THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING—SUNDAY

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The Bee's Platform

1. New Union Passenger Station.
2. Continued improvement of the Nebraska Highways, including the pavement of Main Thoroughfares leading into Omaha with a Brick Surface.
3. A short, low-rate Waterway from the Corn Belt to the Atlantic Ocean.
4. Home Rule Charter for Omaha, with City Manager form of Government.

Errors in the "Slacker" List.

While much of reason commends the proposed publication of the names of those who willfully evaded the military service due from them to the country, and who therefore stand on the records as deserters, great injustice may be done worthy and deserving men. A case of this has cropped up in connection with the first list given out for the Chicago district. It transpires that the name of the man at the head of the list actually enlisted as a private and came out of the service a lieutenant colonel, and that he was in command of 1,000 men on the day the armistice was signed. While the list is authenticated by Major General George Bell, jr., the state adjutant of the American Legion of Illinois positively asserts that the man involved did serve, and his family show his papers to prove the assertion.

How many times this will be repeated none can say, but the War department admits that many mistakes are likely to crop out, but advocates of publicity urge that more good than harm will be done, and that the victims of the blunders can easily clear themselves. We doubt if it will enhance the standing of anybody to be stigmatized as a deserter, especially when the person referred to has a clear record of service.

What is clear is that the military system of keeping track of the men actually in service has not improved much since the government was formed. Congress is still employed in passing laws to set aright the record of men who served in the War of the Rebellion, while the muster rolls of the Spanish war are continually being corrected. Billions of dollars were handled, and every penny accounted for; it would seem that where men are concerned similar accuracy could be attained.

Until the "slacker" lists are more accurately checked and the government is positive of its ground, they should not be made public. No true man should be required to rid himself of the odium that attaches to the charge of desertion.

Mixing Gasoline and Play.

The driver of a heavy truck stopped in front of a school on the north side of the city and went directly to the office of the principal. His business each day took him through the street in which the school was located, and so nerve-racking had the task of avoiding running down the children become that he came in to explain that he should not be held responsible if some day a pupil was struck.

This was a careful driver, and if he was alarmed at the carelessness and bravado shown by the youngsters in crossing or playing in the streets, how much more dangerous must be their lot when careless or inefficient driving enters into account.

According to the traffic safety committee, 45 per cent of the number of all persons injured in automobile accidents here this month have been children.

Accidents do not occur as frequently in the crowded sections in the heart of the city as in the outlying districts where the natural feeling is that danger is less. It will not do to lay all the blame on the children, for some are run down through no fault of their own. But often boys and even girls are seen playing in the street, lingering till the last moment before an oncoming car, or even deliberately chasing in front of a motorist as if to see how close they can come to injury and yet escape.

The safety first campaign, which was put on in the schools of Omaha last January, with its charades, drills, slogans and essays, doubtless had some good effect, but there is a great deal more to be done to impress the dangers of the streets upon the children before they are turned loose on vacation. Accordingly, another safety first campaign is to be held in the schools May 18, 19 and 20. If avoiding motor accidents can be made as interesting a game as taking risks, parents, children and motorists will all enjoy the benefit. An intensive lesson in personal safety properly supplements the campaigning for careful driving.

Home Grown Blankets.

A pair of home grown blankets which have been given to President Harding by a farm organization in New Hampshire call attention to the manner in which wool growers, both in New England and in parts of the west, have received twice the market price for their wool clip and yet were able to put the blankets made from it on the market at half the usual retail price. The Massachusetts department of agriculture at the present time is planning to move 75,000 pounds of wool from farm to bedroom in this manner.

In one county the farmers bring in 10 pounds of wool to their exchange, pay the manufacturing cost, and have it made into blankets at one of the factories nearby, soon sleeping under blankets from their own flocks.

