

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Santa Claus as usual! Why not?

Now and then the Teutons bend the bars, but fail to make a break.

Mealless and wheatless days only once a week, but cold feckless days not even that.

"The Lucky Seventh," seems down on its luck. Wonder who threw the political switch?

Anybody heard of any coal dealers cutting prices below the fuel administrator's schedule?

The distance from Columbus to the state house remains the same. Only the perspective stretched beyond range.

Labeling the goods "concentrated catnip," while not strictly correct as labels go, still it fairly tagged "hot stuff."

The Christmas shopping rush in Omaha is equaled only by the rush to the recruiting office to sign up without waiting for the draft.

Sharp criticism by the London Times of the hackett at Cambrai indicates that the policy of "muddling through" is no longer fashionable in England.

Death's toll at Halifax drops far below the estimated high mark. Still a total of 1,226 victims is a regrettably high toll exacted by preventable causes.

The record flight of Miss Stinson from San Diego to San Francisco merely emphasizes the ease with which girls can fly high when they put their minds to it.

Opportunities for scoring heavily beckon in vain to conservationists. For some mysterious reason the weather clerk has not been annexed to the conservation staff.

The joys of winter are once more ours—standing on the corner in below-zero weather, for example, and watching a succession of street cars pass without stopping.

Cuba trots merrily along with Uncle Sam in warring on Austria. Wise youngster. Cuddling under the wing of a friendly uncle radiates warmth, comfort and safety.

The British concede a reverse at Cambrai; the first backup in 18 months. Mutterings of disappointment in London foreshadow a shake-up at headquarters in consequence.

By way of insurance, the school board should carry a standing want-ad in The Bee: "Wanted—Reliable and experienced business men to serve as members of the Board of Education. Vacancies every little while."

With modern conveniences right at hand it seems a waste of valuable time to ask the court for a decision while the court house mat bids Mike and Johnny go to it. Besides, what do the judges know about real sport?

Austrian subjects in this country are not to be under as severe restrictions as German subjects in this country. Presumably this consideration reflects the president's idea that Austria is merely being used by the kaiser and is not self-accountable.

One of the big truths of war, expressed in four words, confronted the senate committee in the hunt for information. "We were not ready," said the War department witness. However, with due diligence the committee may yet dig up some real news.

Relief for Drug Victims

Ever since the state and federal laws against the traffic in habit-forming drugs went into effect the need of some sort of public hospital for the treatment of the victims of drug habits has been clear. The provisions made at the city institutions are good so far as they go, but they are entirely inadequate.

That need is brought out afresh by the pitiful stories told by veiled women before the Whitney legislative committee, which is seeking facts bearing upon the advisability of the creation of a state hospital especially for these cases. The testimony taken yesterday showed the inadequacy of some, at least, of the private sanitariums for the treatment of such cases. Some of the witnesses said that they came out from such "cures" with the craving quite as strong as when they entered, and the inference from their statements was that they had been victimized by purely commercial institutions, conducted with a view of securing return visits from patients able to pay.

The agony of the drug victim deprived of his drug is well known, and it has become public by the pitiful appeals made at city institutions when the enforcement of the laws made it impossible for drug users to renew their supplies. Senator Whitney, in opening the hearing, said the committee would work upon the theory that "a drug addict is the maligned and persecuted victim of a definite disease," and showed his belief that the state should create a hospital to which such victims can be sent without the ignominy of a criminal conviction. That is a wise and merciful purpose. The state should certainly prevent the sale of such drugs in order to prevent the extension of a plague already too widespread, but at the same time it should provide a cure for existing victims or for the merciful care of those who are found to be beyond cure.

Don't Neglect the Seed Corn.

It is a far cry to next summer's corn crop, but it is not a bit too early to take steps to make sure that seed corn is sorted out and saved in quantity sufficient for the planting.

According to all accounts the condition of the corn for seed purposes in this section is very bad and the amount of corn with germinating qualities very uncertain. It will be necessary to make a germination test of all corn that looks as if it were suitable for seed, and then to see to it that the seed corn is kept off of the market and out of the feed lots and distributed where it is needed and when it is needed.

