

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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WELCOME, MR. PRESIDENT.

The visit to any community from the president of the United States is a matter of great moment. He represents in himself the majesty of the mighty nation, all the powers of organized government, and the spirit of the institutions that make America great. He is the personification of all the flag stands for, and as such receives the just regard of all patriotic citizens, without regard for party. It is not expected, nor is it desirable, that all should agree with him on political questions. But as Americans we all honor and respect him as occupant of the greatest office to which man may be called. Mr. Wilson's presence in Omaha today is timely for several reasons, not the least of them being the opportunity it will afford for the splendid army of Young America, the children of the public schools, to see the president. To them, and to the foreigners newly come amongst us, it should be an object lesson. Viewed from any aspect, the coming of the president is an occasion of utmost public importance. Omaha has been singularly fortunate of late years in the matter of receiving such visits, and has learned to wholly appreciate them. Mr. Wilson will find here a cordiality and loyalty of greeting that will assure him he is among loyal Americans. More he could scarcely wish.

The Bee and the Boycott.

Certain Omaha real estate dealers and rental agents have determined to exert "economic pressure" on The Bee by withholding their advertising patronage until The Bee desists from exposing the rent boosters and allied profiteers. The wisdom of this course is left to their decision. The editor of a newspaper must always proceed with a due regard for the welfare of the community he serves, having also in mind that sufficient revenue must be obtained through patronage to meet operating expenses. These facts are elementary.

To deserve and retain the respect of its readers, without which it cannot fulfill its mission, a newspaper must be devoted to a principle. The Bee was born to carry on a fight for good government in Omaha. For forty-eight years it has never deviated from that purpose. A search of its files will not disclose a word of apology for a dishonest public official, nor in defense of corruption in public or private life. It has attacked abuses in both public and private places. It has fearlessly criticized and boldly opposed the unfit, without regard for party politics or personal pull.

After almost half a century of steady support of the right, of opposition to fraud and oppression, of effort to secure clean and efficient government, and to expose crookedness and graft in interest of the people, The Bee is not ready at this time to give over the fight. Its courage has made many powerful enemies, and it also has made many staunch friends, who we know may be depended on to back up the only Omaha newspaper that refuses to be coerced or cajoled into covering up any kind of crookedness menacing the people.

What Does Article X Mean?

Article X of the covenant for the proposed league of nations, over which so much discussion is now being had, reads:

The members of the league undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the league. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled.

What does this language mean? The president explained it to the senate committee on foreign relations as literally giving the supreme council of the league power only to "advise," although he qualified this with the further statement that this "advise," whatever it might be, would partake of the nature of a mandate. He also stated that, while the language does not legally bind the United States to accept the advice thus given, a moral obligation so to do is implied. And the moral obligation is the stronger.

Accepting this interpretation, and it is the one most generally given to the article in question, the senate of the United States has prepared a reservation, setting out that this country can be called into war only by act of congress.

Mr. Wilson insists that the peace of the world depends upon accepting in its entirety the ambiguity of Article X, even as illuminated by his own construction, admitting the right of the supreme council to "advise" sending American soldiers abroad and holding for the moral obligation to follow that advice.

The senate is not ready to surrender the constitutional powers of congress to a foreign body. Think this over for yourself, and decide which is better for the peace and security of the nation—whether it is wiser to retain the power to declare war in the hands of congress or to turn it over to a body that is responsible only to itself, in whose affairs the United States has but a single vote while the British empire has six.

Nebraska's "Grand Champion."

At last we have the Nebraska grand champion. Two of them, one a boy and the other a girl. Babies, of course, and they scored so close to perfection that only technicalities intervened between them and the possible 100 per cent. Also, they both live in Lincoln, which accounts for it all. Not that some baby born in another town may not hope to be a grand champion, too, but the handicap afforded is considerable. Only a perfect town can be expected to turn out a perfect baby. Another most noteworthy point in connection with the baby shows is that the winners in the rural classes fell far behind the champions. The disparity, to be sure, is the more marked than might have been noted if the comparison had been between one born in Omaha and another from the country, thus in a sense emphasizing the advantage of carefully selecting the place of birth as well as exercising deliberation in the choice of parents. With all sincerity we hail the grand champions of Nebraska's wonderful babyhood, and hope they will grow up worthy of the honor and a credit to their home town.

