

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING JOYS.

Old Hi Cost O'Living must feel pretty cheap right now. He has just endured, sustained, and put up with an onslaught that would give an ordinary person quite a shock. Yet Old Hi can stand a good deal of the sort of treatment that has been heaped upon him. It has come from the host of Christmas shoppers, who have been buying everything on the catalogue. To be sure, the advanced price has been noted by all, but the purchase was made just the same. People have the money to spend, and the will to spend it, and that is the main thing.

One other point deserves attention. In days gone by it has been quite the thing to advise people to do their shopping early, drawing pictures of the dreadful crush that awaited the procrastinators, the worst shop girls and all that sort of thing. These are conspicuously absent now. A rude and altogether unwelcome fuel embargo thrust its presence into the midst of the festivities, but the public put the best face possible, and shopped away with diligence during the hours when shopping was good, and came out at the end rather well pleased. Then the normal conditions were restored, and on came the real army of spenders.

Instead of the tired, bedraggled shop girl, the buyers found the bright, alert salesperson, full of "pep" and snap, ready to fill their wants as far as possible, affable, courteous and even-tempered. These were made so by the checking up of sales each evening, showing that it pays to take care of customers. Into the stores each morning trooped the clerks, and out of them in the evening poured a throng of tired but happy people, clerks and shoppers mingling in the multitudes that packed the cars to suffocation, all pleased with the day's work, and none grumbling. The big rush was over last night, but three more days yet remain for the wind-up of the most noteworthy season of Christmas shopping Omaha has ever experienced. Old Hi Cost O'Living may come back to torment us next week, but for the moment he is defeated.

Sailing of the "Soviet Ark."

An army transport leaving New York harbor writes a new line in American history. It carries back to Russia a congregation of devoted but misguided propagandists who came to America for the purpose of overturning our government. Not only that, but to upset our social and industrial organization, reform our ways of living, and recast our institutions into other shapes. Defenders of these rely on the Declaration of Independence, but fail to grasp its particular significance. Among the inalienable rights of men, created free and equal, that document lists "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." To "secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, and whenever any form of government becomes destructive to the ends for which it is instituted, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government," etc. So far it has not been shown that the government of the United States, existing by consent of the governed, is destructive to either of these ends. Under our laws life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are secure to all who go about their daily walk in a decorous and seemly fashion. It is only the malcontent, the unruly, or the intentionally criminal persons who find themselves limited by the law. The man who does not want to be bound by the rules made to govern all soon finds himself hampered, for society will not long tolerate him after he becomes a menace.

That is what the preachers of anarchy have omitted from their calculations. They are going back to soviet Russia, there to enjoy life under the "dictatorship of the proletariat," for Americans will have none of their absurdities, and do not care to have them about leading thoughtless persons into trouble from which those who persuade them are powerless to extricate them. The soviet ark does not carry peacemakers, but trouble-breeders.

Suicide and the Season.

Omaha is not alone in way of enduring a suicidal epidemic. Every large city in the country presents a situation similar to the one noted here. It may seem somewhat remarkable that the glad holiday season of the year should be distinguished by the unusual number of self-inflicted deaths, but as it has been characterized by the uncommon array of other disturbing events, the suicides may be accepted as an outcome as sequential as unpleasant. Nerves give way under strain, and the overwrought mind loses its moorings, and death is sought as a relief. Conditions have long been such as to encourage distraction, and trifles easily are magnified into calamities when the brain is already racked by perplexities it can not master. The pathology of suicide leads directly to the abnormal or the abnormal, and these are accentuated by the deranged and unsettled social relations that have marked the last twelve months. It would be idle to ascribe any material deterioration of the national fiber to the circumstances; the victims suddenly feel themselves no longer willing to go on facing "a sea of troubles," and so "by opposing end them." The germ is ever latent, and is now virulently active because of other unbalanced elements of life. The suicide mania is a symptom rather than the disease.

Industrial Growth in Omaha.