It is probably not necessary to repeat on any extensive scale the campaign of education which was undertaken several years in succession through seed corn specials and farmers' institute demonstrations, for the average farmer now realizes the necessity of testing his corn before planting, and planting only seed that has stood the test. It is necessary, however, to rouse the farmers to the urgency of testing out their corn at once and husbanding the seed corn and also making known where there is a surplus of seed corn that may be drawn upon for the sections where there may be a deficiency.

All the forces and factors that reach out to the farmer should be enlisted at once in a seed corn preparedness campaign. This is work which the State Council of Defense can well direct in co-operation with the state university, the railroads, the grain men, the bankers and the newspapers. We want a record wheat crop out of Nebraska next year, but we also want a record corn crop and that achievement is only possible by tackling the problem of providing seed corn in time and running no avoidable risk to seed shortage or poor seed.

Mobilizing for Home Drives.

The war is opening the eyes of the people to the true inwardness of a good many things. The promotion of the several activities of war work has brought into play new agencies which are attaining remarkable results; for instance the co-ordination of various organizations marshaled to promote the Red Cross drive a few months ago and later the organization of other agencies to promote the great flotation of Liberty loan bonds. These comprise the two brilliant examples of what the American people can do when it earnestly sets to work to accomplish a given purpose.

These and other drives to win support for the several branches of war work have on the whole taught the American people a very valuable lesson. They have educated the popular mind as to the obligations resting upon the individual to perform some service for the nation. The successive drives for money and for service in behalf of one cause or another has educated men, women and children to appreciate the necessity of sharing the great burden which has been assumed by the nation.

These campaigns have illustrated also, as was never done before, the extraordinary value of newspaper publicity in the promotion of great enterprises. It is not necessary to point out specifically just the degree of influence exerted by the newspapers in furthering these laudable measures, but the people have been shown the wonderful efficacy of concerted action upon the part of the press of the nation. When the war has ended the people can look back upon these patriotic activities and come to realize the great share borne therein by the press. They will have a keen realization of the service the newspapers have rendered.

War Tax Exemptions.

Various excuses have been offered in explanation of the exemption of public officials from the war excess profits tax which congress piled on civilians with incomes exceeding \$6,000 a year. All fall short of the purpose. It is presumed to have "just happened," like other "jokers" slipped into legislation by smooth workers.

The exemption and the tax are found in widely separated sections of the law which must be read together to fully appreciate the smoothness of the job. All sections appear under Title II. In the middle of Section 200 defining various terms employed in the act are these words: "The terms 'trade' and 'business' include professions and occupations."

Section 209 deals with "trade" and "business" as thus defined and levies an 8 per cent tax, "in the case of a domestic partnership, or a citizen or residents of the United States" on incomes over \$6,000 a year. Incomes of \$6,000, less deductions, are subject to the nominal income tax. Vast numbers of public officials draw salaries and incidentals far above \$6,000 a year and under equality of taxation would be subject to the excess profits tax like other professions and occupations.

Congress, however, did not view equality in that light. The smooth working members argued that public officials incurred great hardships and made great sacrifices in serving the people. Besides, in making the exemption general the charge of favoritism would not stand. So in the middle of Section 201 congress sheltered itself in clause "A" exempting "officers and employees under the United States, or any state, territory, or the District of Columbia, or any local subdivision thereof," from taxes assessed under Title II.

Congressman Kinkaid has introduced a bill repealing the exemption so far as it applies to members of congress. It stops far short of equality. Knowing the patriotic spirit animating public officials in Nebraska and the west, The Bee feels confident they will resent the discrimination. Denying them the honors of the draft shocked their patriotism. Refusing them the meagre privilege of paying a part of the bill adds insult to injury. Surely the Nebraska congressman will avoid a needless offense to public servants anxious to "do their bit."

Somebody asks, "Why does not the State Council of Defense circulate petitions demanding the resignation of United States Senator Hitchcock?" We don't know, unless it is because he was elected as a democrat on the same ticket with the governor, who appointed the members of the Council of Defense.

