasury, was also paid a large salary by a private concern to manage its Washington affairs and that the office and clerical force of this concern had been housed in a government building, with free rent, free light, free water and free janitor service, paid for by the government. He also claimed knowledge of numerous department appointees pulling down large salaries from private concerns whose work they performed during hours for which they were paid by the government. To ascertain the facts, a questionnaire is to be filled in by the employees in the various departments answering specifically whether they are receiving outside salaries, the names of their outside employer and the compensation received.

If this procedure proves advantageous for stopping these abuses in the federal government, why will it not point the way for like action by our state, county and city governments? A dual employment may sometimes be unobjectionable, depending wholly upon the kind of employment and whether one interferes with the proper performance of the duties of the other. When a private concern puts a public servant on its pay-roll, it is fully aware of that fact, but the employing public is not consulted nor usually advised of it. In any event, it will do no harm to know what public officers and employees also have other positions and to what extent there is possibility of conflict between their interests and the public interests.

## General French's Memoirs

London Times Synopsis of British Commander's Review of War Experiences—In Three Parts.

Lord French was told by Mr. Haldane as early as 1908 that in the event of war with Germany he would be asked to take command, and he was asked to exercise his mind on the problems of this task, which he did to the best of his ability. It does not appear, oddly enough, that he took any part in the military conversations that went on for many years between us and the French, and the council of war, which he attended on August 5, the day after our declaration of war, seems to have had a singularly open mind about what was to be done. Two subjects were discussed: what would be the composition of the British expeditionary force, and, secondly, what would be its point of concentration. There was an "idea" that one cavalry division and six divisions of all arms had been promised, but our obligation seems to have been very indefinite, and it was eventually decided to keep two divisions at home and to send one cavalry and four infantry divisions. Equally vague were the arrangements about the point of concentration, and it was decided to send for a French superior officer to acquaint us with the plans of the French general staff. Apparently all that had been decided in the conversations that had been going on for years was that we should concentrate on the French left and detain between Maubeuge and Le Cateau. Colonel Huguet came from France on August 10, and there followed a debate whether these decisions, vague as they were, should be revised or adhered to. Lord Kitchener thought our left would be too exposed at Maubeuge and favored a concentration farther back at Amiens. Sir Douglas Haig suggested postponing any landing until the campaign had actively opened and we could see where our army could be most effectively employed. Had Haig's plan been adopted we should have understood the co-operation with the French, but the Belgian army, and apart from other objections, our landing in Flanders would almost certainly have been opposed. Lord French supported the original plan of concentration at Maubeuge, and his view prevailed.

## The Prime Error.

This uncertainty a week after the war had begun about these very fundamental questions of our strategy creates a bad impression and calls for a great deal of explanation. One reason given by Lord French is that we could never get Belgium to say until the last moment what she meant to do in the event of war. Yet another reason—and it comes out over and over again in the narrative—is that while we knew that the Germans would invade Belgium, we never thought that they would come so far west. A concentration at Maubeuge was manifestly wrong if the Germans proposed to invade by way of Brussels; it faced east, whereas the right direction should have been north. "I had always thought that Germany would violate Belgian neutrality, and in no such half-measure as by a march through the Ardennes, which was what our joint plans mainly contemplated. I felt convinced that if ever she took this drastic step, she would make the utmost use of it to pour over the whole country and outflank the allies."

"The principal source of the terrible anxiety I felt took its root in the thought that we were too much mentally committed to meet an attack from the east, instead of one which was to come as it actually did. It reassured me, however, to know that the actual disposition did not preclude the possibility of stemming the first outburst of the storm so effectively as to ward off any imminent danger which might threaten northern France and the channel ports."

The channel ports were, in fact, saved, but no thanks to these original dispositions, but to the blunder of the German high command in not occupying and holding them. If we could have counted on the enemy's committing this colossal mistake and on the French winning the battle of the Marne without us, there might have been a war of attrition, but the idea of delaying a landing until the Germans had committed themselves deeply into France.

## British Tactics.

Lord French was appointed to the command on his South African record as a tactician, and he frankly admits that he had never envisaged a war of this position. "All my thoughts, all my prospective plans, all my possible alternatives of action, were concentrated upon a war of movement and maneuver. I knew perfectly well that modern, up-to-date inventions would materially influence and modify our previous conceptions as to the employment of the three arms respectively; but I had not realized that this process would work in so drastic a manner as to render all our preconceived ideas of the method of tactical field operations comparatively ineffective and useless. Judged by the course of events in the first three weeks of the war, neither French nor German generals were prepared for the complete transformation of all military ideas which the development of the operations inevitably demonstrated to be imperative for waging war in present conditions."

"It is easy to be 'wise after the event,' but I can't help wondering how many of us realized what the modern rifle, the machine gun, motor traction, the aeroplane, the wireless telegraph would bring about. It seems so simple when judged by actual results. The modern rifle and machine gun add tenfold to the relative power of the defense against the attack. This precludes the use of the old methods of attack, and has driven the attack to seek covered entrenchments after every forward rush of at most a few hundred yards."

