THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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You should know that

Omaha city real estate transfers for the year 1918 aggregated a total of $16,293,698.

What The Bee Stands For:

1. Respect for the law and maintenance of order.
2. Speedy and certain punishment of crime through the regular operation of the courts.
3. Pitiless publicity and condemnation of inefficiency lawlessness and corruption in office.
4. Frank recognition and commendation of honest and efficient public service.
5. Inculcation of Americanism as the true basis of good citizenship.

Done your Christmas shopping yet?

The senate is really to vote at last.

Work and save is the only sure solution for our troubles.

"Bill" Wilson knows what he is talking about when it comes to coal mining.

Why not get Rolls-Royce or Pierce-Arrow cars? Make it easy for the city's invited guests.

The Cornhuskers recovered sufficiently to show the Jayhawkers what a real team can do.

Now is the time to remember that most of the things we dread never happen.

The reds kept at it until they got Uncle Sam started; now they need not complain.

Kansas City is trying to buy Toledo's disused street cars. Omaha might find a place for some of them.

A bond issue of $800,000 is to be asked to repair the court house, which will cause the taxpayers to reflect a little.

That jail delivery at Lemars ought to make Hawkeyes glad that hanging for murder has been restored in their state.

Nebraska's corn crop for the current year is valuable, but only about half of what should be produced on the same acreage.

Attorney Emery assures us the reds are in a minority. So are the cooties, but they are irritating wherever they congregate.

Prolonged voluntary abstention from work is not likely to prove to the world that the loafers were underpaid when they did labor.

As a leader the democratic senator from Nebraska is making his party more than ever regret the demise of the senator from Virginia.

Berlin students are an ebullient lot, but their demonstration in favor of the late empire does little credit to their capacity for acquiring wisdom.

The prince of Wales is supposed to be having a good time in Washington, but that is more than can be said for some others who are located there for the time being.

The New York World says the ousting of Berger is of interest only as it will require the proletariat of Milwaukee to look up another candidate. But the Milwaukee oppressed are like Ephraim, and immediately renominated their chief idol.

Wonder as to why the Russian reds found it necessary to operate through Mexico may be pardoned, when we recall the facility and ease with which the radicals have passed in and out of the United States. It may be true, but it sounds like an alibi for an administration that is just coming to realize how weak it has been on certain lines.

Cooties and Profiteers

For most of the difficult problems raised by the war, human genius found a solution. Men, money, ordnance, ammunition, transports, equipment, strategy, everything pertaining to military art on a mammoth scale, had only to have its needs indicated to be supplied. Yet there were two subtle foes of efficiency, the cootie and that other parasitic incubus, the profiteer, with which it was impossible to cope. Even the resourceful Ludendorff was baffled by the profiteer, as he bears witness in his memoirs:

Profiteering was the deadliest sin, and our inability to eradicate it was a matter of the greatest regret to me from the point of view of morale at home and in the field. Many times I made an effort to get to the bottom of it. The war profiteer is a loathsome phenomenon, and he and the corruption of his influence have done us incalcuable harm.

The war profiteer was the human cootie of the war, "a loathsome phenomenon" which no insecticide of legislation or of moral or military regulation could eradicate. "Great fleas have little fleas to bit 'em," but this voracious flea was immune from any restraint. His gains at the expense of his country were an irritant poison to patriotism, and the corruption of his influence, as the German says, did incalcuable harm.

If there was no remedy for his voracity in war, can none be found in peace?—New York World.

WOMAN, THE BALLOT AND WORLD.

Recent elections have disclosed some facts that may on analysis lead to definite conclusions on the point of woman's interest in applied politics. In New York City the vote returns disclosed that about one in eleven of the women had exercised her franchise. In Omaha about one in ten of the eligibles went to the polls. It is true that here the matter submitted to them was that of a bond issue, involving no choice between candidates. From these figures, more or less supported by experience in other communities, the casual might determine that woman is not so keen about voting after all.

