THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) EVENING SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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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.

Spuds fairly list as fruit now.

Hog prices are going down, and they will not retire alone.

Extension of the "munny" ice service might now get consideration.

"Hi" Johnson is hard to suit but he may agree to the treaty if enough senators vote for it.

Fremont teachers are clamoring to be paid as much as domestics and scrub ladies. This seems reasonable.

New York and New Jersey democrats find it mighty hard to line up back of the camel, but willy nilly they must.

Senator Hitchcock knows when to steer a middle course, as witness his exact neutrality between Bryan and Edwards.

A local poet is suing a job printer for not getting out his work on time. That chap does not know all about job printers.

Wonder what Mexico will do with this pair of aviators? One couple was ransomed, and one murdered, you may remember.

"Billy" Thompson is going to give "Prince Arthur" Mullen a run for his job. "Harmony" is thick among Nebraska democrats.

Bryan thinks the kaiser ought to be tried in order to establish history. Other folks want him tried to make a little more history.

Josephus Daniels is very busy at democratic banquets, tearing into Admiral Sims, but he has not yet answered any of the admiral's charges.

Chairman Cummings may think he is making headway by defying Bryan, but he has a lot of other things to learn about democratic politics.

Bernstorff was amused to find his name on the list of German war lords sought for trial. It may not be so funny when the Allies get hold of him.

The little slush and slop we have to contend with dwindles to nothing in comparison with the eighteen-foot snowdrifts that have buried New York.

Mexicans have released one of the last pair of American aviators captured, and the other may follow in season. But the course of our neighbors is anything but "clubby."

Inserand also notifies the White House that France will accept the Lodge reservations. Gradually the opposition is narrowing down to the man with "a single-track mind."

You may have noticed that while Governor Edwards was not on the "official" list of speakers at the Cummings dinner, he spoke just the same, and got a big ovation. Now, Mr. Bryan, whaddaya know about that?

A Curious Statement

In his appearance before the senate committee, the so-styled ambassador of the Russian Soviet government, Mr. Martens, testified that the bolsheviki no longer contemplate the subjugation of all other nations. There could not be better testimony to the solidarity of American sentiment and the absolute impertinence of the labor unions to their propaganda. This is not the reason advanced, however, for the professed change of policy. This is that the soviet government is now strong enough to whip the world! So it transpires that when the soviet government was weak it was bent upon conquering the world by force of arms; when the soviet government became strong it gave up the idea. A curious round of reasoning, thoroughly and insincerely bolshevik.

The backbone of the strength of the soviet government appears to be the fact that there is no fluid wealth in the hands of the people, or of the banks; that it is all in the hands of the government—a band of highway robbers, according to this version. The amount given as the fluid wealth in the possession of the government of Russia is half a billion, about enough to purchase toothpicks for Americans for a year and to pay their tipping bill for a like period. Yet, with this half-billion the soviets could whip the world! And the senate committee has to listen to this drivel. Incidentally the witness for Russia says the revolutionary activities or disposition here is purely American—a which he is both insulting and lying. The labor unions complain of the alien-born Russian radicals as their only troublemakers.—Baltimore American.

GERMANY AND THE OFFENDERS.

A genuine crisis has appeared in connection with enforcement of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. The Germans find that it is not easy to comply with the "honor" provisions of that document, which require that named officers of the army and the government be turned over for trial on charges growing out of their conduct of the war. Reports from Berlin are that the government has stubbornly settled down to await the efforts of the Allies to enforce compliance with the demand.

Something novel is involved in the whole proceedings. The right of the victors to enforce terms accepted by the losers is not questioned, so the crux of the matter is the willingness of the Germans to surrender certain individuals in accordance with the agreement. Some very careful observers have expressed the view that if the Germans really want to embarrass the Allies, they will turn over for trial the men accused of crimes in connection with the conduct of the war. By adopting such a course, the apparent humiliation of defeat might be turned into something of victory through the inability of the prosecution to establish a case. Even if the men surrendered are duly convicted, it is contended, any punishment inflicted on them will merely set them up as martyrs.

However, the German mind revolts at the ignominy of arresting such men as von Hindenberg, von Mackenzen, von Gluck, Crown Prince Rupprecht, the crown prince of Wurtemburg and others on the list formally named in the general indictment and surrendering them to be tried as felons. This may contain the reason for insistence by the Allies. The fact of defeat has not been properly driven home, and for an object lesson this course is taken, that the Germans may be brought to realize how thoroughly they were beaten in battle and how powerless they are at this time.