Day by day for many weeks the local papers have announced industrial changes in Omaha, establishment of new and expansion of old institutions, indicating a growth that is astonishing in its aggregate. Omaha is not often thought of as a manufacturing center, but as long ago as 1914 the federal government's survey found here over 25,000 persons employed in the various factories that are dotted over the city. How much this has been increased no one can say with accuracy, but that it has been almost doubled is within the range of truth. Pay rolls have been increased accordingly, and with the advance in wage rates must now amount to a sum that would be looked upon as respectable anywhere. At a venture it is safe to put Omaha's factory pay roll at something like \$40,000,000 annually at this time, and it is still growing every day. When the railroad, store and office pay rolls are added to this, the sum will amount to an enormous total. This is the substantial basis of the city's greatness, and while it is set out here only in generalities, the forthcoming review of the year's activities will furnish details that will astonish as well as gratify the citizens who have pinned their faith in the real Gate City of the West.

British Kept Up With Von Bernstorff

From the Brooklyn Eagle. The following material is translated from the latest German newspapers which have reached this country. The war inquiry before which the testimony quoted in the following article was given is sitting in Berlin to fix responsibility for Germany's conduct of the war.

Germany's difficulties in keeping up secret communication with its representatives in the United States during the opening years of the war are revealed in interesting fashion by the testimony of Count Bernstorff before the German war inquiry in Berlin. England deciphered every secret German code used in the wireless messages sent from Sayville, Count Bernstorff declared. An attempt to send Albert, the German propagandist, home on the German submarine Deutschland failed because her owners objected. Interesting excerpts from the stenographic transcript of the testimony follows:

Romburg—Count Bernstorff took the attitude that Wilson was quite sympathetically inclined toward us, whereas in Berlin the strongest distrust prevailed. I am under the impression that between Washington and headquarters in Berlin during this important period, a clear understanding of what was telegraphed back and forth did not always exist. That came from difficulty in establishing connections. If the ambassadors were not in a position to travel to Germany, couldn't an official have been sent to Germany with the message? What steps did you take to make some such arrangement with the American government?

Count Bernstorff—Our single cable had been destroyed, so there remained for us only the use of the wireless. The United States government took the stand from the very beginning that the wireless stations before the war had not been fully used, and that according to the agreement of The Hague convention their use could not be extended. The French capital was concerned in the enterprise and the French joint interests demanded the immediate closing of the station. The United States government thereupon took over the control of the station and demanded that they be informed of the contents of all communications. We were permitted to use the code, but were obliged to deposit our codes with the American government, which was supposed not to reveal them to the Entente. If they were actually revealed, I of course cannot say. It became necessary to send the present Assistant State Secretary Albert to Berlin by way of the submarine Deutschland. The journey was thwarted, however, by the opposition of Captain Koenig. Naturally I myself couldn't go, as the Entente would not let me pass. The American government was made cognizant of the circumstances and they recalled Gerard to America.

Ex-Foreign Secretary Zimmerman was then asked regarding action taken: Zimmerman—I conferred with Gerard as to whether it would not have been possible for us to use the cable more frequently. Gerard explained that the neutrality of his government must be preserved. It could not escape unnoticed if we made use of the American cable too often. We were then in duty bound to limit our correspondence with the ambassador as far as possible. Wireless intercourse was absolutely unsuited for secret communications. We were suspicious that our code dispatches would immediately become known to the Entente. Another possible way of communicating, by way of several neutral stations, could only be used in exceptional cases. Personal communication with the ambassador or a messenger having our messages personally conveyed would have been very desirable to us. The home journey of Secretary Albert was frustrated because the owners of the submarine Deutschland did not want to expose themselves to any unpleasantness from the American government.

Count Bernstorff—Did you see anything unfriendly in the conduct of the American government in this case? Count Bernstorff—We were of the opinion that the attitude held by the American government was a false one. They thought they could not act otherwise in view of The Hague convention. To a question by Dr. Hoetsch, Count Bernstorff replied: The code was not changed as often as we were accustomed to change it under normal conditions. When connections were not cut off entirely, we would change the code, once every month or once in two months. Only in the two voyages made by the Deutschland did we employ the secret code or a messenger. I discovered that the English had succeeded in decoding many of our telegrams. Whenever there were a sufficient number of telegrams at hand, every cipher could be easily translated.

