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 is the leading retail center between Chicago and San Francisco.

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.

The quiet at Washington is promising.

One way to end the present confusion is to stop "jazzing around."

Thrift week ought to be the first real battle against the h. c. of l.

The law may be slow in its action, but it does not respect persons.

Midnight last night was a memorable hour in the history of the world.

Dirt is moving over on Dodge street almost fast enough to keep up with Harry Wolf.

Dairymen at Chicago are uniting to cut the price of milk. Such a procedure would shock Omaha.

"Cost plus" seems to have worked in Pacific soast shipyards, with the heavy pressure on the plan.

Rerouting the street car lines may save time, but the greater need is more cars on the routes now operated.

Having overtaken one profiteer, the federal authorities might easily get enough for a mess if they keep on.

The cost of living for Douglas county is also mounting. Property owners will find it out when they get their tax bills.

The American Legion is in favor of boxing, but does not appear to be wild over Jack Dempsey, who did his bit in a shipyard while the war was on.

Congress need not hurry to bar "Vic" Berger forever. If all goes as it should in court, he will be out of the way for at least twenty years.

The sultan says Smyrna is "inseparable" from Turkey, but he will yet learn a lot about how maps can be cut up and boundaries rearranged.

Lump sum payment of government insurance will have its advantages as well as its drawbacks. Yet most beneficiaries will like to have full control of their capital.

It is comforting to note with what equanimity the country accepted the withdrawal of American troops from Siberia. Self-detemination ought to be as effective there as here.

Those murderous Mexicans at North Platte made one fatal mistake. They forgot they were not south of the Rio Grande, where Americans may be murdered without taking any chances.

If Count Hohenzollern really is in terror of his approaching trial, the fact must be accepted as a sign that he has a conscience, something few suspected him of. Maybe that will yet prove his severest penalty.

Why the Steel Strike Failed

There was nothing left for the leaders in the steel strike to do but to accept the situation and call off the strike. It had been a failure, and they could not get away from the facts.

The steel strike failed because no sufficient justification for it could be shown. It was called against the advice of Mr. Gompers and other conservative leaders of organized labor, who foresaw what happened. The men were ordered to quit work not because of definite grievances based on industrial injustice in the steel mills but in furtherance of the attempt of certain leaders to compel recognition of the union. From the start it was evident that their plans were destined to miscarry. Among the steel workers sentiment in favor of forcing a shutdown was not general.

If Judge Gary had ordered a lockout in the Steel Trust mills he would have been beaten for the same reason that the organizers of the steel strike were beaten. They had raised a false issue and chosen the wrong conditions for calling the strike. When conciliation was proposed they proved their hostility to any postponement and flouted President Wilson's appeal that the strike be not called before the meeting of the Industrial conference in Washington. They were deaf to reason in their determination to hasten an open conflict between employers and steel workers in every part of the United States, and whatever claim they might have had in other circumstances upon poular sympathy they forfeited by their wrongheaded obstinacy.

Under such leaders labor loses advantages slowly gained by judicious and temperate management.—New York World.

SAVING THE WORLD.

Some signs are noted of returning sanity, the re-establishment of the balance that is needed to make democracy safe for the world. A sincere approach to the solution of the easiest of world-problems, that of excessive profit taking, may be set down as the first and greatest indication that more sober counsel is being heard. This does not contemplate or necessarily involve any sudden wrench or violent dislocation of business. It only requires the moderate, steady reduction of pressure on certain of the boilers, to a point where they will show the same register on the gauge as do those that should be coupled with them, but are temporarily cut off.

The pleas made for starving Europeans are part of this; they are no longer based on our mission to reform the world, to adjust its ways to our ways, and to fetch the backward peoples up alongside of us. Now we are asked to aid only because the women and children, the mothers and babes are starving, and look to generous America to help. They will try to solve their problems of readjustment in some way, but ask us for food they can obtain nowhere else. And Americans, coming down from their exalted height of world crusaders, and standing again on common level with blundering humanity, will hear this appeal.

Solemn warning is given at home by men of affairs, whose foresight is clear and embracing, that the future is secure only if wisdom prevails. On each individual citizen rests a full share of responsibility, and under our institutions each citizen is expected to aid to the utmost of his power and ability in restoring healthy conditions of life. The year that followed the armistice did not bring the results expected. A change in course is imperative.

