

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR
BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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For Night or Sunday Service Call:
Editorial Department Tyler 1000
Circulation Department Tyler 1000
Advertising Department Tyler 1000

OFFICES OF THE BEE:
Home Office, 26 Building, 17th and Farnam.
Branch Office: 1110 North 36th St.
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The short road to good roads is to vote the bonds.

Austria has also to step up to the counter and settle.

King Corn is right on the job in Nebraska these days.

When the mayor proclaims his administration a failure, his word goes.

The \$300-a-month uplifter must at least make a show trying to earn the money.

The Knox resolution will not be pressed to immediate consideration. Too many knocks.

Villa's villainy will over-reach the limit of Uncle Sam's patience one of these fine days.

"Back of the army, back of the daring and dying, is the nation." Not very far back, either.

And the allies will see to it that the new solemn treaty obligation is not flouted as a scrap of paper.

Women are interested in good roads as much as men if not more so. The difficulty is to make them realize it.

The tornado death list shrinks to 60. Still it's preferable to have first reports exaggerated rather than underestimated.

The German peace delegates will be able to "see themselves signing," as that ceremony is to take place in the "Hall of Mirrors."

Omaha's fellow feeling goes out to any and every tornado-stricken community. We know from our own sad experience what such a visitation means.

Observe that according to the British food controller, average food costs in Great Britain are down as compared with last November by over 4 shillings weekly.

Seventeen million yards of silk intended for war, to be sold for women's wear. Though transferred from Mars to Venus, it may still do destruction among men.

Is there any other city of Omaha's size with a similar summer climate that boasts the same idiotic municipal ordinance prohibiting Sunday sale and delivery of ice?

The president of the Irish republic, still in paper stage, has come to the United States to raise funds from sympathizers. He can get the dough here, if any place.

"When an article is made difficult of purchase, there is certain to be a decrease in its sale," says a certain publicity propaganda document sent to us. Well, we're not so sure about that applying in this dry neck o' woods.

Soldiers Keep Your Insurance

War put the government into life insurance. It rightly assumed the war risk to which its soldiers exposed themselves in defense of the country. Two million soldiers are returning from France. More than 90 per cent of them carry government war life insurance, the average policy being about \$9,000, and the aggregate \$18,000,000,000. Unless they take some further action this insurance will lapse automatically. The country's obligation to these men does not lapse when they receive their discharges. They offered all in its defense. The account is not settled when the last pay voucher is signed. This government life insurance is now in force. The equipment for continuing it is in working order. The government ought to continue it, and will. Any returning soldier can have, for life, government life insurance at cost.

It is a rare opportunity for them. No soldier can any more afford to throw it away than he could afford to walk over a 10-dollar bill that he might have by simply picking it up. Nearly all these soldiers are young men in prime condition—mainly unmarried. They are of the age and condition when life insurance can be bought cheapest, but when commonly it is not bought at all because a man feels no immediate need of it. In the normal course of life he will presently feel the need of it. It will cost him more then, and if he has let this opportunity to get government insurance on a strict cost basis go by it will be gone for good. So far the soldiers have been buying their life insurance from the government on a year-to-year basis, which is impracticable when they are off the government pay roll and scattered in civil occupations. A long-time contract is the answer, one now. Such a contract involves higher payments in the earlier years. Through the War department and various other agencies the government is prepared to explain the technical points and to offer various kinds of policies from which an individual may select the one best suited to his needs.

The important point is that soldiers now have the opportunity of getting life insurance backed by the government at actual cost. It is an opportunity that no soldier can afford to neglect. Such a policy is a mighty good asset to begin any career with. Every soldier ought to look up this chance.

We do not believe in government life insurance as a general proposition. This does not imply government life insurance as a general proposition. The country owes a peculiar obligation to these men. In proper discharge of that obligation it insured their lives for the war period. The insurance is in force; the machinery for continuing it is there. Now that the soldiers have won victory the government should not simply cancel the special relationship that the war set up—Saturday Evening Post.

One of two senators, governors, mayors and judges have still neglected to be mentioned for the presidency.

Several hundred thousand chaps on the west bank of the Rhine will be disappointed when the Germans sign.

Judging by the pictures, Dempsey ought to be allowed to use a ball bat in his fight with Willard.

