THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY.

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Itemizing the H. C. L.

Now and then the public is asked to register surprise at the fact that the principal item of cost in this or that business is for labor, as if there were some other means of producing real wealth than by work. In certain manufacturing industries, as in the packing houses or shoe factories, raw material may amount to more than wages for the immediate process, but in adding up the cost of labor in producing the meat or leather and transporting it to market, it will be found that the greater part of the total cost is due to work that has been performed.

All that is as it should be. There is nothing astonishing in the statement of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace to the National League of Women Voters that labor costs comprise the largest item in marketing and distributing food. Not long ago the government investigated the cost of selling meat through retail stores. It was found that wages amounted to 61 per cent of retailing costs. Of each dollar spent by the consumer for meat, 81.14 cents was paid by the storekeeper to the packer; 16.57 cents represented the cost of retailing, and 2.29 cents the merchant's net profit.

Out of the total operating expense of 16.57 cents, salaries and wages took 10.25 cents; rent, 1.33 cents; ice and refrigeration, 0.77; wrappings, 0.76; heat, light and power, 0.21; interest, 0.51, and miscellaneous, 2.74 cents. The difference in operating expenses between stores delivering their goods and those that did not was smaller than might be expected, amounting to 2 cents on each dollar of purchase.

The cost of selling meat is nearly double what it was in 1913, or 5.86 cents per pound in 1921 compared with 3.19 cents per pound eight years previous. Senator Capper, in following up the address of Secretary Wallace, advocated less competition and more co-operation in the marketing of all foodstuffs. He claimed that the farmer receives only 30 cents out of the consumallar and urged new methods to cut down this spread. The last thing most people want to see is a reduction in the reward of labor. If this is to be avoided, wasteful methods of production, manufacture and distribution must be eliminated, and greater efficiency, both of organization and labor, obtained all along the line.

America's Foreign Trade.

When everything else is inflated, it was but natural that the foreign trade of the United States should have swollen also. The most obvious fact is the great decline in value both of exports and imports in 1921 as compared with 1920. In the flush year the total of imports and exports was \$13,000,000,000; in the year of deflation, \$7,000,-000,000. It is not correct, however, to compare values, for the slump in prices does not consider the actual bulk of goods, which did not decrease to any such extent.

Compared with prewar years the value of 1921 exports and imports surpasses that of any prewar record. Exports last year were 90 per cent greater in value than in 1913. Imports were 32 per cent more than in 1913, which saw the highest point of import trade up to that time. The balance of trade, which is to say, the excess of goods shipped out over those shipped into America, was \$1,876,000,000 last year, \$2,950,000,000 in 1920, and only \$471,000,000 in 1913. The proportion of imports to exports appears to be growing less; 80 per cent in 1913, 64 per cent in 1920, and 56 per cent last year.

Enough has been shown to prove that those who say Europe is not buying American products are mistaken. In the last year the Europe-Mediterranean region took one-half of our exports and furnished one-third of our imports. The value of our exports to central Europe was larger last year than before the war.

With America's foreign trade still almost double that of before the war, it would be only natural if, as the process of reconstruction continues, overseas commerce would decline somewhat. It would be more helpful if figures could be compiled on the basis of tonnage rather than on fluctuating values-and that would stop a good deal of the calamity propaganda.

Making the Missouri Work.

About the first thing the Mississippi Valley association heard when opening its session at Kansas City was this statement from Cleveland

A. Newton of St. Louis: There is no river in this country the use of which is more needed to bear its burdens of freight than the Missouri river from Kansas City to the mouth. The wheat fields of western Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas produce millions of tons of freight which ought to be given the benefit of cheap water transportation over the Missouri and Mississippi rivers out to the sea, and the flour manufacturers at Kansas City, St. Joseph or Omaha ought to be given the benefit of cheap water transportation down the Missouri and Mississippi to Cairo and then up the Ohio to the great flour market in the

industrial fields around Pittsburgh. Mr. Newton represents a St. Louis district in congress, and has raised his voice on the floor of the house on several recent occasions in defense of river and harbor improvements, and especially in behalf of inland waterways. Omaha is not inclined to be jealous of Kansas City, but, on the other hand, is willing to co-operate in the matter of establishing river traffic between Kansas City and the mouth of the Missouri, realizing that thereby an influence for good will be ex- crisis after another,

erted on freight rates, both incoming and outgoing.