The contention will hardly be supported by the Omaha instance, though, for less than one-third of the men entitled to had sufficient interest to vote, and they had the added incentive of making selection of delegates to the constitutional convention. If anything of real substance may be argued from the returns, it is that women like men will allow matters of less import but more immediate personal interest to come between them and the ballot box, knowing that failure to vote at one election does not mean that they can not make up for it at the next.

On the other hand, women at St. Louis are resolving to have a more important place under the League of Nations than is accorded them. Just how it will be brought about is not clear, but the idea is planted, and the effort will be made. Interest in this will be enhanced by the campaign Lady Astor is making. When her opponent said he should be chosen because he has seven children, while she has but six, she retorted, "But I am not through yet!" A promise here of interest to the existing Astors and inferentially to England.

Woman has had something to say about the way things are to be done from the very beginning. She may not always vote or run for office, but her influence is positively asserted one way or the other on every issue of moment. Lady Astor's retort is a reply to all who look to the election returns as a measure of woman's concern in politics.

Democrats Playing "Deep" Politics.

An interesting and in many ways remarkable state of affairs has developed in the United States senate. Pretending to be eager for a vote on the treaty, the administration group is trying by a series of subterfuges to avoid the final decision. By a complicated and not overly well developed system of parliamentary maneuvers, the democrats hope to force the adoption of a minority substitute for a committee reservation, and thus pave the way for claiming a victory for the president over the senate. This is made clear by the production of a series of administration reservations, including a substitute for the one already adopted as to Article X. Vice President Marshall has ruled that when one of the committee reservations has been rejected, the way is opened for a vote on the substitutes that are to be presented by Senator Hitchcock. This means that if the majority fails in one of its proposals, the lead passes over to the minority, a clever enough trick, but one that will probably fail. The democrats rely on the unwillingness of the majority to ratify the treaty without reservations, ond trust to some favorable moment to give them control of the situation. Any pretense that they do not seek partisan advantage is abandoned in hope that somehow they will be able to bring forth even a Barmecide triumph for the president. The game from now on will be worth watching.

Spiritualism and the Church of England.

When the Protestant Episcopal church of America was revising it prayers, rubrics and ceremonial forms recently, the discussion heard suggested that the institution was being shaken from its foundations. If the good brethren who were so disturbed over the omission of the word "obey" from the marriage ritual, or the slight alteration made in the prayer for the president of the United States, had had opportunity to attend a conclave of the Church of England, recently held at Lancaster, they might have had occasion for perturbation.

Principal of the topics considered by the dignitaries of the church was spiritualism. The archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of London, the dean of St. Paul's and other notables discussed the matter in plain but hopeful terms. They find in the increasing belief in spiritualism the outlet of a yearning bereaved heart for consolation earthly means can not afford. Not in what one of the brethren characterized as "pitiable necromancy," but in the more substantial thing of which scientists such as Sir William Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge, Camille Flammarion and Caesar Lombroso have given testimony.

Philosophy does not bring the proof to support faith, but the soul itself is asserting the reality of the future life. Heaven and hell do not interest people, but the state into which we pass from this life does. What the dean of St. Paul's calls the "adamantine barrier" set up by the Sixteenth century reformers between the living and the dead is now to be surmounted. The church believes in the immortality of man, and many good churchmen believe that communication between the here and the hereafter is possible.

The archbishop of Canterbury promises that in the spring at another conclave the result of closer study will be given and the church will more definitely state its position. Spiritualism is getting onto solid ground.

We thank our hyphenated contemporary for its illuminating discourse on the intentions of the voters of Ohio, but must protest on its reading into the words of The Bee a meaning not therein contained. This great champion of human rights does not abate to any its advocacy of the voter's privilege of expressing his views however and wherever he may have inclination or opportunity, and we will always make the best of any determination thus attained. The Bee is quite willing to trust the people, but that willingness will not deter it from endeavoring to lead them along a safe course by giving them accurate information on which to base conclusions.

Again we hear of hunger in Russia, which could be made the greatest food producing country in the world, but the average bolshevist finds it easier to starve than work.

The Iowa miners may rely on the advice of their attorney who is splitting hairs to show them how to evade the injunction, but they will do better to go to work.

