THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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58,715 Daily-Sunday, 51,884 wrage circulation for the month subscribed and sworn to by Dwight Alliams. Ctroulation Manager.

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Declaring war on Austria merely brands an existing condition.

The gray wolf playing with the red mouse on the Dvina lacks the thrill of sport. Every spectator know what will happen.

Where Omaha gets a 15 per cent boost in gas rates it should be known Lincoln gas users are being called to go up 25 per cent-if that is any consolation.

Anxiety of prisoners for reduced sentences must not be taken as a reflection on the boarding house service. Enforced absence from business wraps a pall around state hospitality.

Why disfigure, our beautiful court house approaches with that hideous food-saving sign board? . Is not war bad enough without the food administration perpetrating this atrocity? Take it down.

The precipitate retreat of a southerner from a plain slice of Washington pie carries a warning to ambitious party patriots. If you must drive on Washington, shun the pie counter and drive for a contract.

The State Board of Charities visitors contrast the condition of our obsolete county hospital and our modern county jail. We know it. To our discredit we treat the vicious criminal better than we do the poor unfortunate.

Publication by the Russian reds of treaty deals among the Allies no doubt will shock the sensibilities of kultur. A mere hint of Allied competition in territorial loot is enough to start a roar of indignation throughout pan-Germany.

The explosion of a United States munitions

ship in the harbor at Halifax yesterday with its attendant loss of perhaps a thousand lives and its long list of injured and property damage mounting well into seven figures, comes as an additional shock to the people of America.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

Destruction of wire communication with the ill-fated city rendered it impossible to gather accurate information as to the extent of the disaster, but enough is known to place it among the greatest calamities since the declaration of war on Germany, far greater than the sinking of the Lusitania.

Early reports showed that a part of the city was in ruins and that fire was adding to the horror of the situation. Dead were lying thick in the streets, the hospitals were filled to overflowing and many of the injured were compelled to await treatment.

From the meager information contained in the press dispatches it is known that the ship was bound for Europe and was loaded with war munitions for American and allied troops at the front.

The disaster is peculiarly unfortunate because of the dire need for munitions both by the Italians, who are so nobly defending Venice and the Piave front, and the French and British engaged in the titanic struggle following General Byng's smash through the Hindenburg line protecting Cambrai, in the west.

Not only will America mourn the death of the unfortunates at Halifax and the partial destruction of that important city where many of our ships start on their voyages across the Atlantic to supply the needs of the heroes in the trenches, but it will regret even a day's delay at this crucial time when the further advance of allied armies may result in shortening the most terrible war in history.

Stop Light and Heat Waste.

For its increased gas rate the gas company makes what looks like a conclusive showing which people, who are paying more for almost everything else they buy, will readily realize. There is one place, however, for the householder to get back at the company in a way to which no objection can be urged and that is by stopping every waste. While the rate is going up 15 per cent, it is safe to say that in the average household at least 15 per cent of the gas used is needlessly burned and could be saved by turning off lights and heating flames left going to no purpose. This is equally true of electric light and power, and we advise the patrons of the electric lighting company as well as the gas company to anticipate a probable rate boost which that company may also be forced to make.

A Shameful Surplus.

The boast of Postmaster General Burleson that his department has a \$9,000,000 surplus to exhibit for the past fiscal year can be properly denominated by no other term than the word "shameful." The people everywhere want the postal service economically administered, but they also want it efficiently administered and are willing to pay, and plainly have paid, for efficient service, but have not gotten it.

The \$9,000,000 surplus (accepting the figures) cannot be regarded as surplus earnings, but as the result of short-weighting postoffice patrons and overworking postoffice employes in order to make "a showing." The policy of the Postoffice department has been to refuse authority to employ sufficient carriers and clerks to handle the constantly increasing business, with the result that it has not been handled expeditiously and mail transmission and delivery have never been in a more deplorable condition than during the past year. The worst havoc of all has been wrought in the railway mail service, which has been thoroughly crippled by the department's penuriousness, with resulting demoralization and delays and multiplication of complaints, which bring the almost invariable answer of inability to locate the blame. "Shameful" again describes this \$9,000,000 surplus, gauged by the insistence of the postoffice officials for an upward revision of postage rates upon representation to congress that more money was absolutely necessary to prevent a deficit. If the Postoffice department can show a legitimate profit of \$9,000,000, or of even half that sum, in one year, it would not have been House, the administration sphinx, by appointment, losing any such amount of money on the carrying of periodicals, newspapers and magazines as second-class matter, considering all the first-class business generated by it, as to call for doubling the second-class rate or for increase at all, and the pretended bonus of millions to periodical publishers becomes a myth.