When wool tumbled from 80 cents a pound in 1920 to as low as 15 cents in the early months of this year, sheep growers were desperate. Under the scheme that has been evolved, it is said they receive 52 cents a pound for their clip, instead of the market price of about 26 cents. Where the home-grown blankets are sold, it is at $7.50, which is very low for the all-wool product.

This is one of the short cuts by which the farmers are meeting the emergency of the slump in prices on their products. Unless the market for their raw materials is soon righted, many similar changes in commercial practice and industrial processes may be looked for, by which the farmer handles his own products from the stage of raw material to finished goods.

Are the Fleets Obsolete?

Ships of the air and ships of the sea are to engage in a duel somewhere in the Atlantic ocean, in order to settle the rivalry between the two arms of warfare. The results of this venture, however, are not to be made public, and the conclusions are to be given out only after long study by a joint board of the War and Navy departments. Members of congress, interested in the problem as affecting naval and military appropriations, civilians and press representatives will be barred from witnessing these momentous and mysterious sham battles.

The first test will be that of the ability of airplanes and seaplanes to locate an enemy fleet under all sorts of visibility conditions. The radio-controlled battleship Iowa, with some of the former German warships, will be stationed about 60 knots from shore, and it will then be up to the army flyers to find them. Tests of accuracy in dropping bombs also will be made.

At a later time, about September, it is said, the obsolete battleship Kentucky will be turned over to the flyers for offshore attacks by bombs and aerial torpedoes. The vessel will be stripped of all fittings and protected only by its armor plate.

Here again there is to be no publicity. The rivalry between the army and the navy is shown in the proviso that the post mortem is to be largely in the control of the Navy department. This experiment, should it result in the sinking or destruction of the battleship under conditions at all comparable to those of actual war, might mean a revolution in the national defense program. The sailors are the conservatives, the soldiers boastfully radical in their claims of the supremacy of air armament, and the obsolescence of big ships. This is a costly dispute, but one which might result in large saving and increased national safety.

Lincoln's Peculiar Predicament.

A reasonable reluctance restrains The Bee from offering advice to the citizens of Lincoln in their present plight; it is a little family affair, and belongs to them to settle among themselves and to their own satisfaction. However, they can not expect the neighbors to look on and not say anything.

At this distance, it seems that what ails the Capitol City is the presence of too many statesmen. Of course the main symptom is the ardent desire of "Brother Charley" Bryan to write "mayor" under his official signature. That title sounds a little bigger in Fame's trumpet than does "street commissioner." As a matter of fact, the homelier designation carried with it something more to be desired, for it means that its wearer is engaged in a useful public service, while the former holds but the emptiness of dignity and only deludes its possessor into forgetting that, after all, he is but the fly on the wheel. Ample explication of the law shows that as street commissioner Mr. Bryan can introduce any or all of his pet ordinances, may urge their adoption, and cast his vote in favor of them; he can do no more as mayor.

Another question arises in this connection: Is Mr. Bryan absolutely essential to the well being and progress of the community he is willing to serve as mayor but not as street commissioner? Does the destiny of Lincoln hang on one man? These questions may be easily answered. The Bryanites are trying to fix up some plan of recall that will oust Mayor Zehrung and land their champion on top, but without jeopardizing his chance. If the matter is finally carried back to the voters, it may be ascertained just what these want, but the cause of self-determination and popular government is not served in any particular by these exhibitions of factional strife. The law under which the Lincoln city government exists appears to have been followed in every particular, and that ought to satisfy good citizens.

Why Buy Coal Now?

Whether the price of coal is to come down or not—and many good reasons may be advanced for its coming down—the argument in favor of buying coal now is strong. Bins are empty, mines are idle, miners unemployed, and the railroad cars standing still. Sixty days from now there will be a tremendous rush, everybody trying to get served first, and we will again hear of the inadequacy of transportation facilities and all the other complaints that generally accompany a market glutted with orders that must be filled in turn.