Dr. Hoetsch—You do not think that treachery or deceit had anything to do with it? Count Bernstorff—I do not believe there was any treachery or deceit.

"Tain't Expensive Enough"

"Curfew Rings Up Record on City's Cash Registers." This heading introduces a story of Saturday's remarkable shopping scenes in Chicago, of which an incident of a young man and an ounce of perfume is worthy of elaboration. "I want to buy some perfume," said the young man. "This is very fine; \$5 an ounce," the saleswoman replied, and placed a tiny bottle on the counter. "Got something better?" asked the young man. "Here is some at \$10 an ounce." "Tain't expensive enough; good night." And the young man departed.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

A chimney 115 feet high will sway 10 inches in a high wind without danger. Stockings first came into general use in the 11th century. Before that time cloth bandages were worn about the feet. It is estimated that one of the Peruvian rain trees will on the average yield from pine to ten gallons of water each day.

Twins are more common in cold than in warm countries, and among mothers of between 25 and 30 years than at other ages. The Japanese host never entrusts the making of tea to his servants on high occasions; it is a task he invariably performs himself.

The royal crown of Persia, which dates back to remote ages, is in the form of a pot of flowers, surrounded by an unobscured ruby the size of a hen's egg. Scotch fishermen, who are among the most superstitious of folk, believe the contrary will be the result of having eggs on board with them.

The Japanese cultivate crysanthemums of 269 varieties of colors. Of these 87 are white, 82 yellow, 22 purple, 31 pink, 12 russet and 14 of mixed hues. Half a million barrels of high grade petroleum in 10 years is the record yield of one of the finest oil fields in the Salt Creek oil field of Wyoming.

If anyone began to count the corpuscles in the body of a man of average size, counting at the rate of 100 million, day and night, it would take 285,000 years to complete the task. Hand-made paper is produced in Japan principally by farmers as a secondary occupation which they can pursue in seasons when there is nothing to be done in the fields. There are no fewer than 10,000 factories engaged in this industry.

The coming year will mark the semi-centennial of the founding of three of the foremost public art galleries in the world—the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington.

In the report of the British interdepartmental committee on the production and utilization of power alcohol, which was recently made public, it recommended the establishment of a government organization to initiate and supervise experimental and practical development work on the subject, and the London Times states that such an organization, with funds, is to be set up under the department for scientific and industrial research.

Home Health Hints

Reliable advice given in this column on prevention and cure of disease. Put your question in plain language. Your name will be printed if you ask The Bee to Help You.

New Weapon Against Tuberculosis

A new method of warring against tuberculosis is coming into favor among English practitioners. How far it has been adopted is not stated, but it is a modification of the "flu," the Medical Correspondent of the London Times says. It is becoming clear that additional steps to cope with tuberculosis are urgently needed. Reports from all parts of the country emphasize the large number of cases which exist and information received would seem to suggest that the plight of the sufferer is bad—sometimes but in the extreme. The whole problem of the disease falls naturally into four parts. There is first of all prevention, in the second place the cure, in the third place there is the after-care of the cured case, and finally there is the industrial question. Prevention means segregation and to a lesser extent the control of the milk traffic (so that surgical tuberculosis in infants and children may be prevented). A great deal has been done in this direction and publicity campaigns are accomplishing their work, if slowly. Notification, moreover, though its critics point to its failure has not been without value in indicating the whereabouts of the disease.