The Second Draft By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, Dec. 5 .- In 10 days the preparations for raising further increments for the national army will actively begin with the mailing of the first set of questionaries to registered The mailing will continue for 20 days, men. and the whole process of classification should be over in about 60 days, so that by the middle of February we expect to have over 9,000,000 listed for service, each knowing his place in the line of call.

The scheme for the second draft and all future drafts represents a great improvement' and refinement over the system of the first draft. It is based on the experience of that first draft, with the advantage of freedom from the need for pressing haste. It is more genuinely selective, and it will result in drawing men on the whole better fitted for army service and in less disturbance of industry and family life.

The scheme of the first draft was conditioned by the need for haste. War was declared early in April. Today, early in December, eight months later, all of the first draft is not yet in camp. It probably will be well over a year before the last of the first drafted men has completed his preliminary training.

The only way to apply the selective service principle completely is to examine every registered man before selecting the army. This meant examining 10,000,000 men on the first draft. for which there was no time. So the rules of the first draft were framed to attain the maximum of speed with the minimum of hardship. For future drafts every registered man will be examined before the next selection is made.

The chief means of examination will be the questionaire, with the idea of which the country is already familiar. It is simply a booklet of questions, with blanks for the written answers, intended to show the local board where each man belongs in order of liability to draft. If the board wants more information, it may summon any witnesses it likes. Under the new system the local board becomes a court, empowered to administer oaths and take testimony. If the registrant is not satisfied with his classification he can appeal to the district board, and in certain cases he can appeal again to the president.

For practical purposes, after a careful study of the situation the office of the provost marshal general decided that five classes would be sufficient to assure the operation of the selective principle. Since Class 5, the last class, is made up of men such as alien enemies, who are comletely exempt under the law, there are really four classes of registered men available for service. Of these classes the first and the fourth will probably be far the largest.

The first class will be called into the army first. It will furnish the men for the next draft, and for all succeeding drafts until it is exhausted in each district. The fourth class will be called last and quite possibly it will not be called at all. The greatest distinction between these two classes is on grounds of dependency. The system makes industrial usefulness secondary to family ties in determining order of liability.

The first division of the first class is the one which will make up the bulk of the class, It consists of single men without dependent relatives. True, there are 14 possible grounds why such a man might be classed in Class 2 or Class 3, but none of these 14 reasons is of such a character that it will affect any great proportion of the 9,000,000 men. The bulk of Class 4 is comprised in the first division of that class, which consists of married men whose wives or children are mainly dependent on their labor for support. It seems probable that these two divisions-

Division 1 of Class 1, and Division 1 of Class 4, will be by far the largest of the 37 divisions provided in the new system. Viewed broadly, it is evident that our new armies will be made up principally of unmarried men without dependents, while the married men with dependent families will stay at home.



Right in the Spotlight. George M. Cohan, who is a mem-

ber of the national committee of theatrical managers promoting today's nation-wide observance of Red Cross Theater day, has an international reputation as an actor and producer and as a writer of popular songs and plays. According to the calendar, Mr. Cohan is a real life nephew of Uncle Sam, for it was on July 4, 1879, that this famous author-actor-composer first saw the light of day. The particular spot selected by Mr. Cohan for his birthplace was Providence, R. I., and it was in this same city 10 years later that he made his first stage appearance. For a number of years he toured in vaudeville in association with his father, mother and sister. the quartet becoming widely known as "The Four Cohans." It was "Little Johnny Jones," written and pro-duced by Mr. Cohan in 1904, that first brought him definitely before the public as a native American author. Since then he has written and produced many successful plays. As a writer of song "hits" he has also earned an enviable reputation.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Answering United States protest, Germany admitted sinking the Arabia, but contended she thought it a transport.