Service and not self is demanded now, just as it was when the country went into the war. The citizen who is not willing to contribute his bit to the end that the affairs of the nation be again stabilized is standing in his own light.

Common Sense and the Compromise.

A "bi-partisan" conference of senators has been held, looking to the possibility of agreement that will permit ratification of the treaty. No more encouraging news has come out from Washington in months. Facing a great national campaign, neither republicans nor democrats are desirous of going before the people, charged with responsibility for further delaying the declaration of peace. The challenge of the president was promptly accepted by Mr. Lodge, but, as the New York World phrased it, both were talking nonsense. The issues to be settled at the polls this year are purely American, and concern our domestic life almost exclusively. Therefore it is only reasonable that all sides would prefer to have the treaty out of the way. Approach is already made to the compromise, and the exercise of a little common sense will find the middle ground on which settlement may rest. It has long been apparent that neither Mr. Lodge nor Mr. Wilson could get exactly what he asks, but the interests of the country may be served by each of these taking a little less than his demands and giving to the people a real start.

League of Nations Convened.

A great and solemn conclave convened in Paris yesterday, when for the first time the council of the League of Nations assembled. It is to this body questions of international import are to be referred for consideration and adjustment short of war if possible. Philosophers and poets have dreamed of this, and statesmen have looked forward to it, yet even now it is approached with such scepticism as led one of the great men assembled at the opening session to warn the others that in this distrust lies the greatest danger for the league.

This fact may prove the salvation of the institution. Appreciation of the unwillingness of the world to accept it at its face value should have the effect of restraining the council in all its actions, to the end that no indefensible or unworthy decision will come from it. Firmness and even boldness may be expected, as properly becomes such an agency of high expression of the concerted will of great peoples, but this must have in it due regard for the attitude of other peoples as great and as tenacious in their pride and as fixed in their sense of right. Therefore we may look with confidence for conservative moves only from the league.

That it is for the moment made up of the survivors of the Triple Entente and the British-Japanese alliance is fortuitous rather than significant. These came out victorious in the war, and it falls out naturally they should be found in the great council that is to deal with the problems of peace as they affect them in their relations to the world. Whether the league ever comes to be other than a glorified alliance between the nations whose policies and interests bound them before the war, or whether it some day approximates the destiny prophesied for it will depend on how it functions in these early days.

The United States may yet take a place in the council. When it does, it will be on the basis of absolute security for our independence as to home affairs. More is not asked, less will not be accepted.

Kentucky's Liquid Liability.

With nation-wide prohibition fairly launched as the governing principle in dealing with the liquor traffic, one of the perplexities of the main problem comes to the front. In Kentucky is stored whisky valued at $400,000,000. This represents property, condemned in America, but of value in other parts of the world. Its owners have delayed in the face of warning, hoping against hope that they would be allowed to realize on it at home. Now it is impounded, and apparently doomed. Stored under government lock and key, it is safe for the moment. Should it be detected in wandering around the country, it will be destroyed without ruth. That such disposition may be made of it in bulk is not beyond the range of possibilities. Prohibitionists may logically argue that if it represents evil here, it is no less harmful abroad, and that we as a nation have no more right to export one kind of danger than another. The question of property rights was not given any weight in the establishment of the dry regime, and probably will have no more in the settlement of Kentucky's liquid liability.

A group of Geneva women are credited with having reaped a profit of above $100 from a dinner served at 50 cents. And we will wager that it was a good dinner, the profit arising from the fact that the women donated all their time and most of the food consumed.

Mr. Hines and the Railroads

From the New York Times.

As a doctor to sick railroads, reduced to an anaemic condition by government management, Director General Hines is a specialist who seems to give everybody the blues, officers, investors, shippers, consumers. He diagnoses dolefully and prescribes without hope. The patients are not in extremis, and with the right kind of treatment they might soon be on their feet, enjoying fairly good health. It cannot be said that they were hale and hearty when the government took charge of them, but under its treatment they have grown steadily worse, and now need a tonic which only congress can supply. Mr. Hines in his address before the Bar Association of New York proposed a prescription which in some respects was not unlike Dr. Plumb's. That is to say, Mr. Hines approved of a plan to have the public and labor as well as capital manage the railroads. In the working out of this theory labor would become the real manager, as the politicians who controlled the public's representation would side with labor against capital, and the result would ultimately be government ownership, which the people, with a sad experience of government management, do not want. There can be little interest in the talk about rates high enough to insure a reasonable return and provide reserves for lean years if labor, the "public," and capital are to operate the railroads.

