

The Frontier

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GOVERNMENT TAKES
OVER RAILROADS
It is reported that, commencing December 28, President Wilson will take over the operation of all the railroads in the United States.

To the Farmers of Holt County.
We have made arrangements with and appointed Jas. F. O'Donnell, cashier of the Nebraska State Bank at O'Neill, Nebr., to assist in forming a National Farm Loan Association in this vicinity.

We have furnished Mr. O'Donnell with application blanks for taking applications, and general instructions for completing the organization.

We wish to give every farmer in Holt County the opportunity to obtain his loan through The Federal Land Bank. Those desiring loans should make application to Mr. O'Donnell at the earliest opportunity. When ten or more applications are received a meeting will be called to complete the organization.

We are prepared to close loans promptly at five per cent interest and on good terms. Liberal options of payment.

The Federal Land Bank of Omaha,
D. P. HOGAN, President.

HAMMOND TELLS ABOUT WAR
Declares America Must Recognize Magnitude of the Task.

State Journal: "We must realize the magnitude of the task of war. France is exerting herself to the utmost. If she could, she would do more. So it becomes necessary for us to go the rest of the way," said Ross L. Hammond, Fremont editor, speaking before a large Lincoln audience at the St. Paul church Thursday night. The speaker went into details of the year, covering the ground from the beginning of the great struggle to the possible conclusion. He talked long and earnestly. He touched upon the aftermath of the war, the world conference following a peace, not forgetting to bring into his address the German language question.

The program included much patriotic formality. The university cadet band furnished music from the platform, with the assistance of the colonial life and drum corps. State officials were on the platform. The audience was surrounded with a display of flags and bunting. The doors of the church were open at 7 o'clock and shortly afterward the crowd began coming. At 7:45 all the lower floor and much of the balcony were filled. At the time in step with music, the Lincoln home guards filed in. The crowd arose and cheered.

Mayor Miller presided. Following selections by the cadet band and the drum corps, the chairman presented Charles Matson. He spoke briefly upon the war savings program. He emphasized the ease and showed the way by which all people can do their part. He showed how it was an inducement to not only help the government in a time of great stress, but also one by which all could save. It was explained to be one of the best opportunities of the kind that has ever been offered by any government to any people.

An Unselfish War.
In introducing Mr. Hammond, Mayor Miller said that the present war is one of the most unselfish of wars, that we were fighting to be let alone. "It matters not the cost, we are going to see it through, and we will win. Never in the country's history has a war been so popular with the people," the chairman said.

In his talk, Mr. Hammond said that he came from the battle line in France and Belgium. From a scene that still persisted to ring in his ears; the bombing of huge guns, the bursting of shells, the spatter of rifles and whirl

of the aeroplanes. Visions of moving armies, the dead on the field and hospitals filled with the wounded still lived in his vision. "I have been a witness to proceedings which no tongue nor pen can adequately describe," he said. Respecting the veracity of the news distributing agency, the Associated Press, the speaker had this to say: "When you see a report to the effect that an armed army has done this or has done that, the report is true. I have been over some fifteen hundred square miles of reconquered territory. The press correspondents who have been furnishing you these reports are themselves valuable soldiers. It is their duty to go into the trenches and share the rain of fire and the deprivations of the trench soldier."

Respecting the journey across the sea, Mr. Hammond said that now it was extremely difficult to get permission to go "over there" since the government has so effectively commandeered shipping facilities. He told of his journey across the sea. The boat did not sail on the scheduled day and even then it did not put out to sea until darkness. Before starting extraordinary safety measures were taken. All of the blinds were pulled down so that not a single ray of light might come from the windows or betray the ship's presence to an enemy. The boat was a floating personification of the camouflage. Everything was purposely arranged to lead the optical effect of causing the ship to blend from a distance into the sea and sky. He talked with the gunners on board. They were mere youths of soldiers who came to the defense of their country from every part of the land, from the farm, town and city. The sea is an object to create terror in itself, he said. Add to this the fright that comes from the thought of the German sub-sea boat and one may be able to realize the feeling in crossing which one experiences. Though no particular misadventure attended the trip either across or back, he confessed that of all incidents in the cycle of his travels, the dread of the submarine struck the greatest terror to his heart. When he said that we would no doubt be successful in driving the submarine from the sea, he was applauded.