Loyalty to the lusker element cost the German people dear from 1914 to 1918, and may cost even more in 1920, for it is certain the Allies have the power to enforce their demands, and it is quite as certain that the men wanted will not surrender and thereby serve their country better than ever they did in war or peace.

Award for the Gas Plant.

Action by the board of condemnation, fixing the price to be paid by the city for the plant of the Omaha Gas company, moves the proceedings one step nearer to culmination. The price, $4,500,000, is apparently a compromise between the estimates presented by the contending parties, and may therefore be looked upon as something near what might be expected had the matter been taken to court at the outset. Judge Allen, in commenting on the award, says the board did not adopt any one of the several theories presented, but in a sense combined all in reaching its opinion. It is equally certain that reproduction cost at present prices would be far above the figure named, while its junk value as a dead concern would be much less. So something for both parties is contained in the decision. Sixty days time is allowed for the city to act in the premises before the award becomes obligatory. As the entire action is in pursuance of a mandate from the people, no time should be wasted. The sooner the deal is consummated, the quicker Omaha citizens will commence to buy gas from themselves.

Democrats and the Treaty.

It may suit the purpose of the New York Times and other administration organs to pretend that Senator Lodge is meddling with the family affairs of the senate minority. However, quite a vivid imagination is needed to discover any connection between the fight for the treaty and the struggle for the leadership shoes of the late Senator Martin.

When Senator Hitchcock ceased to be chairman of the senate's committee on foreign relations, with the coming of the Sixty-sixth congress, he went back to the place of ranking minority member and automatically became the spokesman for the administration on the treaty. If, under his leadership, the Wilson plan did not make the progress the president had hoped for, it has not been because of republican connivance with the minority party. Senator Lodge endeavored at all times to carry on the effort to secure effective reservations without involving the whole fabric of peace in partisan politics.

Only when the president himself wrote to the democratic senators, requiring as a test of party fealty that they vote to reject the treaty with the Lodge reservations, did the affair take on a partisan hue. In his letter to the gathering assembled on St. Jackson's day to renew their faith, the president again demanded support for his views and the party make them the paramount issue in the coming campaign. On this occasion William Jennings Bryan interposed, arguing for the right of the majority to govern, and advising his democratic brethren to give acquiescence to the reservations because they had been adopted by a majority of the senate.

This is the simple history of the treaty so far as it is involved in party politics. If the democrats are divided, and are breaking away from White House domination, the fact is not to be laid against the republican leaders, further than the effort has been made to appeal to the patriotism of those who might put the country above party on the final vote. So far as the successorship to Senator Martin as minority leader in the senate is concerned, the republicans are quite willing that the democrats should bestow the honor as best serves their situation.

Railroad laborers are again threatening to strike if their wage demands are not granted. It might not be a bad idea for the railroad administration to call one of these bluffs and end the menace, once and for all. If the transportation business of the country is to be carried on under the continued threat of labor troubles, the people ought to know it, so that they can arrange accordingly.

Perhaps Senator Smoot is right in his declaration that the half-million dollars spent to circulate speeches by members of the president's cabinet is money wasted. Still, the administration felt it must make some effort to justify its existence.

The president may not be able to resume his duties for months, according to reports from Washington. This will carry him well up to the end of his term.

California has crowded Nebraska out of last place in matter of automobiles in service, but wait until the tourists leave and maybe the old ratio will be restored.

The High Cost Of Living—Its Causes and Future

By EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN
MacVickar Professor of Political Economy
From the Columbia Alumni News.

The problems that interest everyone in the present abnormal situation are (1) what are the chief causes of the present high price level, (2) have they come to stay; and (3) if not what can be done? All that is possible in this short article is to outline the main points.

In the first place, the rise of prices is not limited to the United States. It is a world phenomenon, and it is the result of the great war. The war vastly increased the demand for certain things, and this demand was not only insistent, so that it had to be met at once, but it came from the government which was ready to pay at once. On the other hand, the supplies diminished, and the costs increased. Millions of laborers were called to the colors, and the resulting scarcity drove wages up. Moreover, the transfer of labor and capital in huge amounts to the industries that had to be improvised or immensely extended overnight further accentuated the cost. Thus the changed conditions of the market pushed prices up violently.