David Lloyd George formally accepted the British post of prime min-ister and first lord of the treasury.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Frank Selee, manager of the Omaha base ball team, left for Chicago. He will spend the winter at home in Montrose, Mass.

-Charles B. Schrote, living at 1315 Pine street, who sometime ago invested in the Brunswick, Germany,



lottery, drew a prize of 10,000 marks (\$2,500)!

M. H. De Young, editor of the San Francisco Chronicle accompanied by his family, passed through Omaha. Mrs. J. H. Thayer, wife of the governor, arrived in the city and is a

guest at the Millard. The annual banquet of the Loval Legion will be held at the Millard on Thursday next, at which many distinguished soldiers and civilians will be in attendance at the banquet. which promises to be a grand affair. A meeting of the Nebraska Ticket

Agents' association will be held at the office of General Passenger Agent Eustis of the Burlington. Patrick Ferry, John Coleman and

Carsden D. Hamann, left last night for the townsite of the Puget Sound co-operative colony.

This Day in History.

1839-General Sir Redvers Henry Buller, distinguished English soldier, born. Died June 1, 1908.

1862-Federals under Generals Herron and Blunt engaged in battle with the confederates under General Hindman at Prairie Grove, Ark. 1867-Rear Admiral James S. Pal-

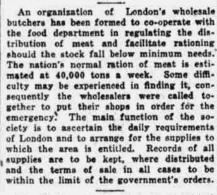
They gave up good positions, Sweethcarts, friends, homes and all, Just to fight for their country. And answer their nation's call. mer, U. S. A., who commanded the first division of ironclaids at the cap-

BRITAIN IN WAR TIME.

A sample instance of Aladdin riches spring ing out of war over night was revealed in a row over the division of the spoils which landed in the courts of London. Moise Mazza, an Italian "old cloe's" merchant, and Marcel Landau, renovator of old footwear, did a wholesale business in the clothing refuse of the battlefields, cleaning up £50,000 in army boots alone and \$25,000 from old uniforms. The government handles all the war salvage now and takes all the profit.

In the first of his lectures before the Royal Society of Medicine in London, recently, Dr. Woods Hutchinson of New York said it took a greater weight of metal and explosives in this war to kill a soldier than in any war ever waged. "There is every reason to believe," he said, "that the total death rate per annum in this war does not exceed 5 per cent of the total number of individuals engaged. The percentage cripplings or permanent discharges is the smallest known in history. Of the allied soldiers who survive wounds six hours 90 per cent recover. Of those who reach the field hospitals 95 per cent recover, and of those who reach the base hospitals the re-coveries are 98 per cent." The doctor de-elared the wounds of war are less deadly than appear possible.

A recent observance of the centennial of the institution of savings banks in Great Britain brought together representatives of several savings institutions in London. One of the speakers called attention to the increasing thrift of the people in spite of the drain of war and high living cost. At the beginning of the war the assets of five London savings banks, amalgamated during the present year, were £155,500,000. Immediate withdrawals took \$3,000,000. The panicky feeling soon subsided, money returned to the banks, and today their amalgamated assets total £8,000,000 more than at the beginning of the war. The increase is all the more notable because made in competition with more profitable government securities specially fashioned to attract the small in-



vestor.

The food production department picked 100 women out of an excess of applications for the first detachment of farm tractor operators. Preference was given to those with a knowledge of machinery and running repairs. They are being taught to operate the Ford tractors, which are much lighter than those hitherto used, and are within the strength of the average woman The job has little to commend it to a working woman. It is a roving occupation, requiring the women to travel with their tractors from district to district, facing difficulties of living, many discomforts and bad food. "It is a vagrant life," says the Times, but as the term of agreement is only for one year, and the wages are the same as those of the men whose places the women

are taking, it will be a cheerful experiment for women of suitable health and temperament." Active work begins at the end of November.





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Cash or Terms

Austrian officialdom manifests as much eagerness for peace now as it showed for war in July, 1914. Unfortunately for the dual empire the conflagration passed beyond its control and will remain so until the Allied fire department arrives.