"I feel sure in my own mind that had we realized the true effect of modern appliances of war in August, 1914, there would have been no retreat from Mons, and that if in September the Germans had learned their lesson, the allies would never have driven them back to the Aisne. It was in the fighting on that river that the eyes of all of us began to be opened."

This is a singularly frank piece of self-criticism and yet it is really a criticism of French's generalship that is really valid; namely, that he underrated the strength of defensive positions and owing to his belief in the war of maneuver persisted in his belief in making premature offensives.

(Continued Tomorrow.)

## TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, who was commander-in-chief of the British army on the western front, born in Scotland 58 years ago today.

Rt. Hon. Christopher Addison, whose department in the British cabinet is in charge of the great task of reconstruction, born 50 years ago.

Max Pemberton, popular novelist and playwright, born in Birmingham, England, 56 years ago.

Dr. Charles W. Dabney, president of the University of Cincinnati, born at Hampden-Sydney, Va., 64 years ago.

William A. Brady, prominent theatrical manager and producer, born in San Francisco 56 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha. The grand chapter of the Nebraska order of the Eastern Star assembled at Masonic hall.

Senator Charles F. Manderson and wife have arrived from Washington and taken rooms at the Millard.

Members of the Nebraska State Millers' association in session here were taken for a drive through the city by Mr. Peters of the Omaha Bemis Bag company.

H. H. M. A. and George J. Henderson filed articles of incorporation for the Henderson investment company, with a capital stock of \$30,000.

## Friend of the Soldier

Replies will be given in this column to questions relating to the soldier and his problems. The names of the correspondents will not be printed. Ask The Bee to Answer.

## Guards and National Army Returned.

Chief of Staff March has announced that the national guard and national army combat units from France is co-located. Movement of regulars has begun, the 8th division being on its return. It must be remembered that thousands of national army and national guard men are still in France as reinforcements in regular army divisions or who went overseas with or to replace quartermasters, medical service and other units in the A. E. F. services of supply. Most of these men will be out during June and July.

## The First Division.

Maj. Gen. James M. McAndrews, General Pershing's chief of staff, says that the First division will probably be the last to return. With the exception of the army of occupation and some sections of the service of supply and other division divisions are now out of France.

## General Pershing's Return.

L. T. It is reported that General Pershing may return to the United States late in July.

## Many Questions Answered.

Man from Portland: You probably know before now that many soldiers of the 11th division have been ready arrived and the others are due.

A Soldier's Sister: The 19th motor supply train is attached to the 34th division.

S: The army was 65 per cent demobilized on June 5.

A Soldier's Sweetheart: We do not have a sailing date for the motor company in which you are interested, but according to general reports it will return in June or July.

E. J. P: Evidently your friend was transferred from the 31st to the service of supply and we will have to have more information about the unit he is in before we can tell you where he is.

C. C. P: It is true that our records do not show a 7th company in the 2d air service mechanics regiment, but such a company may exist, and the best information we can give on it at this time is the reply directed to you through this column, June 14.

A Soldier's Sister: A soldier in a post school will return to this country with his organization.

Very Anxious, L. M. H: You have done all you can do. The adjutant general of the 3d division is not expected. In the regular divisions they are filling up places of men and men enlisted for the duration of the war by regular army men as fast as possible. Drafted men or men enlisted for the period of war will be held longer than four months after peace is signed.

V. S. The 32d engineers reached New York early in May, and all members either have been mustered out or will be soon.

E. F. D: I am not sure you can recover your suit but you might try. You are entitled to both a sticker and a receipt for the property of storage, domestic distribution bureau, Washington. For your bonus, apply to the bureau in charge of the property of the army, charged men and officers of the army, addressing the zone finance officer, Leman building, Washington.

C: Send in a true copy of your discharge. See the issue of June 12 for further information.

## ODDS AND ENDS.

Eagles have been known to fly to a height of 6,900 feet.

Whales swim at the rate of 10 or 12 miles an hour.

Ostriches are being hatched in incubators in South Africa.

Some of the ice fields of Greenland are half a mile in thickness.

It is a remarkable fact that a pigeon coos without opening its bill.

The jaw of a shark furnishes the best watchmaker's oil. In each shark is found about half a pint.

The natives of Paraguay, in drinking tea, do not pour it from a teapot into a cup, but fill a goblet with the beverage and then suck it up through a long ornamental tube.

Napoleon had a large diamond set in the hilt of his sword, and he wore it with the famous Josephine, for he believed that the gem would bring him good fortune.

The wild horses of Arabia will not admit a tame horse among them, while the wild horses of South America endeavor to decoy the domesticated horses from their masters and seem eager to welcome them.

## SUMMER SMILES.

"When I'm tired my wife reads to me the news of the day."

"I tried that once."

"Yes."

"But my wife couldn't see any news except about marked-down goods and prices and sales in fur."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Tom-Halloa, Dick, old boy! Writing how-bey?

Dick-No.

How-bey? Or you talking so much trouble for? You've been fussing about two blessed hours over that one letter.

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