One of the causes for the employment of two miners for every day's work that ought to be done in the mines is that consumers wait until the last minute before ordering their fuel supply. Operators have no provisions at the mines for storing coal. It is left underground until ordered. Consumers usually have some place to put at least a portion of what they need for ordinary consumption. If these bins were kept filled, and the coal mining industry were changed from seasonal to steady in its nature, great benefits would flow to all. The miners, instead of having only 140 days' work in a year might look for 280, and so only half the number of men might be needed to dig the coal, and the other half could be liberated from the mines to find employment in other industry.

With more days on the pay roll, the miner would be able to live better and get more out of life, because he would not be facing enforced idleness for the greater part of the year, and therefore could do more for his family than is now possible. This is but one of the economic aspects of the problem. When the demand for fuel becomes steadier, the price can be stabilized, and capital employed will derive the same benefit as would accrue to labor. The effect of this double saving in time would naturally be reflected in the selling price, and the users of coal would also be gainer. In fact, the reasons for buying coal now are numerous and good.

It might not be a bad idea to teach the sun how to take care of its complexion, so those sun spots would not worry the universe.

The 18th amendment, we learn, has been strengthened by a recent court decision. Ah, yes, they've put a kick in it.

Perhaps those Yale students who cheated in an examination were up against a list of questions like Edison's.

Cost of the Great War

Stupefying Array of Figures to Show What Must Be Paid

(From the New York Times.)

What an overpowering spectacle a review of the disabled war veterans of all nationalities would be! At the International Labor office in Geneva an estimate of their number has been made. Not including the halt, the crippled, the mutilated, the remnants of humanity, of Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Australia and New Zealand, the total exceeds 5,500,000. The French are 1,500,000, the German 1,400,000, the British 1,170,000, the Italian 570,000, the American 200,000, the Czecho-Slovakians 175,000, the Jugo-Slavians 164,000, the Poles 150,000, the Canadians 88,000, the Roumanians 84,000 and the Belgians 40,000. Russia's dead in the war have been placed at 4,012,000, Turkey's at 488,789, Bulgaria's at 106,637, Australia's at 58,460 and New Zealand's at 16,132; and as the French disabled, according to the Geneva count, are only about 154,550 less than the French dead, which were 1,654,550, it may be roughly calculated that the disabled of Russia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Australia and New Zealand are not much below their total of dead, 4,669,018, say 4,000,000. The Geneva figures, therefore, might be raised from 5,500,000 to 9,500,000. Still India, which had 47,746 dead, and South Africa, 6,928, would be out of the estimate.

There could be no review of the dead, except in the terrible fancy of some great artist, and then it would have to be symbolical. The dead of all the nations, in battle, in camps swept by pestilence, at sea and by accidents, have been put a 12,990,570, a round thirteen millions. But there was an aftermath of the war in populations reduced by famine. The unfortunates can never all be known, but the sum of them would considerably exceed the thirteen million lives lost in the war. What it cost the combatant nations on both sides directly in money Prof. E. L. Bogert of Illinois university has estimated, for the Carnegie Endowment and International Peace, at $186,333,637,097. Indirect costs in the value of human life (soldiers and civilians who died), of property lost on land and at sea, of production wasted, of war relief and damage to neutrals, he calculated at $151,612,542,560. The grand total would be $337,946,179,657. But this is not all. Prof. Bogert points out that expenditures on account of the war were continuing when he cast up his figures and will extend over many years to come. Prof. Seligman made the net war expenditures alone $210,935,000,000.

This the man who is not an economist knows, that while the war lasted the modern economic system was near a complete break-down, and that since the war ended more millions than died and were mutilated have suffered want and privation; that many have sickened and perished; that in all countries more men than were combatants are out of work today or are living by charity. Bitterly slow will be the restoration of the economic system that was shattered almost to destruction.