Looks as though old King Booze will have to sign on the dotted line July

SIGNIFICANT UNITY

Whether his candidacy strikes folks with favor or disfavor, the unity of California republicans in presenting Senator Hiram Johnson for the presidential nomination has a significance which should not be overlooked. The announcement made for him assures us that among his sponsors are those who have differed with him in the past and others who have different views on some issues now, "but all united in his support as they have never in the memory of this generation been united on anything else."

Coming from California, which has been a hot-bed of republican feuds for so long, from the state whose factionalism has been charged with the loss of the republican standard bearer the last election, we are inclined to agree that there is more than a local and accidental significance in this unity in difference. If California republicans can overlook past quarrels, sink personal antagonisms, join forces for what they agree upon and hold in abeyance what they disagree upon, nation-wide republican unity for the coming presidential contest may confidently be looked for. There is a special force therefore in this declaration as it comes from California republicans:

"It is but an example of what must happen on a nation-wide scale if the republican party is to resume a dominant place in American affairs. There must be a bringing together of those who have differed on many things and still differ on some. For that is the actual state of American politics and the republican party can gain nothing by ignoring it or merely arguing that it ought not to be. It must face it as it is and the vital asset in meeting the situation is a personal leadership around which all elements can unite."

While it will not as yet be conceded California has the only candidate who personifies this needed leadership, for numerous others will endeavor to qualify, the truth of the assertion will not be gainsaid. Following the lead of California, the complete merger of previously discordant republican elements in other factional states should be well achieved by the time the contest opens next year.

Questions.

Why are the ostensible leaders of organized labor in Omaha trying at this particular time to prevail upon the rank and file to precipitate a general strike in all lines of industry here?

Are they advocating a general walk-out as a measure of sympathy and help to the striking team and truck drivers, or is their action prompted by some other reason?

Omaha was afflicted with a street car men's strike last year—why no move for a sympathy strike for the street car men then?

The boiler-makers have been on a strike for several months—why no sympathy manifestation for the boiler-makers?

The painters went on a strike a few weeks ago—why no sympathy for the painters?

The tailors are on a strike right now—are the tailors not entitled to sympathy?

The telegraph operators are likewise on a strike, but has anyone heard talk of a sympathy strike for them?

Is any one union, each time it decides to go on a strike, and in fact to vote all the unions to strike regardless of their contract obligations.

In a big city like Omaha, with its great variety of specialized labor, a strike in this craft or that is bound to occur from time to time. Are we to have sympathy strikes urged for each craft or only for the team and truck drivers?

Can the workers belonging to the different unions answer these questions with satisfaction to themselves?

Will the Farm Hold Them?

Can any large number of boys who are being released from service be induced to go on the farm, and if they do, will the farm hold them? We note in some of the soldier publications very pertinent discussion of this subject with the attractions of outdoor life and the advantages of acquiring a farm with Uncle Sam's help presented in an appealing way.

The difficulties attached to agriculture, it is explained, are being eliminated. Millions of acres of unused land in almost every section of the country will be placed at the disposal of the soldier farmer and he will be given every aid in making the most of the conditions surrounding him. Pleasure and amusement will be brought in reach of the farmer, schools and other facilities will come his way, so that he will not feel in the least inferior to his city friend. The war forced the average American, and especially the soldier, to take an honest inventory of his ideas and ideals and the hope is expressed that he is able to see life's relations in a clearer light and to realize that the man behind the plow will have a reward just as his brother who shines in the professional world.

The case could hardly be better put as a plea for farm life, as compared with other occupations and fields of activity. But the problem involves the further factor as to whether the soldier who goes on a farm will bend his energies to farming and stick it out. The danger always lurks that with the best of intentions, the help of the government may be accepted and the farm acquired and then when some setback comes, disposed of. The only way this can be obviated, and of course it cannot be wholly prevented, is by making life on the farm and the returns from farming counter-balance what the city has to offer. The tendency we believe is to equalize these conditions more and more, but it will be largely up to the soldier boys who go on the soil, themselves, to make farming what it ought to be.

One good thing about aerial freight service is that cost of maintenance of track and right of way will be nothing.

Well, anyway, the Germans found a navy that they could sink. But, at that, it was only the German navy.

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How Old Is the Earth?

Literary Digest.

Is our planet 1,600 millions years old? Or only ten million? That depends on how you figure it out. Dr. William Harvey McNairn, of McMaster University, who writes in The Scientific American Supplement, tells us that there are three principal ways of approaching this problem. The one that gives the smallest answer is the oldest and depends on an attempt to find out how fast the sun is cooling.