Mr. Hines declares that if his prescription is not taken the result will be "progressively disappointing," and in a few years the public will demand a "radically different plan" that probably will not "stop short of outright government ownership." It is curious that he cannot see that his tripartite plan would precipitate government ownership. Labor and its allies, the politicians, would see to that. The director general says the public would have to pay an expensive price for private management after March 1, on account of increased rates and inadequate equipment. The public have paid dearly for government management in poor and exasperating service, and they are willing to pay a just price for good service under private management. They believe that under government ownership they would pay the highest price of all in taxation and have the worst of all service. As to adequate equipment, the railroads must have it. They have not been able to get money advances for it from Director General Hines, and equity requires that congress shall include relief in its legislation.

There may be two opinions about Mr. Hines' assertion that under federal control the existing equipment has worn better and gone further than would have been the case under "the old form of private management." The fact, of course, is that the railroads have had to do their best with the equipment allowed them, but their officers have not been mute under the affliction. There cannot be two opinions, however, about the director general's statement that deficits have not been due to "excessive costs." There might be something in this view if the heavy increases in wages granted by the government were eliminated, but that cannot be done in any calculation of railroad conditions. The deficits he attributes, strangely enough, to the fact that "the prices charged railroad transportation have not been increased in keeping with the increase in prices of commodities. That was the government's responsibility, and it is singular that Mr. Hines should calculate that if the rates put into effect in June, 1918, had been declared six months earlier there would have been a surplus instead of a deficit for some of the railroads. He is always inclined to give the government credit for the best intentions and to deplore conditions that embarrassed it. In the end he gives "unified control" a certificate of merit and finds nothing good in the prospect of private ownership. Under better economic conditions he feels that government management would have been a financial success. It is a poor rule that won't work both ways.

Plumb Begins at the Top

Possibly in operation Glenn E. Plumb's universal plan for the reorganization of industry under the joint ownership and management of public capital and labor would be a great success. All history shows it is folly to prophesy the failure of an experiment never tried.

But if the theory in which Mr. Plumb has so much faith is workable it might be prudent to test it on a small scale. Instead of this his purpose is to begin with the railroads, after which he would take over all other corporate enterprises in manufacturing, merchandising, public utilities and natural resources. It is conceivable that the tripartite control of the railroads might not result according to specifications, in which case unexampled disaster would follow closely upon the heels of novelty.

Practically everything worth while in political and industrial life is a growth and not a creation. Before there could be a United States the lessons of local self-government had to be painfully learned. Many vast businesses, so powerful now that they sometimes confront government almost as equals, were brought to their present wonderful development by men who started at the bottom. It is easy to reconstruct all these things on paper, but that is not the way they were built up.

There are people who see in Mr. Plumb the prophet of a better day, when justice will be a matter of course, when private greed will no longer defy the public welfare and when unrequited toil will be unknown, but even they will admit on reflection that with a scheme so far-reaching it is not wise to begin at the top. —New York World.

Man Wants a Merry Life

Professor Widal's directions, in his recent address before the French Academy of Sciences, to guide those whose ambition is to attain longevity are too humdrum to win him fame. He offered mankind no serum guaranteed to work miracles, no pellets warranted to repair over night the injuries done by years of reckles living. "Sobriety, light diet, considerable muscular exercise," his sensible formula, expressed in one way or another, has been before mankind's eyes ever since the wish for years took its place among human aspirations.

A merry life and a long one; that is what men want. Most of them will sacrifice length for merriment and think the bargain a good one until the final mundane accounting is at hand. When the price of brevity must be paid the debtor is filled with regret, not for loss of years but for loss of pleasure.

Mankind does not want sane counsel, the wisdom of which has been proved by experience. It looks for a magic potion which without inconveniencing the patient will sustain him in his dissipations, mild or violent, and keep him in shape to repeat his excesses. The man who tells his fellows to be sensible will not be acclaimed as is the charlatan who encourages their folly.—New York Sun.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

David Lloyd George, Britain's famous prime minister, born in Manchester, England, 57 years ago.

Baron Beatty of the North Sea and Brooksby, who commanded the British North Sea fleet in the war, born 49 years ago.