Food profiteers with sense enough to dodge a blizzard should not wait for a second warning. It will not arrive. Mr. Hoover's arrangement provides for personal calls by Victor Murdock, chief of scouts on the speculative trail. Murdock hails from Kansas and is esteemed an expert blizzardist.

Vienna gets the wire long enough to assure the outside world that Austria stands shoulder to shoulder with Germany in the war. Sure! Any other course would imperil the Hapsburg crown.

More Market Strategy

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—At last the government is showing some concern over the consumer's food problems. For the first time the bureau of markets of the Department of Agriculture is studying marketing from the consumer's point of view. Heretofore, most of its experiments have been conducted with the idea of increasing the profits of the farmer.

The bureau of markets, by the way, is one of the largest divisions of the Department of Agriculture. Its offices occupy all of one building and part of another. It is the department's business specialties. It can tell you everything there is to know about marketing from the kind of bookkeeping system that should be employed by a farmers' co-operative association to the best method of shipping red raspberries from the Yupa valley. And one of its dearest ambitions at present is to bring about greater co-operation between the producer and the consumer.

Last summer an interesting experiment was tried out along this line. The bureau sent an agent to Providence, R. I., where it so happens that the market is one of the best in the country for bringing their produce to market. The agent and his assistants stationed themselves at certain points along this line of traffic as early as 4 o'clock in the morning and waited for the farmers to come. As each farmer drove in, the agents or his assistant stepped up, announced his connection with the United States government and demanded to know what the farmer had in his wagon.

When the contents of all the farmers' wagons had been noted the agent went to his office and added up his figures on an adding machine. After which he had such totals as these: Twenty-three hundred and 30 cabbages, 15 wagon loads of green corn, 6,000 quarts of lima beans and 2,200 bushels of string beans. These are not accurate, but they serve to show how the agent figured.

With these totals in hand he immediately knew what products were most plentiful in the market and this information he transferred to others by pasting the figures up in the market-place. This market was a wholesale market, so that these figures were for the benefit of retailers or buyers-in-bulk. But they served to reduce prices. Wholesalers could no longer invent imaginary shortages on account of the war while the figures of the government agent showed food products to be plentiful.

Furthermore, neither could the retailers. For the agent did not stop with the wholesale market. He went to all the city newspapers and furnished them with the same information—not in the technical terms of most market pages—but in story form. Suppose, for example, that green corn was particularly plentiful on a certain day. Housewives were at once informed of the fact; they were urged to buy a supply for canning and a list of corn recipes was printed on the woman's page of each newspaper.

Later the agent supplied a further item of information. He gave the wholesale prices. It is, of course, evident that this knowledge was of the greatest value to the consumer. If he knew that green corn was especially plentiful and had sold at the wholesale price of 12 cents a dozen, if took a hypothetically persuasive retailer to make him pay 10 cents a dozen for it. Many people carried their newspaper clippings to the store with them and calmly consulted them as they inquired the price of food.

Naturally the farmers and the retailers did not appreciate this service of the government at first. They resented the check on their selling talents, but there came a time when they were all converted. Around Providence every year enormous quantities of spinach are grown. The bureau of markets does not know why this is so, since every season the market is glutted with spinach and bushels of it have to be destroyed, but for some obscure reason the farmers insist upon raising this vegetable.

Last summer, as usual, spinach began to come in to Providence in wagon loads. The farmers were almost ready to give it away; the retailers wouldn't have it as a gift and neither would the housewives. At this point, however, the government agent came to the rescue. He sent a wire to the bureau of home economics of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, requesting some spinach recipes right away. Then started the greatest spinach campaign that Providence has ever known. Every day there was a story about spinach—how the early Pilgrims and Roger Williams valued the herb; its place in modern medicine; what different foreign nations called it—together with a brand new government recipe that aroused the curiosity of the women.

No spinach was destroyed in Providence last year and after the first few days no one gave any of it away. Moreover, the farmers and retailers made no more complaints about government agents. Now they are just as enthusiastic in their praise of the bureau of markets as are the women shoppers at marketing.