To meet these increasing prices, more currency was needed. All over Europe gold was hoarded and its place was taken by what was virtually irredeemable paper currency. But the trouble there was that not only was the place of gold taken by this currency, but it was for more than taken. In the United States, before we entered upon the war, most of this gold came here to pay for munitions of war, so that our increase of prices, as a reflex of the European conditions, was very marked, even before we joined the fray.

As soon, however, as we entered the conflict, we experienced the influence not only of the general economic conditions outlined above, but also of the new fiscal conditions. We, like Europe, began to borrow by the billions, inasmuch as only an insignificant part of the war expenditures could be raised by taxation and as only a very small part of the loans despite the prohibition of new issues of industrial or municipal securities could be met from the savings of the community. Most of our loans were hence provided directly or indirectly through the banks. The Liberty bonds were largely bought by individual borrowing from the banks. This meant an enormous expansion of credit, and credit, as is well known, works in the same direction as currency in increasing prices. Thus the inflation of the currency was partly a result, but in a more definite sense a cause of increasing prices.

The two great reasons, therefore, for the present high price level are the dislocation of industry and the inflation of the currency. This rise of prices has indeed been accentuated by war profiteering, which invariably accompanies such an upheaval and which in this country, as abroad, has been only partly offset by our excess profits taxes. To try to bring down prices by abolishing profiteering, however promises very little success. The roots of the trouble are much more deep seated.

In the second place, have high prices come to stay? To a very large extent, yes. That is to say, in so far as the high prices are due to an increase in cost costs, they are permanent. The chief element in the real costs are rise in the interest rate, due to the destruction of capital and the increase of wages attendant upon the rise in the standard of living of the working population. This is a world wide phenomenon and to this situation all our economic arrangements must be adjusted. But to a certain, although indeed a minor, extent, the rise of prices has not come to stay. If the rise is exaggerated, i. e., if real costs can be reduced and the currency inflation diminished, then to this extent at least the high level of prices may slightly recede.

We thus come to the practical corollaries. If real costs have been increased by inefficiency, by dislocation of industry and by the extravagance engendered by a great war with its reckless waste and its reckless spending, it is clear that in these directions at least some remedies are to be hoped for. In other words, if we can render labor more efficient by a well-considered policy of industrial democracy which will give the laborer a new hope and new incentive; if we can speed the restoration and reclamation of ruined industry just along here but all over the world; and if we can instill into the average man a little more tendency to thrift and discourage the present ominous drift to purely wasteful expenditures, if we can do all these things, we shall set into motion some fundamental forces which will reduce prices.

But, in the second place, something can be hoped for by a restriction of the further expansion of credit. A resolute determination of the government not to borrow any more money; the adoption of a national and state budget system with a consequent promotion of greater economy in governmental expenses; the maintenance of a tax system sufficient not alone to pay all our current expenses, but also to commence the sinking of the national debt; and a more prudent and vigorous policy on the part of the banks looking toward a gradual contraction of our over-expanded credit, all these remedies will be far more effective in the present emergency than any makeshift policy of fixing prices.

Thus we see that the rise of prices is partly a permanent and partly a temporary phenomenon. So far as it is temporary, economy can hasten the resumption of the normal. So far as it is permanent, the present period of painful readjustment, with its attendant disorders and dangers, will ultimately lead to an equilibrium.

High Cost of Government

Declaring one big cause of the high cost of living is the high cost of federal government, Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas wants expenditures cut down and wants the franking privilege taken from members of congress and that cost saved the taxpayers. In 1919 he points out the high cost of living was first showing and the corporation taxes levied then amounted to $21,000,000. In 1918 they had reached $37,000,000, and now they are about $2,500,000,000. And this levy on corporations is taken from the public by higher prices levied by the corporations. The public pays the cost of government and of business. He declares Washington and the government are in a ridiculous position, preaching thrift and individual economy and then spending year after year more and more money, more than it has, more than it can raise from ordinary methods. He wants the cost of government reduced, that reductions may be started toward the taxpayer and the consumer.—Ohio State Journal.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Claude E. Howell, Armour & Co., born 1880.