Dr. Palmer C. Ricketts, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic institute, born at Elkton, Md., 64 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

The Coreopsis club gave its fourth party at the Metropolitan hall.

The Omaha Investment Co. was incorporated with a capital stock of $50,000.

Mrs. Levi Carter gave a pink domino party, the guests being unrecognizable pink-enveloped figures until the unmasking hour at 11.

The children of the Long school sent three wagon loads of clothing to the poor in the southern part of the city.

The Bee's Letter Box

What the President Wants.

Omaha, Jan. 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have read with interest President Wilson's message to his democratic friends at the Jackson day banquet, which message being in full printed in one of your recent editions.

By stating in his message that the senate failed to ratify the treaty with the league of nations covenant indirectly he blamed the republican party for the failure, instead of blaming himself. He also blames the senate (the republicans, of course) for the turmoil in Europe.

I find it quite interesting how Mr. Wilson wants to ram the league of nations into the senate's throat. The president wants the treaty and league covenant exactly as he brought it over from Versailles and points out in his message that five nations have ratified the treaty as it is. What else can he expect? It is to their greatest advantage, while such is not the case with the United States. Why we citizens of the United States shall sacrifice our limbs or life for saving the bacon of some foreign country, and why shall Europe decide our participation in a war, and why not the congress of the United States? How can our president demand the ratification of (his) league and treaty, when the constitution of the United States, section 2, quotes as follows: "He shall have power, by and with the advice of the senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur." May I ask, where is the president getting authority to frame up treaties and alliances with foreign countries without consulting the senate?

I note he wishes to submit the treaty with the league covenant to the people to vote on at the presidential election. This is political strategy. Why not vote on this question at present, with but this single question on the ballot? Insofar as I am concerned I must inform the president, if possible, that he cannot confuse me on this question even if he wants me to vote at the general election, for I realize the importance of this made-to-order league.

He speaks of the guarantees to small nations. Oh, yes, except India, Egypt and Ireland. The paramount issue is this: Are we going to have a few diplomats of London and Paris to throw us into a war, or are we going to have our congress decide the question as it did in the past?

But we are told the league of nations will prevent wars. Oh, yes; you are told there is a shortage of meat, shortage of eggs, shortage of sugar, shortage of butter and so on, but do you believe it? If you do you must call a doctor and be examined, for there surely is something wrong with you. Just the same is the case of the league of nations in preventing wars. Did you ever stop to think, if such is to be the case, why not disarm to a great extent and why instead we must have larger armies, we must build more battleships, etc.? And do you know that right now there are to be built in England 20 to 22 submarine boats for the United States? What are these submarines built for? Do you think they are for a picnic or card party? And since these submarines are to be built, why not build them here in the old U. S. A.?

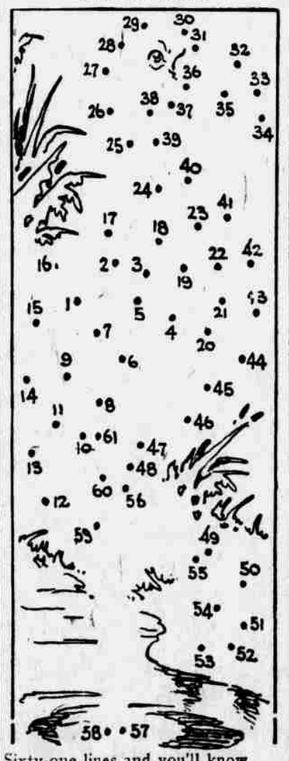
In conclusion, I wish to state that there is but one question to decide when it comes to a vote and it is this: Do you want to take the power from the United States congress to decide whether or not we shall enter a war and give the power to the European diplomats? If yes, vote so, but think it over before you vote.

STEPHEN KLEPSKY.

We're From Missouri.

Friends of Mr. Bryan say that he is planning a tour in which he will discuss various possible campaign issues. This is a new departure for Mr. Bryan, who has usually displayed a preference for impossible issues.—New York Post.

DOT PUZZLE.



Sixty-one lines and you'll know
How to draw a ——— ——— ———.
Draw from one to two, and so on to the end.

Little Folks' Corner

Dollar-Making Ideas

Cleaning Silverware for Pay.
By BELLE CASE HARRINGTON.