"Our star, the sun, is not eternal," says Dr. McNairn's article. "Sooner or later its fierce heat will have been dissipated into space, and it will become cold and dead. And the life of our planet is bound up with that of its parent sun. It necessarily follows that the age of the sun is a measure of the maximum life of the earth. Is it, then, possible to measure in years the length of time during which our sun could continue to radiate heat at approximately the same rate as we now experience, either too hot or too cold for the existence of life? Lord Kelvin's affirmative answer to this question in 1862 was so incisive and so surprising that the scientific world was at once roused to vigorous argument. Now, taking this into consideration, and putting the present temperature of the sun at 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit, Kelvin concluded that it has been only a matter of about 18,500,000 years that the sun has been at its present degree of heat."

But even these millions do not give the geologists the time which they insist has been necessary to accumulate the vast deposits on which we live, and to develop the present great variety of living forms. Since Lord Kelvin's results were first published, their voices and those of their successors have been constant in their protest against the inadequacy of the time allowed them by the physicists. To quote again: "In order to attain some measurable representation of the extent of geological time, recourse was had to two different geological processes: the formation of stratified rock and the accumulation of salt in the oceans, and both of these have been studied with the greatest care and with results of steadily increasing accuracy."

"The calculation of age from the thickness of sedimentary rocks is based upon the fact that the material of which they are composed was carried down by the rivers and deposited under the shallow water which surrounds the continents. If we could measure the total depth of all such accumulations, and if we could gauge the average load of mud and silt which is being carried down to the sea with each year's quota of river water, the problem that we are trying to solve would resolve itself into one of simple division. The latest and best figures available put it at 335,000 feet, or about 64 miles."

"We have now to determine the rate at which these sediments are accumulated. This has been set by some observers at three inches per year, which would make the time requisite to deposit the total 134,000,000 years; by others it has been placed at four inches per century, which would give us 100,000,000, and by others still at five inches, with a consequent reduction of time to 80,000,000 years."

"The other method, a most ingenious one, first made use of by Professor Joly, of Dublin University, is based upon the theory that the saltiness of the sea is due to the fact that ever since they began to flow the rivers have been carrying salt in solution down to the oceans, the bulk of the salt still remains, and so the sea ever becomes saltier. It is evident that if we knew the amount of salt now in the ocean, and the rate at which the rivers have been delivering it, the length of the time occupied by the process is a matter of very simple calculation. Unfortunately, however, the intensity of the saltiness of attainment. The best measurements at present available set the amount of sodium in the seas at 14,130 billion tons, and each year the 6,500 cubic miles of water which the rivers contribute have dissolved in them 175,000,000 tons. After all necessary corrections have been made, the final result gives a period somewhere between 80,000,000 and 150,000,000 years, with the weight of evidence tending rather toward the smaller figure."

Now we come to the newest, and perhaps most interesting method—that based on radioactivity. Says Dr. McNairn: "Among those elements which are known to undergo the mysterious change due to disintegration of the atom is uranium. By giving off particles of helium at a constant and definite rate, uranium is believed to pass over into radium and lead. If in any given uranium-bearing mineral we can determine the relative proportions of uranium, radium and helium, and lead if it is present, knowing the rate at which these changes take place, we should be able to determine the age of the mineral itself."

This method, first suggested by Sir Ernest Rutherford, in 1906, was subsequently made good by Hon. R. J. Strutt. His results were somewhat startling in the unexpectedly great periods of time which they indicated. For instance, he allotted the very respectable antiquity of 141,000,000 years to some rocks which were found about half-way down to the earliest fossiliferous deposits. However, these first figures were not uniform. Of recent years these have been tabulated and indicate a certain amount of consistency, particularly in their unanimity in extending the reach of geological time to an extent undreamed of by the geologists. Who, for example, would have dared to suggest, from geological evidence alone, that we have to do with periods of from 800 to 1,600 million years?"

Of our three schools of investigators as to the age of the earth, the one that tells us from 10,000,000 to 30,000,000 years; the second, about 100,000,000, and the third, anything up to 1,600,000,000. We must admit, says Dr. McNairn, that we have not advanced very far. The mean of 10, 100 and 1,000 is a figure of little value. But there is a sense in which these figures are approximately the same—that is, when they are compared with infinity.

Brussels, The Magnificent.

Brussels, the Belgian capital, in which President Wilson and his party have been given such an enthusiastic welcome, was known as one of the most magnificent cities in Europe as far back as the 16th century.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate. Stanley M. Rosewater, attorney-at-law, born 1885.