Views and Reviews

How Nebraska Came to Get Its Constitution

I wonder how many people realize that the coming Nebraska constitutional convention will be the first to meet for that purpose in this state in 44 years—in other words that the convention that made the present constitution held its deliberations in 1875, and the only changes in the document then formulated have been a few that have run the gauntlet of the difficult process of amendment.

The successive steps that led up to our present form of state government are not generally known except to those who have had occasion to look into the early chapters of Nebraska's history. The territorial organization dates from the famous Kansas-Nebraska act, so epochal in the prelude to the Civil war. Of course the expectation from the start was to lay the fundations for a future commonwealth with full membership in the union. But the first effort to secure a state constitution met with defeat when the question was submitted to the voters of the territory at an election held March 5, 1860, with 2,272 adverse votes and only 2,094 favorable.

In 1864 the territorial legislature petitioned congress to pass an enabling act to permit Nebraska to qualify for statehood, with which petition congress promptly complied. A constitutional convention was called and met at the capital in Omaha July 4, 1864, but adjourned immediately after organizing, a large majority of the delegates having been pledged to this program before their election for two reasons: first, that the people did not want to take on the additional financial burdens of a state government, and second, because the democrats opposed anything and everything that might increase the preponderance of the republicans in congress during the war and furnish the vote of another state to help ratify war-time amendments to the federal constitution.

After the conclusion of the war and the beginning of the controversy between congress and President Johnson, the pressure for statehood became stronger and the territorial legislature in February, 1866, itself undertook to frame a constitution through a joint legislative committee. This document, which was hastily put together, was submitted to the people at a special election held June 2, 1866, at which men to represent the new state in congress were also provisionally chosen, and was declared adopted by a vote of 3,938 for it to 3,838 against it. Whether this first state constitution of Nebraska was ever really and truly ratified is a decidedly open question. The contest over it was an old-fashioned hot partisan fight, and in those days the ballot box was not quite as well safeguarded as it is now. It was freely charged that men were run in from Iowa to carry the election in Nebraska. Dr. Miller in his history declares that "the vote of the First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer cavalry was 134 for and 32 against the constitution. There was a wholesale emigration of the First Nebraska regiment to their homes in Iowa, Missouri, ond other states, after having voted in Cass and other counties. They voted in Iowa the year before and never pretended to be citizens here." A protest, drawn up by the minority of the legislature, analyzed the returns and gave figures to prove that the constitution was in fact defeated by a majority of 48. Nevertheless congress accepted the constitution of the new state subject to the condition that the word "white" be first stricken out of the suffrage clause by the duly authorized representatives of the people, and this was done, not by resubmitting to the voters, but by resolution of the legislature.

Nebraska had no sooner set up in business as a state than the constitution under which it was admitted was found to be thoroughly inadequate and defective. Another convention was ordered and delegates elected to meet in June, 1871. This convention, after putting in 47 days on the job, framed a constitution which was submitted for ratification along with five separate provisions relating to woman suffrage, prohibition, compulsory education, municipal aid to corporations, and liability of stockholders. This constitution was rejected at the polls by a vote of 7,986 for and 8,627 ogainst, and all of the accompanying propositions went down with it. The currently accepted explanation was that those opposed to prohibition and those opposed to the section that would tax church-owned property in excess of $5,000, together, proved too much of an obstacle to be overcome.

There was nothing left to be done except to try again as soon as possible, and the machinery for another convention was set in motion by the next legislature. It convened at the state capital in May, 1875, and adjourned in June. The rejected constitution of 1871 was in large part retained, although, we are told, "the executive, legislative and judicial departments were enlarged and more adequate salaries provided for," and it is this constitution, adopted at an election held in October, 1875, by a vote of 30,202 to 5,474, that has continued to be the fundamental law of the state, except as modified in a few spots by process of amendment.

