THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR
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New York Office	286 Fifth Ave.	Washington	1311 G St.
Chicago	Seeger Bldg.	Lincoln	1530 H St.

JANUARY CIRCULATION:

Daily 65,351—Sunday 63,976

Average circulation for the month subscribed and sworn to by R. B. Ragan, Circulation Manager.

Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to them. Address changed as often as required.

You should know that

Nebraska leads the union in the production of alfalfa, millet and popcorn, three important crops.

Gothamites have our sympathy, but not our climate.

Mr. Wilson seems determined to get into an argument.

China is also indulging in a cabinet crisis, but nothing like our own home variety.

The round-up of reds at Paterson ought to clear the atmosphere there materially.

"Tom" Marshall is safe from a demanded resignation, but he took an awful chance.

The flu wave is receding in Omaha, but vigilance should not be relaxed on that account.

Mr. Bryan also wants it understood that he, too, knows something about platform making.

Iowa also complains of a shortage in school teachers. The only sure way to keep them is to give them decent pay.

The younger Hohenzollern says the American soldier was as good a fighting man as the British. And either proved better than the German.

Green cotton is now being produced. If it is anything like green apples little Johnnie will be interested.

The Bahamas are profiting by the influx of liquors from the United States, but what will they do "when the whole darned world goes dry?"

The sultan proposes to continue his residence at Constantinople, but under a rigid watch. The crime of 500 years ago is yet to be atoned for.

Railroad men are going after the profiteer as one way out of the h. c. of l. jungle. They will get a lot more popular support in this than in a strike.

Canada has its back up over the "6 to 1" proposition. Here is a concrete example of what the League of Nations may have to confront perpetually.

Life on an East Indian island might not be as dire punishment as a lot of folks would like to visit on the ex-kaiser, but it would keep him pretty well out of mischief.

The American Legion is reported to favor a bonus for ex-service men. In view of what the government did for others, it can well afford to help the soldier a little.

Anti-suffs threaten suit to hold up the election in case women are allowed to vote. This ought to hasten ratification in states that are holding off, in order to test the question.

Railroad employees will lose very little by holding off until their pay claims can be passed on by a competent board and a reasonable adjustment be made. And they also save the country from a dreadful mess by not striking.

If the American flag is to be kept on the high seas, it can not be done by selling vessels owned by the government to private owners who intend to put them under foreign registry. That is one thing congress should look out for.

The cost of military training, which also includes vocational education, is far less than the damage that might result from a continuation of unreadiness. Those who oppose the plan today also opposed preparation no longer ago than the summer of 1916.

Borrowed Money Prosperity

Many reports, special and general, have been coming across from wartorn Europe which agree in the representation of an all-prevalent after-the-war spree of gayety and spending. To quote from one report as made by a United States government representative—Col. James G. Steese of the general staff United States army, returning from a special mission to Europe says of what may be called the psychic situation in Belgium: "The people are expressing themselves in unprecedented gayety. The gambling houses in Ostend are crowded day and night with throngs that do not seem to know what to do with their money." As to Brussels: "This city, always a gay place, now presents the aspect of a permanent carnival, with overcrowded cafes at all times of the day and night, and a population possessed of a dancing craze that makes New York look like a seminary."

Various reports of a similar tenor have been coming from London and Paris. There is certainly a contrast between the pictures which the relief commissions are giving of a starved and ragged Europe, and these other pictures of a Europe going the giddy whirl with no apparent concern about hard work and frugality as a means of restoring the ruin of war. Both pictures, doubtless, are correct. There is the gay and reckless Europe, with a surplus in its pockets which it is spending, and there is the submerged one-fifth about whose welfare the prosperous element is not as much concerned as it should be. The American people generally are willing to lend a hand to the saving of the war-crushed element beyond the Atlantic, but Europe must show some concern about saving itself—saving its own submerged contingents.—Baltimore American.

FIUME BELONGS TO EUROPE.

Something of the sensational quality is taken out of the startling tale sent over from Paris by the announcement from Washington that the purpose of President Wilson in relation to the Adriatic settlement had been overstated by Le Temps. Home advices are to the effect that the president has merely expressed the intention of withdrawing from this affair entirely unless his plans are adopted. It would have been better for the cause of peace if he had reached this conclusion a year ago. His decision in the Fiume affair was a mistake, however well intentioned it might have been. It was not then approved by the Allies, but was accepted as a condition necessary to going ahead with the peace negotiations. D'Annunzio's coup upset the Wilson plan, and a most ticklish proposition was put before the supreme council.