Passes by Lifeboat.
On the journey across the ship passed a lifeboat filled with victims of a submarine attack. Though it seemed inhuman, it was impossible to stop and pick them up, for it is a tenet of the sea for the submarine to lurk for a time in the neighborhood where a torpedo has done its work. And then it has often been the case for the Germans to send out lifeboats as a decoy to come in contact with enemy ships. "At this time England is in darkness," said Mr. Hammond. "Particularly at this season of the year the land is in darkness. It is now the law of that country that no lights whatever can be burned at night. Never did that nation raise more heroic countrymen than now."

The speaker described hospitals in England where shattered fragments of men are being restored to a physically normal condition. He spoke of the surgical ingenuity in those hospitals as being little short of marvelous. Men are supplied with artificial limbs, arms and hands. He and his party while at one of the hospitals became engaged in controversy as to one of the patients. One man contended that a certain disabled soldier had a left artificial leg. Another one of the party argued that it was the right leg which was artificial. An attendant was asked to set them right. "You are both correct," the attendant said: "both are phony."

"God bless the women of England and France as well as those of America," Mr. Hammond said. "The women of England are showing infinite patience. Women of every degree share the honors. Social strata has passed away and all have joined hands on a common level." He emphasized the fact that England was doing her part in the war. "We have not always agreed with her, but for over a hundred years we have been as one together." He said that it was the British that stand between America and the danger of attacks from the sea. "The English fleet is the protector of our coast-line, the most wonderful fleet the world has ever seen," he declared.

A City of Mourning.
Regarding Paris, he referred to the city as one in mourning. Once the gayest city of the world, it is now the city of crepe. Paris sets the style for the world and now in all France they are wearing black. Mr. Hammond left Paris by automobile for the battlefield. Eighteen miles out of Paris the attention of the party was called to a point where the great invading army of the Germans had been checked. He said he could not but wonder at the time at the miracle which had checked the Huns after sweeping so irresistibly through Belgium. One man ventured the opinion that God must be the answer. A French officer who was present said that undoubtedly that might be the case, but he believed the French army had something to do with it.

Appropos of the bravery displayed by the French at that time when the Germans swept down in five mighty divisions, he alluded to the commander of the French forces as "brave old General Joffre." In that battle, just eighteen miles out of Paris, the French general instructed his soldiers to either "stand or die." "They stood staunch in that battle which saved the liberty of the world," the speaker said. "Ever since that day the Germans have been beaten back. It is a slow process, to be sure, but it is a certain one, none the less."

Thrilled by Battlefield.
The first sight of a battlefield was indescribably thrilling. Mr. Hammond had been under the impression that France had been drained of all her men. All of the soldiers at the guns seemed mature. It occurred to him for a moment that perhaps all of the young men had not been drained. But an after-thought brought to him the knowledge that the men were really young but had aged considerably by virtue of the terrible work in which they were engaged. He told of a battle lasting into eight days where over a hundred million dollars worth of ammunition were hauled to the enemy. He described his visit to the cathedral at Rheims. Here one of the most massive and monumental structures of the earth, with its beautiful stained art glass windows, its adorned columns, had been leveled to the ground. Over three hundred shells had struck it. He met an old cardinal who throughout the intense shelling had remained faithful at his post of duty.

Mr. Hammond spoke of Verdun as the greatest battle of history. The siege lasted into ten months. Before the war a city of some 50,000 people, it is now without a single citizen. Not a bat nor an owl can be found. The city is reduced to a heap of dust and mortar. Because of its military value the crown prince had expected to capture it and thus win for himself unparalleled fame. One thousand seven hundred German guns played havoc with the city from a single large hill. The soil is literally churned up to a depth of forty feet. Three hundred thousand French soldiers are here said to have lost their lives. He said that the churned ground was so filled with the shattered bodies of men that he believed a chemical analysis of the soil would show it to be 50 per cent human flesh. He explained that such a battle as this is not to be taken as a criterion of the entire war for the basing of mortality. For a period of three years he said that French and English statistics showed an average death-rate of a little better than 5 per cent.