Charles D. Armstrong, president Armstrong-Walsh company, real estate, born 1876.

Col. Merch B. Stewart, U. S. A., who last winter was assigned to command the American forces operating south of Archangel, born in Virginia 44 years ago.

Brooks Adams, well known author and publicist, born at Quincy, Mass., 71 years ago.

De Lancey Nicol, one of the celebrated criminal lawyers of the New York bar, born at Bayside, L. I., 65 years ago.

Oswald Vebien, professor of mathematics in Princeton university, born at Decorah, Ia., 39 years ago.

George von L. Meyer, former secretary of the navy of the United States, born in Boston 61 years ago.

Harry W. Watson, representative in congress of the Eighth Pennsylvania district, born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, 63 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha. Business men interested in Merchants' week formed a permanent organization and elected Thomas Kilpatrick, president; Robert Eason, Robert S. Wilcox and William Shaw, vice presidents; T. H. Taylor, secretary, and S. W. Craig, treasurer.

Marriage license was issued to Otto Bayersdorfer and Annie Carter.

George Anderson, R. S. MarCarty and L. W. Head were successful applicants for positions as firemen.

Judge Isham Reavis of Falls City is at the Millard.

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.

Victory Buttons.

A. S. and other inquirers: In order to obtain victory buttons, discharged soldiers in Nebraska and Iowa should make application to local Red Cross organizations or to the U. S. Army Recruiting Station, Army building, Omaha, for blank forms. There are two form blanks, one for the discharge record, the other being formal request for the victory button. These forms when filled out should be mailed to the recruiting station above mentioned. At present they have on hand buttons for only 100,000 men only, but expect the full supply at an early date. Any Red Cross organization not having the necessary blanks should secure them from the Omaha recruiting station. Pass this word along.

100th Supply Train. To the many inquiries regarding this unit: Our last report thereon was June 1 when they were located at St. Nazaire, France, assigned to early convoy. Like the 109th engineers, they were turned back after making ready to sail. In the case of the engineers, part of whom have returned to the states due to the breaking out of mumps, but we cannot explain the status of the supply train.

Many Questions Answered. A. Constant Reader: The 11th marines are not home yet. No announcement of their probable return has been made.

Mrs. P. R. S.: The 318th engineers, attached to the 8th division, returned home only, but expect the transport Orizaba. So far as we know this means all of the regiment.

A Mother, Schuyler: Butch's company, 24th Infantry, returned June 26th on the Santa Barbara.

An Anxious Mother, Omaha: The 16th and 26th balloon companies are due at Newport News June 28 on the Virginia.

Anxious Wife: Transportation corps company 33 is named among the organization assigned to early return, though the exact date is not set.

A Soldier's Sister: Third balloon company is due June 28 on the Virginia.

G. W. D.: Companies B, C and D, 56th pioneer infantry are due in New York June 29, on the Aeolus.

Anxious Sister: Various units of the 81st division have already reached this country. You do not say what unit you were interested in.

The 6th marines, being with the 2d division in the army of occupation, are not likely to sail soon.

Mrs. M. J.: The 5th and 6th regiments of marines are with the 2d division in the army of occupation. Their early return is not expected.

AROUND THE WORLD.

The coldest inhabited land on the globe is the northeastern part of Siberia. In the town of Verkhoyansk the mean temperature in January is 50 degrees below zero, but very often there are frosts of much greater severity.

Buenos Aires, whose activities have become almost paralyzed as a result of general strikes, is the metropolis of Argentina and one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. The city is situated on the right bank of the estuary of the La Plata. The river at this point is so wide that it is impossible with the naked eye to distinguish the opposite bank, and it is so shallow that ships drawing 15 or 16 feet of water must anchor a considerable distance below the city.

Elaborate celebrations are now being held in Denmark in honor of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Danish flag, the oldest national flag now in existence. It was in the year 1218 that King Waldemar, when leading the Danes to battle against the Livonians, saw—reportedly in a bright light in the form of a cross in the sky. He held this appearance to be a promise of Divine aid and pressed forward to victory. From this time he had the Danes' flag, the oldest national flag now in existence. It was in the year 1218 that King Waldemar, when leading the Danes to battle against the Livonians, saw—reportedly in a bright light in the form of a cross in the sky. He held this appearance to be a promise of Divine aid and pressed forward to victory. From this time he had the Danes' flag, the oldest national flag now in existence. 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