If the establishment of Fiume as a free city will satisfy Italian aspirations and afford Jugo-Slavia a "window on the Adriatic," thereby avoiding a clash at arms, and this is what Lloyd George and Clemenceau long worked for, the outcome would appear happy. Italy has made its position plain; to enforce the Wilson award means war. To grant the entire Italian demand would goad the Jugo-Slavs to battle, now or in the near future. A compromise, such as has been outlined by the supreme council, therefore is not only expedient, but the only way to avoid another little war in Europe.

Above all, Fiume is an affair of Europe. Americans can well afford to leave the adjustment of such issues to the Europeans, for so long as substantial justice is done, the national rights of none are infringed, and war that would affect us in our external relations is averted, we can sustain the settlement. Just as we insist that the Monroe Doctrine must be fully regarded by Europe, so should we respect the implied extension of that principle to politics and policies pertaining there.

We are interested as neighbors, but must not allow that friendly concern to draw us into a position we can not maintain. And it may be that Mr. Wilson's withdrawal from the Fiume muddle is the wisest thing he has done since the armistice was signed.

Constitution and Citizenship.

The American Security league is moving to secure the teaching of the constitution in the schools. Its program is divided into two parts, and is thus outlined:

1. Study and discussion of the principles and spirit of the American Constitution and government through the college and university forums and debating societies.
2. Advocacy of a required course on the Constitution and American form of government in all colleges and universities.

This is put forward as a practical method for combatting bolshevism and similar doctrines that are subversive or destructive of constitutional government. It may be doubted, though, if the scope of the plan is sufficiently comprehensive. If all citizens had the advantage of college training, the issue would be met, but all do not. The common schools of the country are the great finishing factories of citizenship, and in them some better means for instruction than now prevails should be found.

"Civics" and "Political Economy" sound formidable, but they really hold the future of the country's institutions, and if the schools are to be what they should be, the fountain from which will flow the undiluted and pure stream of patriotic citizenship, they must be not only guarded from the taint that threatens, but made more effective in their operation. This country too long has left to the soap-box and the back room the business of teaching the science of government. Instruction in the spirit of the constitution and the form of the American government should be given as early as possible in the schools, and the soviet idea will soon disappear before the enduring principles on which our institutions rest.

In the Third Missouri.

Much joy swirls around the soul of Chairman Cummings as he contemplates the returns from the Third Missouri congressional district. A democrat has been elected to succeed John Willis Alexander, who has gone into the cabinet. This would be vastly important, were it not for the fact that this district has been democratic since before the Civil War, and never has wavered for an instant in its devotion to the habit of voting the ticket. If the chairman of the party's national committee can gain inspiration from the fact that the heritage of generations still finds expression in the election of a popular democrat to congress, no effort will be made to interfere with his exuberance. The Third Missouri, boastfully calling itself the "show me" district, provides a pleasant place for democratic eyes to rest, relieving them of the strain brought about by certain proceedings in Oklahoma, Kentucky and elsewhere. But it will take more than that to give the old-timers any especial buoyancy in the approach to San Francisco.

Internment for the Ex-Kaiser.

If it be true that the Allies have compromised their demand that the count of Hohenzollern, lately William II, emperor of Germany and king of Prussia, be interned for life in lieu of delivery for trial, the issue is comfortably met. If it carries with it any taint or tinge of martyrdom, the quality is so light that the advantage will be very small. On the other hand not only for his personal vanity but as a topic for future historical disputation, the ex-emperor could amply afford to face his accusers in the dock. This contains no diminution of the crimes for which the former ruler of the German empire is attainted; it simply disposes of the man. He could in safety be left at Amerogen, there to idly watch the world go by, fretting himself that he is no longer an actor on the world's stage. His day has passed, and the longer he is spared, the more completely must come to him not only the sense of defeat and failure, but a more and more perfect comprehension of what his ambition cost the world, and of how beautifully all can run without him. This will be his greatest punishment.

Charles Evans Hughes writes to an Omaha admirer his refusal to be again a candidate for president. He has seen verified some of the prophecies he made in 1916, particularly the one about the "fool's paradise."

The machinists exhibited good judgment in settling their differences with the employers without a strike. Production and not disturbance is what industry needs nowadays.

A theater being torn down to build a store and a store being torn down to build a theater is one of the little complexities of life in Omaha.

Our Mexican Problem

Minneapolis Tribune.