Since the operation of the present constitution of Nebraska thirty odd amendments have been submitted to the voters, of which eleven, or less than one-third, have been adopted. The most comprehensive scheme to bring it up to date was tried by the legislature of 1895, which formulated and submitted twelve amendments at one time, but all of them failed of the necessary vote. It was after this that the ingenious device of permitting party endorsements of proposed amendments and counting all crossmarks for the straight party ticket "yes" or "no" on amendments according to the action of the respective political parties was imported from Ohio, that the door was opened for changes in the fundamental law. All of the amendments subsequently adopted have been "put over" by this dubious mechanism, or pursuant to the initiative amendment, which itself was put over through the party circle. It is worth noting that Ohio long since rescinded the party method of constitution-changing, though Nebraska still retains it.

Victor Rosewater

Aroused on Good Roads

It is stated that no less than $600,000,000 is provided for the construction of hard-surfaced roads in the United States next year. This is indeed a national awakening. In these times even out-of-the-way villages thought to be forgotten insist on getting into touch with the busy world. The old idea was that permanent roads were too expensive to be taken up as a practical proposition. Now a bad road is seen to be too disadvantageous to be tolerated. The multiplication of motor vehicles, and their tendency to go everywhere, has much to do with the change, but there is also a realization of the great waste of money under the old superficial system. Half-way methods get nowhere. The task in hand is never completed, but is always in the stage of beginning over again. But now the people have reached the conviction that the only way to secure good roads is to pay for their proper construction and then pay for their proper maintenance.

The new era in roads is apparent in all the states. A third of the money they spent for improvements last year went into good roads, California leading, with New York and Maryland next in order. In two-thirds of the states revenues exceeded expenditures last year. The majority are in excellent shape to go ahead with needed enterprises. Roads are one of the starting points. Their permanent betterment is sure to bring other benefits of the same kind.

The year 1920 is already distinguished with a $600,000,000 improvement item.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Armistice Day and Its Meaning

Editor of the Bee: On this, the anniversary of the armistice with Germany, will you permit me to say a few words relative to the attitude of some of our people toward that great event?

Let it be remembered, in the first place, that had not the armistice been signed, a major operation would have been carried on with Metz as the final objective, which operation was to be executed mainly with American divisions. The Eighty-eighth division was concentrated between Toul and Commercy, with the division headquarters at Lagney, a point about 35 miles south and a little west of Metz. On our right and left, and slightly in advance, were other American divisions.

Less than half way to Metz was the Pant-a-Mousson hill, our first objective. What would have been our losses up to the time of the rush for the objective is a matter of idle speculation, but a knowledge of the topography of the hill itself must lead us all to a conclusion that a charge up its incline, unrelieved by any kind of natural protection, with its crest held and firmly intrenched, would have brought about one of the most bloody slaughters of the world war. Charge after charge would have been made, with unspeakable slaughter of good American manhood, before the enemy had been compelled to retire. On this very hill, thousands of men from this middle western country would have made the supreme sacrifice, since two infantry regiments of the Eighty-eighth had been selected for the shock, and they were made up of men mainly from this section. Few would have returned. Not only those, but thousands more would have met a like fate. Beyond this objective was a distance of perhaps 18 miles to the city of Metz. The country was comparatively open. Over this expance the chances are few men would have been lost, but again in the enveloping movement around Metz, scores and thousands of lives would have been sacrificed, not to speak of the losses of the days of fighting before the strong fortifications crumbled, or her occupants were starved into submission. I do not think it too much to say that in this and operations in other sectors, the loss of life of American soldiers would have equaled the number now on the roll of American dead.

The terms of the armistice were promulgated by our allied high command, and all its terms were acceded to; the terms of the peace treaty were dictated by our peace commission and were signed by the German plenipotentiaries, without the changing of a single word; Germany has paid the first installment of her debt; she has destroyed her fleet; she has demobilized her army; she has set up a government, the form of which is in conformity with the dictates of our accredited representatives. In fact, she has done all that has been asked of her. What are these things she has done, except a complete, unequivocal and irrevocable admission to and before the world that she is completely defeated and at the mercy of us and our allies? Can General Harries, or anyone else, go before the mothers of the boys in olive drab and tell them that it was the duty of them to sacrifice their boys' lives to beat, bruise, mangle and destroy the men of a country, who, by her acts, has so eloquently and forcibly admitted complete defeat?