Robert B. Mantell, one of the noted veterans of the American stage, born at Irvine, Scotland, 60 years ago.

Robert J. Gamble, former United States senator from South Dakota, born in Genesee county, New York, 69 years ago.

Patrick J. Moran, manager of the world's champion Cincinnati base ball team, born at Fitchburg, Mass., 44 years ago.

George (Babe) Ruth, champion home-run hitter, now with the New York American league base ball team, born in Baltimore 26 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha

Maggie Mitchell was playing in "Fanchon." In the audience were people who had seen Miss Mitchell in this play 40 years before.

About 50 members of the B. P. O. E. were present at their fourth annual banquet.

The Human Milk Cow company was incorporated with a capital stock of $20,000. The incorporators were Charles F. Hennings, William O. Russell, William O. McKinley and Frank D. Pierce.

Miss Ijams gave a luncheon in honor of Miss Gilber

The Bee's Letter Box

Opposes Military Training.

Bellevue, Neb., Feb. 3. To the Editor of The Bee: As a sincere American I wish to ask this question: What is this nation of ours doing for?

From what I read I find one thing is universal military training.

As an ex-service man I believe it is not the best policy to pursue for the good of our land. The physical and educational advantages would be great, but the military form spoils what might mean much, which I think could be handled through the educational institutions of our country.

It was military training that drove many people to the United States, and, furthermore, it was to put down militarism that we trained, fought and many of our brave lads gave up their best lease on life. Yes, and many are left cripples, and invalids, which is almost worse than death to them.

Are we now going to "about face" and walk in the footsteps of Germany?

In closing I wish to say we should provide the best possible for the best of our land, for the boys of today will be the men of tomorrow.

C. E. G.

We Must Educate.

Auburn, Neb., Feb. 5. To the Editor of The Bee: Once more I want to say if we would have peace we must educate and the education that we shall advance must be the real and not of the mythical, unfair and unrighteous. Not of that brand that skulks behind prejudice and immorality, while thundering about among the stale platitudes of ages past and the superstitions in which it has rollicked for centuries, supporting this or that ism and bedeviling the other isms of the past or the present.

The pen is mightier than the sword, and if not circumvented and rendered inactive by the sword, or by the prejudice that has been supported by the sword, the pen will make way for liberty, dispense with the horrors of war and institute and maintain truly democratic conditions. Let the pen have right of way to tell the truth, but be held strictly responsible that it is the truth and the truth only, and candid, honest criticism ever brought to the front.

When the pen, the press and the pulpit desires, or refuses to allow candid, honest criticism, then there need no further evidence be brought forward in proof that it is the opposite that is being supported or advocated.

There can nowhere be found the one to openly oppose that the earth can be established and human progress and human betterment advanced by the teaching or adopting of what is untrue, unreal and unjust, but there are still those so wedded to party, unreasoned society or to the prejudices and follies of the past that they seek to pounce bars against freedom of speech and of the press, so far as the other side of the question is concerned.

If the pen, the press and the pulpit, and every force now extant as educators, should extend, by and do just not in teaching from that which is truly humane and was taught as fundamental and unsuspected by philosophers many centuries since they (then) will be no need of arsenals and forts, and certainly much less need of criminal cells and courts; if the pulpit, the pen and the press shall continue to preach and to teach as true as much of the unreasonable and unreal as have been taught in the past, and candid, honest criticism be barred, then will the evils of the day grow no less.

J. B. DUNDAS

Jerry Dreads John Bull.

Lincoln, Feb. 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: The letter in today's issue headed "Nix on Hoover" is pertinent and timely because it points out the pro-British sentiment that is abroad. Politically and otherwise, everything from Article X to the League of Nations to the credit date for any office is considered unacceptable if lacking in devotion to England. A vain illustration of how sentiment is drifting, take any one of our political gatherings or patriotic entertainments, the national anthem is either mutilated or entirely tabooed.

Oh, shades of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, deliver us!

JERRY HOWARD.

WORLD OF INDUSTRY.

About 90 per cent of all the workers in Pennsylvania are covered by the workmen's compensation law.

Since 1913 the hourly wage of steel and iron mill workers has increased 222 per cent.

It is estimated that the recent suspension of work by the coal miners caused a loss of more than $100,000,000.