Rutherford J. Platt, Jr., writing in the current number of the World's Work on "What Kind of Intervention for Mexico?" says there are three courses open to the United States in dealing with that country.

One is to continue the present policy of "watchful waiting," from which the "watchful" might as well be eliminated for all the good it does. Such a course, he says, would both ignore the conditions which that policy has aggravated, and, what is worse, would continue conditions which are liable to lead to sudden and blind precipitation into a Mexican war. That is to say, the provocation may some day become so great that intervention cannot be avoided.

The second course suggested by Mr. Platt is to pick out a decent and patriotic liberal element, or a coalition of such elements, and accord to them the support of our government toward the formation of a new Mexican administration. How this would materially differ from the attitude assumed toward Carranza is not explained unless it would consist in making a better selection of an agent and in furnishing more substantial and effectual support even to the point of military assistance, if necessary, or if the beneficiary so requests.

The third course open is military intervention without invitation. That means invasion and occupation.

As he suggests, the first and the last are in dangerous proximity, as each day of waiting invites some calamity which would make a resort to military force the only course possible.

So he advocates the second course: that of promoting the ascendancy and control of a decent and patriotic liberal element, or a coalition of such elements, in working out the salvation of their own country. And this policy he believes not only practicable, but sure to be welcomed by not only the immediate beneficiaries of such a choice, but by the people in the mass.

This writer thinks that we are mistaken if we assume that intervention would solidify the Mexican people in resistance. A Mexican paper, published in the City of Mexico, has asserted that 80 per cent of the total population would regard intervention by the United States with indifference and that 90 per cent of the educated class would welcome it.

The writer referred to does not mention, and perhaps for very good and not obscure reasons, the individual or the group in whose favor support should be extended. It ought to be practicable, however, to make such a choice, and, if, after the movement had been well inaugurated, our military assistance should be invited, resentment of our interference would be confined to a very small minority.

Of course, anything which even squints at war in Mexico or anywhere else is likely to meet with opposition in some quarters. It would be, in a sense, an aggressive war, and yet, in a larger sense, when rightly considered, a defensive war, for the murder-map, so to speak, of Mexico, published by the Association for the Protection of American Rights in Mexico, is pock-marked with records of 550 American lives sacrificed to Mexican lawlessness during the past 10 years. From the same source it appears that 317 cases of major violence occurred during the four months from April 1 to July 31, 1919.

The effect of all this disorder, taking place right under our eyes, without occasioning more than "periodic grunts of disgust and irritation" from the United States is, as Mr. Platt says, inevitable. The Mexicans generally have lost their fear and respect for foreigners and for foreign governments, and conditions may be expected to grow worse instead of better as long as that contempt for outsiders persists. That we are drifting inevitably toward armed intervention is a frequent assertion of those who study the situation, and if we can avoid it by promoting the establishment of a stable, orderly government, working through selected elements in Mexico, even to the point of military assistance when it is requested, we may avoid a very unpleasant duty which must be taken up some day in the form of military invasion, uninvited, but unavoidable.

Pensions Extraordinary

Get a cabinet position in Spain and you will receive a pension of 7,000 pesetas a year for the rest of your life. If you serve only one day your pension is secure for all the rest of your years. Cabinets change rapidly in Spain, and there are now about 150 ex-ministers on the pension roll.

It has been hard to persuade a Spanish cabinet to do away with this evil—just about as hard as it has been to persuade an American congress to abolish the mileage graft. But at last a cabinet of altruistic tendencies has been set up at Madrid, and it proposes to wipe out all ministerial pensions. Not only for themselves and their successors, but also for their predecessors who have been the beneficiaries of the system, they seek to eliminate the pensions. An ex-minister will, if the court approves the measure, be compelled to work for a living just like anyone else.

No wonder there is unrest in Spain, if the statute books contain many laws like this. What would we say in this country if all our ex-members of presidential cabinets were knocking down $1,400 a year for nothing.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Silent Wives Woes

London has been the center of some remarkable legal situations, but it is safe to declare that none of these has been more picturesque or more incredible than the recent divorce suit of a couple who lived in complete conjugal silence for four years. At the end of that period the lady in question decided that she had enough of it. Her petition was dismissed, but to date there has been no reconciliation. An attentive public can now settle down to the prolonged delight of waiting for one of them to break the silence.