He was a witness to one battle where a French battery was hurling shells over his head into enemy ranks. Far away the distant rumble of the German guns struck his ear, while smoke from the breaking shrapnel rose skyward. Not a man could be seen, yet the ground was literally filled with men. The old familiar picture of the general with his staff in one corner directing the various troop movements, the plunging attacks in the open, is no more, he said. Instead of the commander being upon a horse, he takes a position in the trench and gives instructions by telephone. It is a war without music, flags or pennants.

Praises American Soldiers.
Mr. Hammond visited the American headquarters. He said that the boys of Uncle Sam appeared just a trifle more soldierly than any nationality he had seen. Speaking of General Pershing he said the American commander had been capably discharging the duties of the pre-eminent authority with which he is invested. He was certain before the end to write his name on the curtain of fame.

"We must realize the magnitude of the task ahead," he said. "France is doing her utmost. If she could do more, she would. Therefore, it is necessary for us to buckle down to the task. We must be patient and not expect miracles performed since the task of carrying on the war is a herculean one."

He told of watching the allied armies bringing up supplies. They first come to a point by way of steam engines. The supplies are then transferred to gasoline vehicles that do not thus reveal their movements by smoke, and lastly it is carried to the scene of action on a narrow gauge railway, the cars being pushed by hand. In the desolated regions of war he came across an old man and woman whose home had been ruined by shell fire. Three sons had been killed in battle. German soldiers had entered the home, ravished the daughters and carried them away. At another instance when a French bomb had driven a German detachment from a dugout, an English soldier had stood near the door and as one by one over a dozen of the Teutons staggered out for air, their heads were severed from their bodies with an ax.

Party Meets King Albert.
The party moved into Belgium and met King Albert. The country now consists of from eight to twenty square miles in area. Mr. Hammond said King Albert seemed every inch a king. On the question of German

Two Bits a Day Keeps the Wolf Away

The old year is about gone. It's a good time to look in your pocket book and your bank book and see if you have made every day count. Maybe you are not satisfied with your profits the last year. If you did not save this year where will you be next year. The nickels, dimes and dollars you wasted would have made a good balance on the right side of the book. Notice the smiles on my customers' faces. Their bins are full of coal. They have flour, sugar, clothing. They have no collectors ringing their doorbells. They have a little ahead to start the New Year with. Why don't you join them the next year. The bigger business I have the cheaper you get the goods. Follow the crowd. If you are a month behind go to the bank. If you are good at a credit store you are good at the bank. The credit stores won't give goods to you or anyone else if you were really down and out. You don't owe them nothing. They charged you good for the credit they gave—ten times as much as a bank. Get money. Buy for cash—save money and this time next year you will be one of my prosperous, satisfied customers. If you stick to this store, I will insure you a Prosperous and Happy New Year. Always put your money on a winner.

BIG CUT IN GROCERIES.		Oyster Shells, per pound	01c	Aluminum Soup Strainers, worth 35c	11c
2 Packages Yeast	06c	Oyster Shells, per hundred weight	90c	HORSE BLANKETS.	
3—10c Bars Toilet Soap	21c	20c Raisins	13c	\$2.00 Sleds	\$1.85
10c Shaving Soap	06c	DRY GOODS.			
10c Sardines	06c	Don't forget last year S. R. & Co's. Blankets were 12 inches shorter, 6 inches narrower, 1 pound lighter and almost 75c each, Higher. Remember there is a difference between actual weight and shipping weight.			
10c Scouring Powder	06c	12c Calico	09c	50c and 75c Scissors, This is the old price on scissors	25c
10c Washing Powders	06c	7c Thread	04c	2—5c Boxes Tacks	06c
2 Bars Laundry Soap	07c	25c Stockings	19c	6 Mouse Traps	09c
25c Bottles Bluing	13c	20c Stockings	14c	50c and 75c Washboards	37c
10c Boxes Crackers	06c	15c Mittens	09c	\$1.50 Brooms	85c
15c Cans Lye	07c	BRAID AND LACES.			
10c Boxes Starch	06c	12 1/2c Stuff	08c	10c Talcum Powder	06c
30c Coffee, not mouldy	18c	25c Sewing Machine Oil	16c	60c Black Bloomers	36c
10c Corn Flakes	07c	Onions, per pound	04c	Onions, per bushel	\$2.25
10c Lamp Chimneys	06c	Onions, per pound	04c	Cabbage, per pound	04c
10c Baking Powder	06c	Cabbage, per hundred weight	3 1/2c	FLOUR.	
10c Milk	07c	George—You know what Dave Gimmel said: "Man born in Nebraska—his days will be long and full of Sandburs."			
20c Catsup	11c	HARDWARE.			
35c Catsup	21c	Adronack Toasters, Regular 15, 25c toasters	07c		
35c Oatmeal	21c				
30c Salmon	19c				
50c Crisco	39c				
Oleo Margarine	34c				
Pickled Pigs Feet	09c				