Forty kinds of bark are now used in manufacture paper, besides rice straw, bean stalks, pea vines, cocoanut fiber, cotton and flax straw, fresh water weeds, sea weeds and most their bagasse.

That janitors in Chicago have formed a union and secured a wage increase that averages 22 per cent.

Eight thousand girl workers are members of the trade union movement in Toronto, Canada. The membership is drawn chiefly from among the female stenographers, clerks and accountants in the railway offices.

BOLSHE VIKI.

[illegible]

Little Folks' Corner

What Shall I Be? Answered for Girls

The Filing Specialist.

BY EDGAR WHITMORE

While letting Marie pound the typewriter in the office, I was Marie's friend on an urgent mission. I observed an example of the sort she did.

"Marie, you're showing symptoms of your best dispelled on it. Well, you, therefore, you don't have a single qualification of a thing clerk. You are neither regular, accurate, nor fast. I don't think you know anything about your work. I'm going to the library bureau and find out a few new things about filing.

"Well of all the cranks. But you can't beat me out of my job. I'm staying along."

The Library Bureau

And things what they learned.

There is a library bureau in all the principal cities of the United States where one may secure the information and equipment for filing.

They were advised to go to some of the schools of filing, which are found in several of the large cities. These schools are equipped with business files purchased from the

[illegible] After a month's instruction of this they might be placed at a salary ranging from $18 to $20 a week. There are such schools in Chicago, Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Once couldn't leave the small city where they lived, so they decided on a correspondence course with the bureau's school.

Two months later Marie became a clerk for the House Lumber Co. Because of her intelligent observation of all the data in the office, she was loaned a file manager with a number of girls under her.

And what became of Bertha? Well Mr. Weatherby phoned and I passed one morning when he was bad for a cure of accurate letter. It took the stenographer exactly one-half minute to get it for him, instead of the usual five. Then he called Bertha.

"Where are you getting these new ideas, young lady?"

Bertha told him and explained exactly as well as she could that there were high standards to be attained and kept in the "filing profession" just as in other lines.

"So, I tried to introduce a new and efficient system here."

"Humph!" said old Weatherby, raising his eyebrows and pulling his nose. "I guess it is worth something to get a letter when you want it. You can look for $35 in your envelope every week after this."

(Member Read "How to Read")

A Boston Pleasantry.

Maybe the signal fires hope that is meeting their association on the coast, it will be more pacific than their pledges usually are.—Boston Transcript.

Should Be Enjoined.

There is no law for the democratic party. All the symptoms indicate that it is to be afflicted with a recurrence of Mr. Bryan.—Tulsa Tribune.

What Shall I Be? Answered for Boys

The Chemical Engineer.

BY EDGAR WHITMORE

Name Lane and Sidney Allen. [illegible]

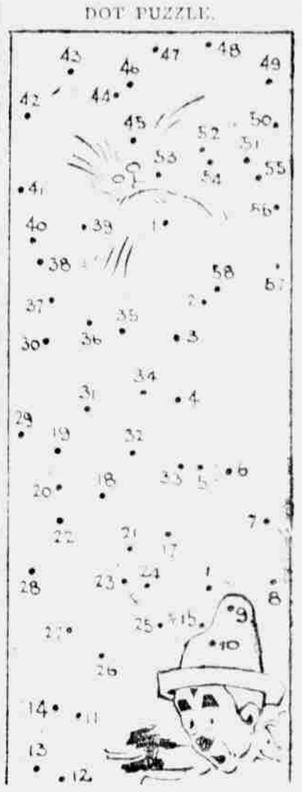
"[illegible] work with electricity."

Business men's ideas about a chemical engineer are as sketchy as those of Sheets Lane. So we'll tell you a little about himself.

He must know chemistry. It is [illegible] to learn chemistry if [illegible] don't plan to become a chemical engineer. One great chemist when a boy worked for a living during the day and studied at night in a little laboratory which he set up in a shed. This he got his training. It is not the most boys. A high school education, if possible followed by a course in a technical school, should be the aim of the young chemical engineer. In addition some training in general engineering is valuable. The work of the chemical engineer is other associated with that of other engineers.

Asked to state a training, the chemist may follow the example of Max Rudolph, brother and now the employ of some chemical company. From this position there is an opportunity for promotion to [illegible]

DOT PUZZLE.



Draw from one to two, and so on to [illegible]

DAILY CARTOONETTE.