The popular theory that women cannot remain silent is given a hard blow, but not necessarily a fatal one, by the fact that the wife was able to hold her tongue as long as she did. When she did come out of the silence, she declared that the lack of conversation had "wrecked her life." That she kept on doing the man's cooking, making his bed, and attending to the housework shows that hope was not dead within her. But the silent gentleman's tenacity did not wear out. It is signicant that the cable dispatches carrying the story quoted the woman at considerable length, but the noiseless husband apparenlty made no comment.—Philadelphia Press.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.

Fred S. Hadra, formerly in the insurance business, born 1856.

David F. Houston, the new secretary of the United States treasury, born at Monroe, S. C., 54 years ago.

Lord Askwith, who as chief industrial commission has settled many strikes in Great Britain, born 59 years ago.

James R. Riggs, assistant secretary of agriculture of the United States, born in Sullivan county, Indiana, 55 years ago.

Anita Stewart, one of the most celebrated of American motion picture actresses, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., 25 years ago.

Donald Brian, a popular star of musical comedy, born at St. Johns, N. F., 43 years ago.

Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.

Bank clearings for the previous week were announced as $4,430,929, an increase of 21.7 per cent.

Dean Gardner preached to 300 members of the A. O. U. W. at Trinity cathedral.

Bishop Newman lectured to "an immense audience" at Boyd's, his topic being "The Seven Bibles of the World."

St. John's lodge, A. F. & A. M., conducted funeral services for Richard Cody, son of Sergt. Michael Cody. Interment was at Prospect Hill cemetery.

The Bee's Letter Box

Canadian Railroads.

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: Present events of Canadian railroads prompts me to remind the readers of The Bee of the opposition shown the so-called Bagdad railroad by President Wilson. He turned all batteries against this question when at a labor convention some time ago at Buffalo, N. Y. But let us look at our front door and see what is going on and we will find that the Canadian Northern owns 217 miles in the good old U. S. A. (Minnesota). The Grand Trunk owns 812 miles in Michigan, Illinois, etc., and the Canadian Pacific only 1,853 in Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Idaho, Washington and three other states.

The Canadian government has already possession of the Grand Trunk and some morning before breakfast it will swallow the Canadian Pacific, and then we will find ourselves confronted with a foreign government-owned railroad which is a very bad affair.

Do you hear now of any protest coming from our great president? Why is he worried so much about the Bagdad railroad, and doesn't seem to take any interest in this condition at our front door.

Many readers of this letter may say: "Well this affair don't interest us," but I think it does.

Considerable American-made goods are shipped on these roads to Montreal and Quebec and from there to Liverpool, etc., instead of to New York. It goes only to show what commercial supremacy means. I am not a stockholder in any United States railroad company, but I object in having any foreign government owning railroads on United States soil. I may state that the above conditions are another step of world dominion as Senator Reed said five or six days ago, when he spoke in regard to England's policies. I admire the senator from Missouri for his stand in behalf of United States interest even if it is necessary to twist the British lion's tail.

STEPHEN KLEPSKY.
5109 North Fourteenth Street.

Making Faces Enjoined.

The superior court of Boston had issued an injunction to prevent one woman making faces at another with whom she had quarreled over the proper trimming on a winter hat. She must not make any rude or improper faces, grimaces or leer or jeer or scoff, the court says.—Ohio State Journal.

FATHER AND SON.

An evening together for Father and Son,
Would easily prove the greatest of fun,
And those who have tried it, will say I am right,
That no other pastime is up to it quite.

An outing together for Father and Son,
Affords loads of pleasure, 'fore even begun
For in planning the trip, is found half of the sport,
And when it is finished, seems always too short.

The Father who shares some time with his Son,
Not only at meal-time, but with him in fun,
Will certainly find it is time wisely spent,
And have cause to rejoice, much more than repent.

A son needs his Father for his best chum,
In order to cement the two lives into one.
And the happiest couple you ever will find,
Is a couple made up of two of this kind.

Happy the boy, whose chum is his "dad,"
Nothing on earth can make him more glad.
For the "Dad" who is "Pal" to his boy,
Gives to his Son one greatest joy.

Since every Father is a grown up Son,
And climbed up a ladder his boy is now on,
What better companionship can a boy find
Than that of a "Dad" who is the right kind?

—LOUIS T. WOOD.

DAILY CARTOONETTE.

Little Folks' Corner

For Girls to Make — Homecraft

A Patriotic Party.

BY CAROLYN SHERWIN BAILEY.

Why not surprise your guests at your patriotic party with some new decorations and favors? How about a jolly thrift bag to begin with?