If we have not, according to humane principles, completed our work in the war with Germany on the battle fields, then it is our duty, now that we see it, to don the uniforms, shoulder the guns, and go out and complete the task. We have either done our duty, or we have not. If we have not, we should, regardless of the cost. I venture the assertion that there is not a man, be he general or humble citizen, who would say that justice or humanity dictates such measures. He who believes with General Harries is bound by the reason and the logic of his belief to say that the United States of America is in duty bound to call her boys back into the service and send them again across the seas to complete the task they left unfinished over there.

Who is the more capable of knowing whether the war came to a timely and proper end, Marshal Foch, Marshal Haig and General Pershing, who were over there and saw and participated in it all, or General Harries, who went to Berlin after the fighting was over, and Mr. Ure, who was, for a time, chairman of the Second District Exemption board of the city of Omaha, and later became one of Omaha's city commissioners?

How many men who did their bit anywhere in the threaters of operation are there who will say that the war did not come to an end timely and auspiciously for us all? Not many, you may be sure. And the men know whereof they speak. They met Fritz and they know, and they know that he knows, he is hopelessly defeated, and all the world knows he is defeated. I confess I am unable to follow the reasoning of a man, or set of men, who want to continue a war which has been won, and everybody and every nation in the world knows and admits the truth of it, even to the enemy.

JOHN W. YEAGER.

IN THE BEST OF HUMOR.

"Why do they call it the prom?"

"Mere process of elliptical erosion. Originally the gathering was so promiscuous, don't yer know."—Michigan Gargoyle.

"Would it be all right to beat a grass rug?"

"I don't know, my dear. Perhaps I'd better just run the lawn mower over it."—Louisville Courier Journal.

"How do you do it, son? You sleep in that class every day."

"The professor is a retired minister and doesn't mind it."—Penn State Froth.

Waiter—The guy who ordered that lobster Newburg complains that you put no sherry in it.

Chef (laughing)—Tell him that I never forget myself!—Buffalo Express.

Customer—But is he a good bird? I mean, I hope he doesn't use dreadful language.

Dealer—'Es a saint, lady. Sings 'ymns beautiful. I 'ad some parrots wot used to swear something awful, but, if you'll believe me, this 'ere bird converted the lot.—London Tit-bits.

Hoyle—I am writing a moving picture scenario.

Doyle—How far have you progressed?

Hoyle—Well, I have begun with the kiss at the end.—Cartoons Magazine

"I can't raise $50—that's all there is to that! I got a notice from my bank this morning that I had overdrawn!"

"Well, try some other bank. They can't all be overdrawn."—Vanity Fair.

"IF."

If there was no care or worry
And everyone was gay,
The sun be always shining
And clouds were never gray
Eyes were not bedimmed with tears
And smiles we'd see alway
The life of everyone would be
A glorious holiday.

If man would be as brother
With no malice or envy
And help to bear the burden
Ofttimes weigh heavily
Whatever the relief desired
If there would be fair play
The life of everyone would be
A glorious holiday.

If the laws were just and right
And all would them uphold
And worship more that's sacred
Less of that idol, gold.
"Do unto others as you would,"
In the long run it would pay
And make this world for everyone
A glorious holiday.

—BELLVIEW.

Home Health Hints

Reliable advice given in this column on prevention and cure of disease. Put your question in plain language. Your name will not be printed.

Ask The Bee to Help You.

Prolonging Human Life.

The lengthening of the span of human life has been put forward as a remedy for social unrest and a means for increasing production by Dr. William Mayo, president of the American College of Surgeons, in an address to the Clinical congress.