Omaha also knows that it is but a matter of time, when steamboats are tying up at Kansas City's landings regularly, until our own river front will see similar sights. The Missouri river should be put to work; it has been idle too long.

Ulysses S. Grant.

Today is the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant, a great American, concerning whose services a correct estimate has not yet been made. 'Already it is admitted that he is entitled to stand next, if not alongside, to Washington and Lincoln, and it may be that a longer perspective will give him even greater value. It is well, at any time, to study the career of this man, who overcame adversity and who conquered himself that he might conquer a greater enemy.

The interim between Grant's resignation of his commission as captain in the regular army and his commission as colonel of an Illinois regiment of volunteers was one of the most important periods of his life. He suffered materially, being practically discarded by his own father and the father of his wife; he toiled at work "only fit for niggers," he endured poverty and privation, but he overcome, and when he was called upon to meet his opportunity at Henry and Donelson, he was ready.

One recent writer has expressed the thought that Grant was not called home, as was Lincoln, when he stood at the pinnacle of his achievement. Probably not, but the last hours of his life were as heroic as any in all his record. Indeed, many think of him, not at Appointation, victor over Lee; not as president of the United States, surrounded by partisans and belogged by bitterness and rancor, in which he shared but little; not as a great American citizen, honored on a globeencircling tour, but as a silent, tortured figure, wrapped in blankets, sitting in a chair, speechless and doomed, but fighting back death while he concluded the work that was to lift the burden from his family and dispel any possible cloud that might shadow his name. One of his

greatest battles was fought at Mount McGregor, Historians will dispute for a long time over certain points in the public life of U. S. Grant; professional soldiers will analyze and criticize his military achievements, but the people of the United States will treasure his name as long as the nation stands, because he did and does in his person and his memory typify so much that is truly American.

What Will Mr. Bryan Say?

William Jennings Bryan is coming to Nebraska to make a speech, in which his attitude toward the coming campaign will doubtless be expressed. It may be assumed that this is already foreshadowed in the letter from C. W. Bryan, in which the "united democracy" keynote was sounded. That, however, opens a considerable field for speculation. Is the Bryan who is coming back to his home people the man who stood so long before them the embodiment of courage to battle for principle, and accept defeat rather than compromise? Is it the Bryan who resolutely opposed that element of his party which he regarded as devoted to the forces of evil; the Bryan who fought the money power, the saloon, and all they stood for, whose ideal was the American home and clean manhood; or is it a new Bryan, one we have never met, who is ready to nounced in other times? If a change has come over the age, it must be in Mr. Bryan, for the crew who took such unholy delight in thwarting his plans, defeating him and his candidates, is the same old gang. They haven't changed a hair. Nebraskans will wonder if the sojourn in the soft climate of his adoption has so mellowed the fiber of the great commoner's moral nature that he will make political expediency his control rather than stand, as he has always, for what he believes to be right? The Bee, in common with many other good Nebraskans, is curious to learn what Mr. Bryan will say.

"Papa Joffre's" Forty Winks.

Marshal Joffre fell asleep at a function. His companion nudged him, he awoke, smiled, and went to sleep again. And thereby proved himself a human being, akin to all the race. Remember, the marshal has been on a journey of the world; he has been lionized, and feted, and is fed up on it all, except perhaps sleep. He has tried, everywhere but in Omaha, to be a good fellow, to go to all the places he was expected to go to, and do a lot of things that are out of his line. He can organize victory, issue ringing appeals to his army, and be a soldier right up to the limit. Yet he gets drowsy, just as the rest of us do, when he is tired out and has to sit in a stuffy room, listening to a lecturer drone away about a subject in which he has but slight interest. In this case the talk was about Moliere, and perhaps was expected to appeal to the patriotism of the famous soldier; doubtless he is mmensely interested in the greatest of French dramatists, but, as already stated, he is human and so he yielded to the irresistible impulse, closed his eyes and went to sleep. The dispatch telling of the event does not say if he snored, but we hope he did. He would thereby have expressed a popular opinion of Moliere.