THE THRIFT BAG.

Use red, white and blue cambric sewed in strips, or red and white

decorated with blue stars or stripes. Make the bag the size of a grab bag, and fill it with small favors, wrapped so as to conceal their shapes. These should be inexpensive, but suggestive of thrift; thimbles, little blank books marked bank book, thrift stamps, toy washboards, flat irons, brooms, small cook books and the like. Each guest will find a surprise in grabbing, and perhaps a suggestion for patriotism in 1920 as well.

A FLAG PIE.

Fill a round tin with small favors or bags of candies, each wrapped in tissue paper, and having a ribbon attached long enough to reach from the center of the table to each guest's place. Stuff chinks in this pie with shredded paper, cover the top with red crepe paper, cutting slits in it through which the ribbons are drawn, and tie wide red, white and blue ribbons around the edge to cover up the sides of the tin. Stick small flags in the top of the pie until it is covered with the colors.

At the end of the party feast, the guests pull their ribbons, break the pie and enjoy the contents.

TABLE DECORATIONS.

Wrap sugared almonds in red, white and blue tissue paper, twisting the paper at the end to look like a torpedo. These may fill a basket in the center of the table, or be scattered over the white table cloth.

Quaint little soldiers can be made by cutting bodies of tarlatan in blue, just a round head, a straight body and arms and legs. Put a large pink peppermint drop inside the tarlatan head and draw a face on it. Stuff a body with shredded blue tissue paper so that it will stand. Give the soldier a cocked hat and a peppermint stick for a gun, and stand one of the regiment at each place at the party table.

(Tomorrow: "Hunting Eye Learns About Washington's Birthday.")

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Would Be Popular.

"Copeland to Ask for Liquor to Fight Influenza." We trust that the jump in the number of cases following this announcement will occasion no alarm.—New York Post.

For Boys to Make — Handicraft

A Fireless Cooker.

BY G. M. HYDE.

How many times has mother said that she wished she had a fireless cooker? Why not make her one?

The main part of the cooker is a strong box—a shipping box or, better yet, a home-made box. Its dimensions should be about 15 inches high, 15 inches wide and 30 inches long. If you use a shipping box, go over it and make it tight and strong. The cracks between the boards should be as small as possible. Next build a cover of light boards, held together with cross-slats and fastened to the box with strap hinges. Fasten a rope to hold the cover in position when it is open, so that it will not fall back and tear off the hinges.

For heating receptacles get two tin pails of average size. The ket-

tles mother expects to place in the cooker should slip into the pails loosely.

The shelf (S) to hold the pails should be built of light boards and fitted snugly inside the box, about five inches down from the top edge, resting on some cleats. After it is in place, up-end the pails to mark the size of their tops on the shelf. They will probably be about 10 inches in diameter. The holes should be slightly smaller than the pail tops, so that the pails will hang by their rims. Cut the holes with a key-hole saw.

For insulation to hold the heat, pack all the box below the shelf and about the pails with excelsior. To insulate the top, a wadded cloth pad is the easiest means. It should be made of light canvas or unbleached cotton sheeting and stuffed with excelsior. The top and bottom pieces of cloth should be just the size of the shelf; the edges about four inches wide. It will be more convenient if it is "hinged" so that one end can be folded over on top of the other. This may be done by making the pad in two sections with the top edges sewed together, or by making one pad and stitching it across along the dividing line.

(Tomorrow: "Hunting the Spring," by Miss Beard.)

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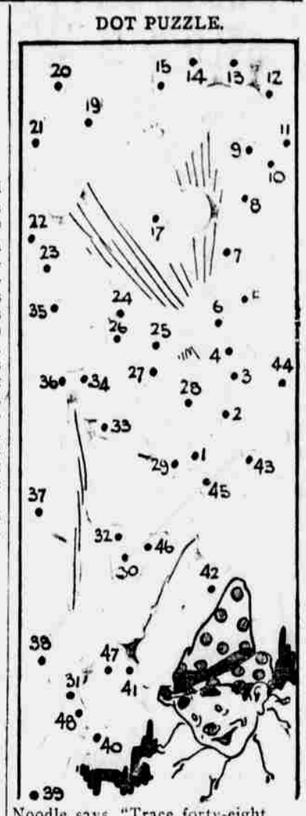
DOT PUZZLE.



Noodle says, "Trace forty-eight,
See what grows beside my gate."
Draw from one to two, and so on to the end.