Though a youngster in the business, Emperor Charles proves an apt pupil in the hands of an expert coacher. His reference to "plundering and rapacious neighbors" who forced the sword into his hands rivals the best efforts of the kaiser and maps Vienna for a royal chapter of the Ananias club.

The experience of the trapped American engineers in the Cambrai battle readily identifies the nationality. Overpowering their enemy guards and breaking through the lines, unarmed, are distinctly characteristic. Even more so the automobile dash through a machine gun squad. The latter scarcely knew what hit them, seeing only a streak of dust.

London and Paris interviewers tackled Colonel anticipating a rich store of inter-allied views and news. Courteous and smiling the colonel heard a volley of questions on war topics and parried each with the suggestion: "That seems to me a question for your own government," slightly varied to fit the case. Nothing more.

It is gratifying to observe that the correspondence school for shoplifters, picketpockets and porch climbers, conducted by our enterprising contemporary, the hyphenated World-Herald, has been discontinued. At the same time that virtuous paper gravely discusses the reported increase of burglaries and thefts, and with feigned innocence asks whether this increase is not due to the war conditions.

Overfeeding a Crime

It is no kindness to offer food to an already well-fed man. And while it is generally true that the shortest way to a man's heart is through his stomach, the well-intentioned people who are trying to make the boys in blue and in khaki feel that they have the sympathy and the appreciation of the whole nation make two serious mistakes when they imagine that by feasting the soldiers and sailors they are taking the best means of touching the hearts of the nation's defenders. It is fellowship, not food, the men-in the federal uniform need. Our government is lavish in its provision for feeding the men it has called to its service. If there is any fault to be found with the commissary it is that it is conducted in wanton disregard of the most elementary rules of

economy and conservation. While the civilian population is being exhorted hourly to measures of self-restraint and self-abnegation because of the shortage of food supplies of almost every character, while they are being told that "food is going to win the war" and that every available ounce must be saved for the sol-diers and for the people in the stricken war zones, tons of food are literally being wasted every day of the week in many of the encampments and barracks by unscientific methods of preparation and distribution. It is a singular but lamentable fact that the army and navy seem to be totally igno-rant of those principles of conservation which other agencies of the government are clamorously insisting upon as vitally essential if we are to ac-quit ourselves honorably as a nation in the great dertaking to which we are committed.

For these and other reasons people are finding out that "feasts" for the soldier boys are out of keeping with the spirit of the times, besides being unnecessary, and that the wanton waste of good food, which is the inevitable accompaniment of almost every such entertainment, is a wrong not to be too strongly deprecated.

The postmaster general doubtless feels that he should have a vote of commendation from congress for this wonderful and unusual surplus. when in fact it should draw for him a vote of censure.

The Elevator Girl.

Within the last few months the elevator girl has put in an appearance in Omaha. More than a year ago her advent in the east was heralded. It is too soon of course to predict whether or not this innovation is merely an experiment, but it will not be long until employment of women in the office buildings for elevator service will justify itself or on the other hand be discontinued for cause. In any event, we may expect the practice to prevail as long as the war makes an extraordinary draft upon the young men of the cities and we must await the procession of events before it can be determined whether the elevator girl will be retained after the close of the war when thousands of young men will be in quest of employment in civil life.

The employment of these girls in Omaha has caused the men in such service to meet and to discuss the innovation. To many of these the invasion of the women is looked upon with feelings of alarm lest their employments may be taken over by the women. These men start with the demand that the womenobe paid the same wages the men received provided they qualified for efficient service. There is involved also the old question which has long agitated the minds of men in various employments-whether or not the invasion of women in the ranks of the men in all lines of business is or is not a menace to society. A man just displaced or supplanted by a woman is apt to rush to the conclusion that the invasion by women will bring disaster, but it is not at all certain that the opinions of these men will be accepted as correct. They simply add/a mite of evidence on one side of a question which has been debated for many years without reaching a definite conclusion. However, the invasion of women in business pursuits has undoubtedly come to stay regardless of quibbles over the aconomics of the case.