Out of respect to the principles, if any, of the Russians, the customary toast to the king was omitted at a dinner given by the Italian premier, Those dreadful communists found a good deal of humor in this, and afterwards remarked that they gladly would have drunk it. "We may be bolshevists, but our manners are good," said Tchitcherin. "We do not agree with monarchies, but we would never have been so rude as to place an affront upon the head of the state whose guest we are." If this politeness is kept up, Lenin himself will be called a parlor bolshevist. Still, it may have been more a case of thirst than courtesy-some people never could resist a drink.

Until William J. Bryan speaks at Lincoln, Saturday, Nebraskans will be in the dark whether the state campaign is to be fought on the anti-evolution plank or whether the main effort will be to repeal the law of gravity.

To show the importance of their church, Spiritualists in Paterson recently marched through the streets, 500 strong-this, of course, is not counting the spooks.

Whatever happens at Genoa, Lloyd George may be depended on to end it up with a flourish, making it appear as a very rainbow of hope.

Life, for a European statesman, is just one

Might of the Mississippi Fight Against Flood Shows the Majesty of the Father of Waters.

(From the Washington Star.)

Nature, thwarted by man in the most fertile iver valley of the world, has again boldly proclaimed her threat to reclaim the shore lands of the Mississippi, where the father of waters was wont to expend his surplus energies when the warm suns of the spring released the tons of ice which had choked up his upper course and tributaries during the winter season. For the Mississippi, despite the hopes of scores of engineers, government and private, builders of hundreds of miles of levees, has again overflowed its banks and inundated or carried away the homes of hundreds of the tillers of the soil along its Many such investigations have day, April 23, 1922, commended Will shores, drowned their stock and devastated their

They must be content alone with the satisfaction that the river has deposited four to six inches of silt over the lands, a forecast of more bounteous crops. This was what nature intended when the mighty Mississippi reached out over the lowlands each spring. But man, greedy for the rich land, built great levees, cut the timber the shores and permitted the spring rains and melting ice to rush down to the river and race along the thousand-mile course from Cairo, Ill., to New Orleans, where the flood once gently spread out over thousands of square miles, left its plant food and then receded to resume its journey to the sea.

The race for higher levees is on again. The ext session of congress will see the repetition of the scores of appeals for protection which fol-lowed the disastrous floods of 1912 and 1913. Congress will aid, states will aid and the land owners themselves will give a full share and the levees will go up bigher. Arkansas and Tennes-see planters will build higher embankments. Farseeing Kentucky shore dwellers will say: neighbors below us have a 42-foot levee. That neans the river can not overflow there and reieve the pressure on us. Our levees must go

The War department has jurisdiction over the ivers, so the popular impression in the valley prevails that congress must build all the levees and the representatives in congress in these shore-lying districts are given to understand that e-election depends on getting higher levees.

The race goes on! Where will it end? sage engineers ask. When the Ohio disgorged milions of gallons of water into the already swollen Mississippi at Cairo, in 1912, practically every levee below that point to Memphis and on down into Arkansas and Mississippi gave way. Even the Ohio had forced its way through a levee above Cairo, some eight miles from its mouth, swept across fifteen miles of low prairie into the Mississippi, and for more than a week the little town in the triangle at the confluence of the two mighty rivers, the water level many feet above ts streets, was afraid to go to sleep, while hundreds of its citizens constantly patrolled atop its levees. Day by day, however, the telegraph wires brought reports of new destruction south along the course of the river, and with each rethe citizens breathed easier, for the news f added ruin meant that Mississippi was performing its normal function again and spreading over the lowlands, its high level upstream mean-

time falling. Hardly had the flood subsided than the rush to Washington began. Scores of valley towns sent their delegations. The levee race began anew. New destruction was wrought the next year, 1913, and what little opposition had been encountered in congress was overcome with these fresh tales of destruction. Then followed ten years of steady flood prevention and levee buildng in the valley. It had held the Mississippi in leash, although threatened in 1918, when the ice again came. However, lack of heavy spring

rains helped the river carry off the great burden.
Conditions were ideal for a flood this spring.
The winter was heavy. The Mississippi was The winter was heavy. The Mississippi was choked with ice from St. Louis north; its tributary, the Missouri river, likewise. Floating ice been running south from St. Louis to Memphis since January. Then spring rains came. A great torrent poured into the Ohio from the Allegheny and the Monongahela; the Wabash aided, and heavy rains from the watersheds of the Tennessee and Kentucky rivers gave the Ohio a bankful at its mouth. The Mississippi by a darker rush of waters and ice from the great northern Mississippi and Missouri valleys.