But it would seem that prevention has been too little concerned with what may be called the bacteriological aspect of the subject. Tubercle is seldom found as a pure infection but in association with other infectious conditions. The prevention of these latter, notable respiratory infections, may go a long way towards making the human body unsuitable for the tubercle bacillus. It is a work of immense difficulty, as the influenza epidemic showed. On the other hand, the ill of a system of stations in which perhaps by the use of gases, members of the public could be disinfected in their noses and throats, is by no means an impossible one. The work recently described by the Times on the use of gas in influenza epidemics is being carried on and similar work is being done in other respiratory troubles are prevalent people may be able to be disinfected at intervals and so to avoid trouble. The effect of a successful war against these "minor ailments" would assuredly be evident sooner or later in the tuberculosis return.

Nor is the subject of cure being left unattended to. Some early results of an encouraging nature have suggested the possibility of obtaining a drug capable of preventing the growth of tubercle bacilli in the same way in which salvarsan prevents the growth of the syphilis organism. Several very eminent workers are devoting themselves to this task and the medical research committee is supporting their efforts. Sanitation in the present it has not achieved all that was hoped—and this is a truism now—has helped matters to a certain extent. But this is available as far as far below the requirement. Great additions to the number of beds are necessary and must be provided if a real advance is to be brought to an end. Moreover, an extension of the village settlements is desirable. These settlements have been tried in the past, but with little result. The idea is to provide the consumptive with work suitable to him and to ensure that he does not, returning to his old surroundings, drift again into incapacity. The government have done well to support the idea, and may be urged to increase their efforts in this direction.

A comprehensive scheme would thus secure diagnosis of the case at the earliest possible moment and its treatment in a special institution in which the most recent and reliable means of treatment would be available. The tubercle bacillus is not the least deal aimed at here because with the best intentions little can be achieved at such places. The patient should be under the close observation of expert physicians and should be able to obtain at once all that is ordered for him—for example, cream and cod liver oil. He should live in good surroundings and be separated for a time from uninfected persons. The next stage would be his transfer for a period to a colony where the medical aspect of the case would be less immediately important than the industrial. Here he would begin work and would "work up" as far as his strength allowed. When cured he could then return to ordinary life; if he relapsed he would go back to the special hospital.

It is a far indeed from this ideal in handling the mass of cases. But we must attain to it nevertheless, for the cost of tubercle is at present enormous and it is money had better spent in a worthy and useful way than frittered on ill thought-out schemes which only aggravate the mischief.

Begin at Home. If America could get all its own bad children spanked and properly put to bed, it would have more enthusiasm for mandatories.—Chicago News.

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OLYMPIC DAY

The Day We Celebrate. Frank T. B. Martin of Martin Brothers & Co., born 1876. Adele Ritchie, a prominent actress of the musical comedy stage, born in Philadelphia 45 years ago. Lynn J. Frazier, governor of North Dakota, born in Steele county, Minnesota, 45 years ago. Lon Y. Stephens, ex-governor of Missouri, born at Booneville, Mo., 61 years ago. Walter Hagen, national open golf champion of the United States, born at Rochester, N. Y., 27 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

Mr. E. Rosewater, editor of The Bee, and some of his Chicago friends were given a dinner in Chicago by Mr. H. V. Bemis of the Richelleu. Miss Adeline Patti graced the occasion with her presence. The four boxes occupied were decorated with smilax and roses. After the performance the party had an elaborate supper at the Paxton hotel. The Thomas-Houston Electric Light company commenced work on the performance of the year at Jones and Sixth streets, to cost \$25,000. W. J. Connell, congressman from Nebraska, was assigned to the labor committee and also the committee on expenditures for public buildings.

Christmas

Every country in Europe has its special Christmas delicacy. In England the mince pie and plum pudding are the traditional fare. Baked chestnuts and white wine are essential features of the traditional Christmas fare with the peasantry all over France, even the principal and traditional dish of the Viennese for Christmas eve dinner or supper is carp taken from the Danube, chopped small, baked, and eaten with pepper sauce. It is a curious fact that, although the mistletoe is used so freely in the decoration of homes at the Christmas season it is rarely, if ever, seen in the decoration of sacred edifices, probably because of its early association with pagan rites. It is not generally known that, besides Christians, there