Who can really tell what the war cost the people of the world, and what it will yet cost them? Much time must elapse before famine is banished from Asia as well as from Europe. The moral damage done society is enormous and baffles speculation. Except that it is a horrible chapter in human history, no one knows the story of what has happened in Russia under the bolshevist despotism. Still men are fighting in Poland and Ireland. Still armaments are being heaped up and the tragic lessons of the last great war have made so little impression upon politicians that other great wars are talked of lightly, as if diplomacy did not have her office, and it was the destiny of civilization to destroy itself. But it cannot be doubted that if the survivors of the last great war were polled in all countries their voice would be for the long peace of reconstruction and for disarmament.

Ethics for the College Girl

There is always a difference in the point of view between youth and age. The poet has sung that crabbed old age and youth can not live together, for youth is full of pleasure and age is full of care. The principal grievance that Falstaff had against the venerable grand jurors whom he and his companions had waylaid was, as he averred, that "they hate us youth," and he excused the robbery on the ground that "young men must live."

On the assumption that almost every one who has attained the dignity of dean in an institution of learning must be of mature years, it is easy to understand that the sixty deans of women's colleges who assembled in conference at Northwestern university the other day have an outlook on life diametrically opposite to that which is held by the undergraduate girls whom it is their duty to watch and ward. These good women came to the conclusion that in the case of their charges two things at least have reached the irreducible minimum—dress and sleeping hours. They showed admirable discretion, however, in not laying down any hard and fast rules, for it is proverbially difficult to secure obedience to sumptuary laws, but they did decide that a reform is necessary and that a uniform standard of ethics should prevail. No one can question the wisdom of the resolution they adopted:

That it is necessary for the health, the mentality, the social clear-sightedness, and the spiritual development of our girls that their relaxations should be fewer, with shorter hours, better chaperoning, and simpler dresses; that holidays, week-ends and longer vacations should not be made exceptions; that the present tendency to let a young lady try everything and know everything be considered dangerous; that good times be provided sufficient in number, and yet simple in type, to gratify the natural desires of a girl; and that we earnestly ask the fathers, mothers, guardians and teachers of our girls to help us maintain these standards.

Such plain speaking indicates the magnitude of the problem with which educators have to grapple. Liberty there must be, but care must be taken not to allow liberty to degenerate into license. There lies the rub. To draw the proper line will require not only tactful firmness, but also the wholehearted co-operation of every one concerned.—Washington Post.

Rules for Writers.

In these days it seems that every ambitious young man who is not taking a mail course of instruction guaranteed to increase his pay 1,000 per cent in six weeks is learning by mail to write short stories or scenarios. Interest in the mechanics of the writing trade, therefore, is keen and widespread, and in the spirit of comradeship we call attention of these literary neophytes to a rule that may prevent many a manuscript from winging its way homeward via the United States mail with a neat rejection slip inclosed. The rule is of especial value to persons who write tales of travel and of adventure in far places. The idea is that whether one is writing of the chill wastes of Kamchatka, a coral strand in the antipodes or of a fetid, insect-ridden jungle of the tropics, always see to it that your tale contains a paragraph reading something like this:

"And there amid these primitive surroundings I found a worn and much thumbed copy of the (insert name of whatever magazine you send story to), a reminder of the civilized world which seemed too far away."

Try this on your favorite magazine editor. It is what the movie directors call "sure-fire hokum." Even the most calloused editor will fall for it.—El Paso Times.

"Stand Up and Be Counted."

In the New England town meeting they used to vote by a show of hands; but in the modern short-curtained voting booth—well, it takes a woman of sturdy understanding to make a showing in politics, doesn't it?—Chicago Evening Post.

How to Keep Well

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally, subject to proper limitation, where a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

MAKE SWIMMING SAFE.