I have great faith in the United States health bureau—all bureaus, for that matter—and in the medical fraternity. But why, in the name of can carry off an Ohio bankful under normal con-

Many schemes for meeting this great problem on the Mississippi have been presented, but the levee building, as affording immediate protection, has had to go on until engineers are asking "Where will it end?" It has even been suggested that the beds of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys in the levee building race are gradually fillleys in the levee building race are gradually filling up, and predicting a time when the great levees will hold the course of the stream above the level of the lands. The levees in most intheir course? Why should business stances are of earthen construction, except those officials, or private affairs, be alsurrounding the cities. That at Cairo on the lowed to endanger our natural isolasurrounding the cities. That at Cairo on the Ohio side is reinforced concrete based upon interlocking steel piling driven far into the ground, and estimated to hold out a 60-foot stage of

The nine-foot channel project of the War department, providing for the building of a civilization that disregarded every great system of dams and locks up the Ohio from possible precaution. Life's battles must be met, but I do not want to mouth to Pittsburgh, primarily to establish year-round navigation, it was believed would aid the flood situation, for hundreds of millions aid the flood situation, for hundreds of millions of gallons of water could be stored in the locks workingman." and discharged gradually. This scheme, howgress has appropriated for many of the locks, and

some have been actually constructed, Lumbermen have come forward with the suggestion that clearing the river's shores of timber which once absorbed much of the water or de which once absorbed much of the trace, is really the layed it on its rush to the river, is really the square of the great floods, but they do not seem and take craze. We put them on and take them off every week. to have taken any steps to avoid this.

Wise old planters, some of whom have seen their homes inundated or swept away a dozen times by the river, shake their heads and say: "It is as natural for the Mississippi to overflow its banks each spring as it was for the Nile biblical days, and no man-made levees will hold its waters back."

And the mad levee building race goes on the valley for a thousand miles.

Ending Seasickness

The adaptation of the gyroscope to the ocean liner is an old dream of shipbuilding, which seems at last to be realized. The tests made at Philadelphia with a gyro-stabilizer, weighing age of Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets.

120 tons are reported successful, and it is announced that the shipping board's steamer you have taken the tablets a few hawkeye State, which runs from Baltimore to

A steamship which can not roll will be a mel; there's no sickness or pain godsend to individuals cursed with seasickness. Some of these persons never dare a crossing of the occan; others stick to their berths from port that which calomel does, and just as to port. In future, by boarding a ship equipped with the stabilizer, any seagoer, no matter how wabbly his previous performances, no matter how deep his past debt to the stewards for keeping him alive, may be confident that the horizon taste," a bad breath, a dull, listless, will stop its terrible motions.

I stop its terrible motions.

But when Atlantic steamers no longer roll, pid liver, bad disposition or pimply what excuse will there be for voyagers to sip long glasses of champagne with cracked ice?—Olive Tablets are a purely vegetable compound mixed with olive oil: you will know them by their

A Comparison That Is Odious.

With college coaches in sports given faculty rank, why should anyone become sarcastic in contrasting the income of Babe Ruth or Jack Take one or two nightly for a week. Dempsey with that of a professor of mathematics?-Springfield Republican,

How to Keep Well

Questions concerning hygiens, 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 co-closed. Dr. Evers will not make diagnosis or presche for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

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THE SICNESS "OVERHEAD." A certain large business concern nvestigated the cause of sick ab-

because the employes were book-keepers, stenographers, clerks, mes-keepers and so-called "white collar" editorial, "Common Deceney and the

elected to equip a dispensary pro- commendation also be sent vided with physicians and nurse the theory that by making medical service free and convenient it would prevent the development of serious lisenses in the office force. that was the way it worked out, for there were only four cases of tuberculosis, five of pneumonia and three of appendicitis in the group of 1,300

The concern set down carefully not only the whole days lost from work, but also the part days and even hours lost, and entered the whole sum of hours, figured into eight-hour days, in their tabulate report.
The number of days lost per

son on account of filness was 8.15. This is about a sixth of a day more than the average given by Hoover commission.