Almost everybody dislikes cleaning silver. That is the reason they will hire someone to do it for them. Ask a half-dozen women whom you know to let you clean their silver once a month.

You will need a quantity of soft cloths like old cottonflannel, or the tops of old stockings. Soft towels will be needed for drying, and a soft brush for getting into the creases. Some skins are easily irritated by certain silver-cleaning preparations, and you may need a pair of rubber gloves. Get a square of table oilcloth to spread on the floor when you do the work in the homes of your patrons.

There are several good ways of brightening silverware. Here are two simple formulas.

1. Take common whiting, a fine white powder which you can buy at the drug store. Add one teaspoon of household ammonia to a teacupful of water, moisten a soft cloth

with this, dip into the whiting and rub until the tarnish is removed. Then wash in warm water and dry on soft towels.

2. Take a good-sized aluminum kettle—the newer the better. Fill half full of soft water to which has been added one tablespoon of soda and two of salt for every quart of water. Put in the silver to be cleaned and bring the water to a boil for five or ten minutes. No rubbing is required, merely take out, rinse, and dry. The success of this method depends upon the chemical action of the salt and soda upon the aluminum. The water may be used many times. If the aluminum kettle is rather old, add a new pie pan or an aluminum lid to the water.

Sometimes it is hard to start the tarnish from a piece which has stood for a long time. In such a case, there is no better way than the old-fashioned plan of putting the article in the first water poured off from common dry soup beans which are being cooked for the table.

Be careful not to mislay any articles entrusted to you. If you take them away from the house, make a list of them. Ask your employer to verify it before you go. Arrange the flat silver in the cases, and wrap the large pieces in tissue paper before you return them. Be prompt and reliable, and you will have all the work you can do.

(Next week: "Sharpening Things.")

Would Be Popular.

The new labor party might add to its popularity among outsiders by adopting the slogan, "Let's all quit talking and go to work."—Topeka State Journal.

The Millennium.

The world will be nearer the millennium when war becomes as hard to make as peace.—Arkansas Gazette.

Every Day Science for Boy Mechanics

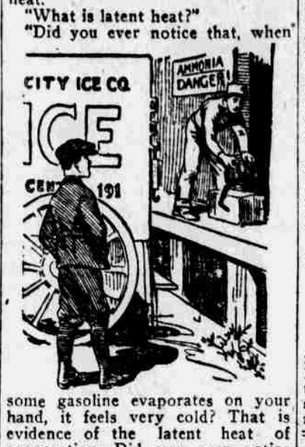
Making Artificial Ice.
By GRANT M. HYDE

"How does ammonia make ice, Daddy?"

"By evaporating. It freezes water near it because it has a lot of latent heat."

"What is latent heat?"

"Did you ever notice that, when



some gasoline evaporates on your hand, it feels very cold? That is evidence of the latent heat of evaporation. Did you ever notice that ice will not freeze cream in the ice-cream freezer until you add salt to melt the ice? That is also latent heat.

"It is one of the laws of nature that whereas it takes so many heat units to raise the temperature of a pan of water from zero to the boiling point, some more units are needed to turn it into steam—which still has the same temperature of 212 degrees. The last units that make the steam are latent heat, and the same units come out again when the steam condenses into water in a steam radiator. When water freezes, it gives off just the same latent, or extra, heat which it takes to melt ice. Almost all substances show this law when passing from solid to liquid or to gaseous state—and back again—but some substances take on and give off more latent heat than others.

"Ammonia is used for ice-making because it handles a lot of latent heat. Although it evaporates at ordinary temperatures, heat is necessary to enable it to evaporate and the ammonia takes this heat from anything nearby.

"In a refrigeration plant, the ammonia is first compressed by a pump into liquid form, then allowed to evaporate in a coil of pipes hung in a tank of salt-brine, which does not easily freeze. The brine, thus cooled to very low temperature, is run through pipes in the refrigerating rooms or other places that are to be cooled. In most ice-making plants, it runs through pipes encircling a tank of water and freezes the water.

"Although ammonia is most commonly used, other substances are sometimes employed, and other methods of using ammonia are in practice."

(Next week: "How to read the gas meter.")

Somebody Gotta Be the Goat.

"I am not a candidate for any office," says Vice President Marshall. But the political dopesters continue to list Mr. Marshall among the possibilities for a' that.—Arkansas Gazette.