"About this time of the year," Dr. H. W. Gentles writes, "arrangements are being made for camps. Many of these are for the young. In many swimming is to be a feature. I believe that people who have charge of such camps owe it to the parents to see that somebody is provided at each camp who not only is a good swimmer and a good teacher, but who also is able to show his or her credentials as having passed the Red Cross life saving tests. In this way only can we properly protect those camps. Some are private camps and the charge for keep and care is by no means a small one. The patrons of these have the right to know that all standard procedures for lessening the danger are being carried out."

I can broaden the suggestion by Dr. Gentles. The bathing beaches and more public resorts should be equipped with attendants who know how to swim. During the world war I was surprised to learn what a large proportion of sailors in the navy did not know how to swim. I was surprised to learn how insufficient was the instruction in swimming at the training stations. The instruction and training in life saving in water accidents was even more insufficient.

The American Red Cross gives courses in swimming and life saving. To get one of the certificates a person must be able to swim 100 yards, using two or more strokes, to dive properly, to swim on back 50 feet, and to retrieve objects at reasonable depth from the surface, to tow persons of own weight for 10 yards by each of the following methods: (a) head carry, (b) cross chest carry, (c) two point carry, and (d) tired swimmers carry. He must demonstrate how to release oneself from a person in peril of drowning if grasped by (a) wrist hold, (b) front neck hold, (c) back neck hold. He is required to demonstrate both the Schaefer and Sylvester methods of performing artificial respiration, although the use of the Schaefer method is advised.

A person holding an American Red Cross certificate is recognized as reasonably proficient in the work of guarding untrained bathers. The proprietor of a camp or resort protects himself by affording this protection for his patrons. Dr. Gentles writes me that the number of persons drowned in 1920 exceeded 6,000.

Swimming is fine physical exercise. It develops the muscles and makes for good physical development. But we should make indulgence safer than it is now. I think Dr. Gentels' point is well taken.

The Busy Food Faddist.

F. F. B. writes: "A recent book on diet, written by a physician, forbids the eating of fruit, cooked or uncooked, at mealtime. It is not easy to eat all the fruit which one needs between meals, and the custom of taking it at breakfast is both convenient and agreeable. Will you kindly give your opinion on the subject?"

REPLY.

There are many kinds of food faddists. Do not listen to any of them. If you develop the habit of following the food faddists you will be jumping around worse than a pursued flea. There are all sorts of doctors and some of them are food faddists. Unfortunately the food faddists will write books.

One Baby's History.

Mrs. H. C. O. writes: "My baby is 9 months old. At birth he weighed 8 pounds and at present 22. He is of good height and has two teeth. He was breast fed until four months ago. He has had orange juice daily since he was 2 months old. He began taking cereals at 5 months and vegetables at 6 months. Now he gets three meals a day, cereal in the morning, baked potato and bacon (or something similar) at noon, cooked vegetables, graham or white crackers at supper, and as much milk at each meal as he will drink from a glass. He drinks pretty well. At 10 p. m. I give him a bottle of milk. I plan to discontinue the bottle at 10 months. He has no trouble with his bowels—two good movements daily.

At 3 weeks he caught whooping cough from his older brother. Being in July and August and being a breast-fed baby he had a mild case. At 6 months he had a bad case of gastro-enteritis, lost two and one-half pounds in three days. Took it from his older brother (it was epidemic at the time). At 7 months he took a cold, also from his older brother (he has been an outdoor baby from the start). Both children came down with pneumonia (bronchial) within a day of each other. The older boy had a light case and was up in 10 days. The baby had double pneumonia. He was in bed three weeks. Then we brought him downstairs. He has never been without a temperature from the day he came down with it. It runs about 100.5 to 101.5 most of the time. Five times it has been under 100 for a couple of hours at a time. I have given him ammonium carbonate twice a day. He coughs once in a while, a dry, harsh cough. Some days he does not cough. He cut two teeth last week. He has a good appetite. He is pale, with a touch of red in the right cheek. His eyes are listless, yet he is active. What do you suppose is the matter? Is it tuberculosis? What shall I do for him?"

REPLY.