During the observation one of the waves of influenza, periodically appearing since 1920, swept over this office, occasioning a sickness loss of time that amounted to two days. Had it not been for this the rate might have been about 6.0, or two days less than the Hoover rate, but that was based on shop men with

an older average age.
Influenza and grip were respon-sible for 1.97 average days of absence. Let us say that loss could not have been prevented.

Next in order came fatigue, with a record of .74 loss. Maybe office fatigue was the biggest factor in this cause, but in all probability con-ditions outside the office outrank-

If all these people had gone quiet ly to bed soon after supper, and enjoyed nine hours' restful sleep each night, fatigue would have been found at the bottom of the list of causes of absence.

Let us set fatigue as a cause of bsenteeism as preventable. Colds came second. If colds, and sore throat combined the sum total of cases and also of days and hours lost outranks any other cause. The report says that colds, rhinitis, headache and provement shows next day. sore throat combined caused 35 per cent of all calls at the dispensary.

Practically all of these causes are preventable. Even now, right living and proper regard for the rules of health would cut this record in half. Third on the list of causes came painful menstruation. This is pre-

ventable. Next came major injuries. There of major injuries in an office force. Another large group of absentees resulted from indigestion, and still another almost as large was due to

constipation.

Both causes are preventable. There were losses of 222 days due to whooping cough; 284 days due to scarlet fever; 72 days due to small-

All preventable.
Our death rates have reached the irreducible. Our minor sickness rates are still far above that level.

Are the Cards Stacked? Junius writes: "Who is responsi-ble for the 'flu' epidemic now in New York, and who will be responsible for it when it reaches Boston, and then throughout the country? "I have great faith in the United

rest it at the source?
"The minute I read of the 'flu'
epidemic among the soldiers on the Rhine I, and probably you, foresaw its intercommunicable progress

through France, England, New York, etc. "Is commerce so important and

"I sympathize with the almost im possible suggestion of putting bars up, but I can only hold a hatred for all concerned if my baby were to die through any economic fight them with the resignment of a fatalist; not when the cards are

CENTER SHOTS.

As a middle-aged pedestrian we should greatly prefer the mid-Victorian days to these tin-Elizabethan days.—Arkansas Gazette.

Spring weather revives the put-

Will any president really favor a single term for presidents before he has had a second term?—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

People Notice It. Drive Them Off With Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets.

A pimply face will not embarrass you much longer if you get a pack

Cleanse the blood, bowels and liv-Honolulu by way of the Panama canal, will be cquipped with the great balancing wheel. after taking them.

Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets do

oil; you will know them by their olive color.

Dr. Edwards spent years among patients afflicted with liver and bowel complaints, and Olive Tablets See how much better you feel and look, 15c and 30c.

Commends The Bee. Kimball, Neb., April 24,-To the senteelsm in its force of more than Editor of The Bee: The Methodist Many such investigations have day, April 23, 1922, commended Will been made, but this one was selected. If. Hays for his action in forbidding

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Soothing and Healing is the name to

remember. if you want to get rid of eczema blotches or other distressing skin eruption. Used with Resinol Soap it is a standard skin treatment and rarely fails to remove all traces of the disorder



which, I am doubly sure, would have been gladly granted. Selieve me that many parents and

some entertainment appreciate your editorials toward cleaning up the movie. E. E. HOSMAN. The Deadly Dozen. Twelve men in a box stand for the British constitution. Twelve bottles in a box stand for ours.—Life. **REDUCED FARES!**

The Wabash has reduced fares from Chicago and western points to New York and other Eastern cities, tickets being engers and so-called "white collar" editorial, "Common Decency and the eople. The business enterprise had would have asked that a word of good, without excess fare on this fine, new through train. Leave Chicago 10:30 a. m., via Wabash-Lackawanna Ar. Detroit 5:55 p. m. Ar. Scranton 10:10 a. m. Ar. Buffalo 2:50 a. m. Ar. Nowark 2:59 p. m. Ar. Elmira 6:52 a. m. Ar. Hoboken 3:13 p. m.

Ar. Binghampton. . 8:25 a. m. Ar. New York . . . 3:30 p. m. Steel drawing-room sleeping cars and steel coaches. Meals in dining cars. No excess fares via Wabash-Lackawanna. Additional steel coach service leaves Chicago 11:25 p. m.

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