American dyes claim to have solved the secret of "fast" dyes, news that will interest the women folks whose patriotism has devoted them to many a fading garment.

J. Ogden Armour now seconds the president's announcement that the crest of the high price wave has passed. But the beach is strewn with the debris of many a ruined pocketbook.

The Silent Sacrifices

(From The Philadelphia Ledger.)

In discussing the privations suffered by clergymen and their families who have had a meager stipend on which to subsist, Harry P. Ford said: "If the wives of some of these men were to tell of their sacrifices the world would be astounded."

Drama, romance and tragedy are not bounded by the limits of the imagination of the writers of plays and novels. We need not go to the stage to have our hearts stirred by exemplary heroisms nor to the moving pictures to bewail the fate of a heroine who may be drawing a considerable income for counterfeiting poverty.

The ministerial profession has no monopoly of privation and sacrifice. While nature hangs a plentiful provision of good things on the laden boughs of trees that to soil and sea, and man's selfishness still neutralizes her best efforts to feed the race, there will be much pitiful misery in some places to restore the balance with opulence elsewhere.

Housewives have been told to "economize." The advice makes them indignant. They think it is time for the profiteer, like Dave Crockett's coon, to come down. They have done their best. They have skimped and counted the pennies and strained every nerve to make both ends meet. They have done their own work and stood over the range in parching heat in flytime, and seen item after item mount beyond the reach of the thinning pocketbook.

But the most extraordinary phase of this transitional economic epoch is the silent stoicism, the uncomplaining endurance of the millions on whom the cost of living more heavily falls.

Much righteous anger these days is finding vent; many would like to see the man who traffics in human necessities hanged higher than Haman; but the restraint and the self-control of home-makers of small means are phenomenal. Upon that inarticulate acceptance of the "stratagems and spoils" of shameless greed the profiteers are banking. But change must come, and soon. The American public is long-suffering, but it is not to be trifled with nor damned, and it is being roused to fighting pitch against a monstrous wrong.

Need of Good Government

Frank A. Vanderlip, who retired as president of the National City Bank of New York in order that he might render his country greater service, in discussing its domestic and foreign duties, as they were impressed upon him by an exhaustive study of the war-torn countries and peoples of Europe, concludes a series of interesting articles with an emphasis on what he calls "the supreme lesson" drawn from his observation; the necessity for good, honest, wise government. He ascribes nearly half the woes of Europe to bad government, often arising solely from ignorance. The other half he lays to economic ignorance. This ignorance is at the bottom of most of the world's miseries. Mr. Vanderlip does not mean illiteracy when he says ignorance. Illiteracy is a great handicap and is responsible for much ignorance. There are occasional men who are illiterate but possess vast stores of wisdom, gathered by observation, experience and tradition. Nor does literacy always mean freedom from ignorance. Carlyle expressed the common desire in hoping that "the mystery of alphabetic letter might be imparted to every child." But Pope also spoke an everlasting truth when he said that "a little learning is a dangerous thing." The ability to read and write and the habit of reading well and widely banish much ignorance, yet these do not always insure getting at the truth, and we have high authority that it is the truth that will make us free. All our progress has been a vindication of this sublime utterance.

Dispelling economic ignorance is no day's task. Interest distorts the vision of both sides of an economic question. Catchwords linger long after they become falsehoods or half truths. The patter of the theorists who fancy they have found "a new light" is equally vain and dangerous. If we could recognize the exact truth and all should be willing to shape their conduct in conformity with it, the matter of government would settle itself. But with imperfect knowledge in the world and with classes of ignorant selfishness, the necessity for courage, sincerity and wisdom in government is of first importance. The theories of Paine would have meant practical anarchy, unless all the people were highly enlightened and exercised self-restraint. But the paternalistic extreme would be equally disastrous in other ways. One of our greatest dangers is from trucklers in office, angling for particular classes of votes, instead of obeying their oaths and doing what their consciences tell them is right before high heaven.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A New War on Nicotine

The Anti-Cigarette League of the World, launched in Chicago under feminine auspices plans to enlist 10,000,000 members in this country and by getting in touch with leaders of other lands to launch out into world work. It is a high and mighty enterprise. Alexander, who sighed for new worlds to conquer, did not know the possibilities in moral reform which is always finding new fields for conquest. And to free the whole earth from the insidious cigarette—what nobler mission could inspire crusaders? Yet it is astonishing that the league