John Brennan, O'Neill

atrocities, he said that he had met Australian soldiers who attested to the truth that Belgium children had been deprived of their hands and arms. In a talk with Brand Whitlock he was told that people, many of them small children, were lined up and shot simply because they were Belgians. Eight thousand five hundred civilians had been killed intentionally by German gas when the allies forced an evacuation of a town. He said Germany is taking pains to have the world know that "ruthlessness" is her policy of warfare.

"What does the war mean? we ask. Who is responsible? What is it for? It is merely a war of two forces. The Germans believe in autocracy, in the divine right of kings. The ruling dynasts have taught this to the people until they now believe it themselves. We believe that the people should rule. They believe that the people ought to be ruled. The intellectuals of Germany have always taught autocracy. The press, the schools, the pulpit and every educational agency at the instance of the ruling powers have driven it into the people," said Mr. Hammond. In referring to the public schools as the best agencies of democracy, he took occasion to say if he had his way every foreign language school, and every foreign language newspaper would be abolished. The crowd cheered him roundly. One man in the crowd shouted: "You're right."

Farmers Are With President Wilson.
Omaha, Neb., December 22.—The criticism which has been aimed at the farmers, accusing them of being out of sympathy with the government's war program, was disproved again at the recent meeting of the Nebraska Farmers' Congress in Omaha. It was the first meeting of farmers since the promulgation of President Wilson's recent message to congress, and many were interested in learning where the

Farmers Hide & Iron Metal Co.

We are buying Furs, paying big prices. Also special price for Hides. Come to see us first. We buy Iron and as we have a contract to deliver 100 tons we will pay from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per ton, delivered before December 20. We are located on Fourth street just south of the Bazelman lumber yard.

O'Neill - - - Nebraska

farmers stand on the vital questions of the hour, including representatives of the government.

The deliberations of the congress were devoted almost exclusively to war-time problems. It seemed as though the farmers had come to Omaha to find out how they could help Uncle Sam to win the war, and they found plenty of expert advisers.

The concluding session of the congress was in many respects the most interesting because it was devoted to a round table discussion of the resolutions which had been introduced. The resolution on price fixing was the hardest one to draft. There were a few who wished to petition the government to abandon price fixing and allow the law of supply and demand to prevail. Their lack of numbers was offset by their earnestness.

The price fixing resolution finally adopted by a large majority was to the effect that since the government had set the price on some of the farmers products it should on the rest and also on all other commodities,

particularly those which the farmer has to purchase. In this respect the farmers were directly in line with President Wilson's own suggestion. The congress decided to hold its next meeting in Omaha.

Officer—The Guardhouse.
Soldiers have to do their own mending, and the thoughtful war office supplies them with outfits for that purpose.
On the occasion of a recent kit inspection, says the Journal of the American Medical Association, the recruits stood lined up ready for the officer, and the officer had his bad temper all complete. He marched up and down the line, grimly eyeing each man's bundle of needles and soft soap, and then he singled out Private MacTottle as the man who was to receive his attentions.
"Tooth-brush?" he roared.
"Yes, sir."
"Razor?"
"Yes, sir."
"Hold-all?"
"Yes, sir."
"Hm! You're all right, apparently," growled the officer. Then he barked, "Housewife?"
"Oh, very well, thank y'u," said the recruit, amiably; "how's yours?"