Since the close of the civil war, said Dr. Mayo, 15 years have been added to the length of human life, and in the next 20 years it is certain that another 10 years will be added. When he was a boy it was difficult for a man of 40 to find a new job, and for a man of 50 it was impossible. Today the older men were great assets to the country. Their skill and experience counted much. They were less inflammable, and had family ties and responsibilities, so that they were less under the influence of violent agitators. He said:

"Another great factor in the progress of the world has been the supply of drinking water to cities and nations. The introduction of potable water has made prohibition possible. Prohibition will enormously increase production. The failure of France and Italy to supply potable water necessitates the continuance of wine drinking, just as in Germany beer drinking will continue. Alchoholic drinks loosen the control which civilization has imposed over the primitive impulses of man.

"But the arch foe of middle life and beyond, he added, was cancer, and measures both for prevention and cure had not advanced in proportion to the need. One woman in nine, and one man in 13, died of cancer. Good denistry had eliminated the percentage of cancers of the jaw caused by irritation from defective teeth, but cancer of the lip and tongue was on the increase as the habit of smoking increased among both sexes."

FROM HERE AND THERE.

Savings banks were invented for clergymen.

Tokio has more than 30 daily newspapers.

The Bible contains no words or names of more than six syllables.

The oldest known English picture is one of Chaucer, painted in 1380.

Amber is found in various colors besides yellow—black, white, brown, and green.

In proportion to its size Belgium has more miles of railway than any other country.

The human brain usually stops growing at about 50, and from 60 to 70 its tendency is to decrease in size.

Of the twenty odd million acres which comprise Ireland, nearly one-seventh are barren, being mountain, turf, bog or marsh.

Kilkenny castle is one of the oldest inhabited houses in the world, many of its rooms being much as they were 800 years ago.

A favorite mode of suicide among the African tribes who dwell near Lake Nyassa, is to wade into the lake and there calmly wait for a man-eating crocodile to come and finish the job.

The cow-tree of Venezuela yields milk of good quality. The trees from large forests along the sea coasts, and the milk, which is obtained by making incisions in the trees, so closely resembles that from the cow, both in appearance and quality, that it is commonly used by he natives as an artificial food. Unlike most vegetable fluids it is pleasant in taste and possesses an agreeable odor.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Robert L. Carter, president and manager of the Carter Sheet Metal works, born 1864.

Minnie Hauk, the once-famous opera singer who has recently been reported in needy circumstances in Switzerland, born in New York City, 67 years ago.

Rear Admiral Joseph Strauss, who was in command of all the American mine laying in the North sea, born at Mt. Morris, N. Y., 58 years ago.

William F. Kirby, United States senator from Arkansas, born in Miller County, Ark., 52 years ago.

Dr. Lemuel H. Murlin, president of Boston University, born at Mercer, O., 58 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

Mr. Herman Kountz estimated the market value of property in the city of Omaha as $100,000,000.

Miss Emma Walker was given a suprise party at her home in Florence, the occasion being her 18th birthday.

Mrs. Clarkson gave a pink luncheon in honor of Mrs. Zahner of Fairbanks, Minn.

The property on the southwest corner of Seventeenth and Farnam streets was sold for $85,000.

Sherman Clement took out a permit to build a $5,000 brik residence on Chicago street near Thirty-ninth.

ODD AND INTERESTING.

The earliest English Bible printed in the United States was produced in 1782.

It is a remarkable fact that the deepest parts of the sea are in all cases very near land.

It is estimated that the oil lost annually by the burning of oil wells is equal to nearly 2,000,000 barrels.

The phrase, "living on tick," dates back to the 17th century, when a tradesman bill was known as a ticket.

Letters are delivered in some of the islands of the Tonga group, in the Pacific, by skyrockets fired from steamers.

If there was but one potato in the world a careful cultivator might produce as many as 10,000,000 from it in 10 years.

In times of financial difficulties the Loochooans, residents of the southwestern islands of Japan, sometimes pawn the graves of their relatives. They are always redeemed, however, failure to do so meaning family disgrace.

The striking uniformity of size among the Japanese is illustrated by the fact that measurements taken of an infantry regiment showed no variations exceeding two inches in height or 20 pounds in weight.

The laws of Italy are strict in regard to theaters and circuses. Every act or performance announced on the program must be given. Any great exaggeration in the advertising intended to mislead the public is punishable by a fine.