You should have the baby examined for tuberculosis. Consumption is fairly prevalent among babies. The probability is that you will find pulmonary tuberculosis is not the cause of his trouble. Babies and other young children run a little fever on very slight provocation. An infected gland which is not dangerous and which will get well without much treatment could easily explain your baby's symptoms. I doubt the advantage of giving ammonium carbonate or any other cough mixture. I note your reference to a cold caught from an older brother. Likewise the epidemic diarrhoea. I wish more people understood that both colds and diarrheas are catching.

Skin Tuberculosis.

J. C. writes: "Is it possible to have tuberculosis of the skin? If so, how, is the disease distinguished and what are the symptoms? Is it treated internally or externally? Is there a postive cure?"

REPLY.

Yes. Skin tuberculosis usually appears as ulcerating nodules. These ulcerated patches have a tendency to extend. It is a chronic ulceration. It is treated by exposure to sunlight, by x-rays, and local applications. Tuberculin is frequently given hypodermically.

Need Skillful Care.

H. E. W. writes: "Can yu prescribe a diet suitable for one who has excess sugar in his system? I cannot afford thorough examination just now, but want a diet until I can."

REPLY.

You should not eat any food that is made from flour or even partly so or in which there is any other form of starch; nor any food into which sugar enters. The details for carrying this policy out require too much space to be set down here. There are several small books dealing with diabetes and written in simple language. Get one. A person with diabetes should have proper care, even if he is required to economize in some other direction to pay for it.

Have Her Drink Water.

Mrs. L. P. V. writes: "We have a breast-fed baby 3½ months old. Her bowels have not moved properly since birth. They only move once in two or three days. I have given her orange juice and prune juice, etc., but it does not help any. What shall I do?"

REPLY.

Use a soapstick or give her milk of magnesia. Have her drink more water. Fruit juice has a very limited value as a laxative.

Infected Tonsils.

A. D. writes: "Are tonsils infected when they constantly exude small yellow lumps of matter which have a bad odor?"

REPLY.

Such tonsils are garbage cans. It is likely that absorption of bacteria from these tonsils occurs.

The Bee's Letter Box

Jerry on the Job.

Omaha, May 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: This government of ours is the best on earth, and the people can avail themselves of the opportunity of employing the best servants in the market. If the officials are not satisfactory the people are to blame because they selected them in accordance with their own standard. Good or bad government comes from good or bad citizenship. Water does not rise higher than its source. I think it is the duty of every citizen to aid the officials in every way possible, whether agreeing with them politically or otherwise; likewise it is their duty to see that some weapon is made available if the officials falter or hesitate in the discharge of their duty.

The late lamented legislature passed an anti-picketing bill against the horny-handed sons and daughters of toil. I think it would be good policy to learn from the captains of industry and use the recall against the high-salaried officials if they transgress. It must be admitted that Dr. Edwards and his able corps of assistants have made the health department the best in the nation. I fear it will be a difficult adventure for amateurs to undertake to keep the city up to the present standard of health.

JERRY HOWARD.

Cure for Bolshevism.

Every man who is honestly employed and fairly treated, satisfied with his job and succeeding in it, is a blow to the agitators. Every day which sees orderly government more firmly entrenched through equal justice to rich and poor discourages the agitators more and renders their attacks more futile.

Watching may prove to the onlooker that bolshevism can never succeed in this country, but the way to prove it to the bolshevist is to go calmly back to work and ignore him.—Concord Monitor.

Not All Gloom.

So long as the yeast and raisin crops do not fail not even Volstead can keep the United States entirely unhappy.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Innocent Bystander.

The dispute between Poland and Lithuania looks serious again, but so far as known the league of nations is maintaining toward it a sedulous policy of dignified silence.—Providence Journal.

Is It Coming to This?

There is a campaign of education on to teach the people that henceforth anthracite coal is to be classed among luxuries. But the people are willing.—Albany Journal.