At first glance this may seem a sentimental rather than a cold-blooded basis of selection. Viewed from the standpoint of military efficiency, is it not better to let a single man who is efficient in some war industry stay at home and take a married man with children away from his family and put him in the army, if he is not pro-ficient in a war industry? To this question General Crowder has replied with an analysis of the actual situation.

Men skilled in necessary industries are placed for the most part in Class 2. This class is not to be called until Class 1 is exhausted, but it will be called if necessary long before Class 4, which includes married men in nonessential industries with dependent families. But General Crowder points out that the draft, covering the ages from 21 to 31 years, affects only about 31 per cent of the labor supply in any given industry. Of this 31 per cent, quite a large number will be found in Class 4. on account of dependent families, or even in Class 5, because they are aliens. General Crowder estimates that only about 12 per cent of the skilled labor in necessary industries will be found in Class 2, which is itself a deferred class, though not so deferred as Class 4. The new system takes the position that a draft on this 12 per cent of skilled labor is preferable to introducing the principle of causing hardship in numerous dependent families.

Class 2 will probably not be large, as in addition to skilled workers in necessary industry and agriculture it contains only certain classes of married men whose wives are capable of supporting themselves without hardship, or whose family income is not a product of the man's labor. Class 3 will also hardly be large, providing as it income is not a product of the man's labor does for such unusual cases as men with dependent prothers or sisters or parents, and certain municipal and federal workers. Highly specialized workers in necessary industries are also in this class. The main classes promise to be 1 and 4. Before Class 4 is reached the provost marshal general expects to see additional men who have reached the age of 21 registered and possibly still younger classes. Men in Class 4 are not likely to see service. Thus, enormous as are the demands of this greatest of wars, so great are America's resources of man power that we may hope to fight it without taking husbands from their wives and fathers from their children.

The Allies and the Alps

New York World High American army authority states that the Germans in Italy probably "cannot pass, being confronted by the combined Italian, British and French forces." If so, they have won a great victory but are left in a position that must cost them dear.

Massing heavy forces, the invaders meant to drive to Verona and were expected to do so. That would free the railroad from Innsbruck through the Brenner Pass, only 4.495 feet high, the lowest in the Alps and the route of many historic inroads, to connect with Italian lines east of the Adige. But the troops thrown across the Piave were driven back. The desperate fighting about Monte Grappe is meant to clear, as an alternative, the inferior route through the Brenta valley. Here the best Italian regiments have stood with desperate valor to protect the plain,

and the chances are now that they will prevail. The only railroad to the plain, north of Go-rizia, that the Germans hold is that by Pontebba. This sinuous mountain line meets the plains roads only at Udine, beyond which the bridges are destroyed. Between Pontebba and Trent, distance 10 miles greater than that from New York to Scranton, Pa., lie the white Alps, making the distribution of supplies a problem.

The Germans have seized an area nearly as great as Connecticut, a triumph of great political value. Unless they blast their way further their transport lines will be lost in the snow, while in the open winter, sheltered by the giant mountains, the network of Italian railways plies un-hindered. The allies protecting Italy are Italy, Great Britain. France-and the Alpa.

ture of Mobile, died at St. Thomas, W. I. Born in New Jersey in 1810.

1870-Germans under the grand duke of Mecklenburg attacked the French army of the Loire near Beaugency.

1880-Buenos Aires was declared the permanent capital of the Argentine republic. 1892-David B. Hill of New York

introduced a bill in the United States senate to repeal the Sherman silver law. 1914-Russians routed Turks with

heavy losses in Transcaucasia.

The Day We Celebrate.

Otis Smith, president of the Mis-souri Valley Elevator company, is 37 today.

W. Jefferis, "Big Jeff," was born at Romansville, Pa., 49 years ago today.

Dr. L. A. Merriam is 74 years old today.

Jorgen Michaelson, supreme secretary of the Danish Brotherhood of America, is 47 years old today. E. H. Crocker, assistant attorney for the Union Pacific railroad, is cele brating his 55th birthday today.

Major General Sir John E. Capper, who is the director-general of the fa "tank" corps of the British mous army, born 56 years ago today. Rev. Edwin Holt Hughes, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, born at Moundsville, W. Va., 51 years

ago today. Hannes Kolehmainen, the world's long distance runner, born in Finland, 28 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Today is the centennial anniver-sary of the birth of Edward Tuckerman, one of the most celebrated of early American botanists.

Horace Boies, former governor of Iowa and at one time considered a democratic presidential possibility, celebrates his 99th birthday anniversary today at his home in Waterloo

Today has been set apart as National Red Cross theater day, when theaters throughout the country will special matinee performances rive and donate the entire receipts to the Red Cross.

The Interstate Commerce commission is to hold a hearing in Washington today on the application of the express companies for permission to make a 10 per cent increase in their rates.

Styles in women's dress for the coming year will be disclosed at the annual convention and style show of the National Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' association, which is to open today in Cleveland.

Storvette of the Day.

Passing through a military hospital, distinguished visitor noticed a prione of the Irish regiments vate in who had been terribly injured. To the orderly the visitor said:

"That's a bad case. What are you going to do with him?"

"He's going back, sir?" replied the orderly. "Going back!" said the visitor, in

surprised tones. "Yes," said the orderly. "He thinks he knows who done it."-London Tit Bits.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Well, the war brings new alignments." "Yes, yes. Various people view it in vari-ts ways. Heard a lady at the drug store he other day insisting that the druggis cash a Canadian quarter at face value of the ground that we are now allies."-Louis ville Courier-Journal.

"Conceited, isn't he?"

"Test he even thought he had ended the war the day he bought his first Liberty bond."-Detroit Free Press.

Teacher (trying to catch pupil)-Now. Robert, which would you rather have, one apple or two halves? Bobby-T > halves, 'cause then I could see if it was wormy.-Boston Transcript.

"Don't you think we would better teach our girls to run the house and do the house-

"But at this critical time can we afford It?"-Life.

These men volunteered bravely, No "ifs" and "ands" or stall, Some are already on duty in trenches, Thousands never to return at all. They are gladly giving their lives, Their liberty and freedom, too, And now, on the bullet-torn battlefield Of Europe, bloody, and and blue.

Others, termed by the world "slackers," Are making excuses as thin as air, Are kept busy inventing new ones As to why they are not "over there." Are taking positions left vacant By Sammies braving to dare The perils of bloody battlefields, My God, tell me, is it fair?

While real men are going to battle, Others, vultures among their kind, Are growing fat on the spolis, Why shouldn't they? Staying behind. They i others into ballaving As incy sainty gaze on high, That their duty is to stay at home, But they know it's a damnable lie.

Some have good, sound excuses, Reasons for staying that are sane, Who, if it wasn't for some duty, Would rather go than remain,

But the others who are staying to pilfer, Who know they are not playing the game, Are not square with themselves or the na-

To their country they are a shame!

The boys who are now in Europe Are fighting for democracy And bleeding for us at home here,

Have given up everything dear, While the slackers are profiting greatly Getting rich by the nation's call, Are letting the real men fight for them.

Tell me, God, is it fair to us all? Fort Logan, Colo. A SOLDIER.

EVEN WITH THE BARBER.

"Don't you care ... any postcards to-day ?" asked the postal clerk as he handed the man the stamp he had requested. "No, not today," said the man. "Or some stamped envelopes? We

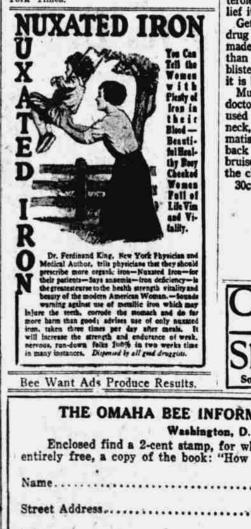
some new ones. 'No, thank you."

"Would you like a money order?"

perhaps you would like to open But the man had fled.

"Who was that fellow, and why did you ask him all those questions?" asked a fel-

low clerk. "That," said the other clerk, "is my barber. For years when he has shaved me he has bothered me with recommendations of massages, shampoos, haircuts and hair I am even with him now." -New York Times.





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