As soon as the summer season closed the agent and his assistants were withdrawn from Providence, since the produce brought in by the farmers was not sufficient to require such a service. In the meantime, however, the same experiment had been tried out in other towns, also with satisfactory results. Whether or not it will be continued next season depends, unfortunately, upon how much congress cuts the agricultural appropriation on account of the war. It is certain to be continued in Providence for a time at least, since the bureau feels that it must actually test the success of the method.

People and Events

An epidemic of soldier weddings at Camp Mills, L. I., opened the eyes of a local minister to a new line of business projected by mercenary brides. The minister declares that these women marry several soldiers, secure assignments of parts of soldiers' wages and figure on living on the fat of the land when the husbands get out of sight.

Major James C. Biggs, in charge of the British-Canadian recruiting station at Chicago, intimates that too many former British soldiers and self-styled British soldiers are lecturing in this country without credentials or official sanction. Steps are being taken to curb their activities, the major says. About 50 of these roaming lecturers are abroad dispensing war stories at so much per.

One of the spying tools of Count Luxburg blew into New York less than a month ago and busied himself getting next to army movements. His fad was giving dainty suppers to girls associated with soldiers and thus picking up news of camp doings and sailing dates. Federal sleuths somehow managed to have their girls get the suppers and the game. At present the spy gets his suppers from a jailor.

State and local lawmakers jointly are seeking means of pulling Chicago out of a financial hole. Home owners seek authority to levy a special tax of 7 mills which would produce \$7,000,000. State legislators suggest cutting expenses by dismissing a lot of experts, high priced advisers and phony timber, but the councilmen would not listen to an upheaval of jobs on the threshold of a municipal campaign. Not for a million. The question was turned over to a small committee for further debate.

Sasha Votichenko, a Russian master of the tympanon and a genius in money making, has incorporated himself under the laws of New York with a view to becoming a general manager of the corporation. For domestic purposes the corporation is superfluous, the madame being competent to handle that end without legal formalities. But Sasha occasionally loses himself in the musical wickeries of the tympanon and yields to the touch of shady managers. Nothing doing in that line henceforth. When any real business is to be done the madame will Shasha to the front.

Right in the Spotlight.

William J. Harris, who has announced his intention to become a candidate for the United States senate in opposition to Thomas W. Hardwick of Georgia, is a notable example of the progressive and distinctly American type of southern business men. Born at Cedarhurst, Ga., 50 years ago, Mr. Harris received his education at the state university at Athens, and after graduation embarked on a successful business career in Atlanta. In 1913 he was called to Washington to take charge of the United States census bureau. He is now chairman of the federal trade commission, and in this position he is said to enjoy the personal confidence of President Wilson in an unusual degree. In his contest for the senate he is probably well backed by the valuable backing of the administration.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

German and Austrian peace notes received in Washington.

Berlin trade commission and the French at Verdun.

British government reiterated that Germany must give reparation, and security for future, before peace could be granted.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

W. G. Whitmore of Valley, Neb., president of the Nebraska Dairymen's association, died at his home.

The Omaha Petroleum company is the name of a new business institution which filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk. The incorporators are Frank Colpetzer,



James L. Lovett, E. E. Kennedy, John H. Parrotte, Alvin Saunders, and Olansen R. Day. The capital stock of the company is \$1,000,000, divided into 10,000 shares.

Tommy Miller and Tommy Burke signed articles for a 10-round boxing contest to come off at the grand fistic exhibition opera house on the 28th for a handsome gold medal offered by the Omaha Chronicle.

Paul Hersh, who recently resigned as clerk of the Paxton, has accepted a position in the office of General Agent W. F. Allen, of the Mutual Life Insurance company.

An excursion party in a special car under the direction of William Pace of Cleveland is en route to Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, with his able assistant, Mr. Baldwin, will move into their new quarters in the new United States National Bank building of January.

H. H. Wing, professor of agriculture of the Nebraska university at Lincoln, and secretary of the Nebraska Dairymen's association, is in the Barker.

This Day in History.

1739—Pierre Samuel Dupont, the French refugee who founded the powder making industry in Delaware, born in Paris. Died at Wilmington, Del., August 6, 1817.

1799—George Washington, first president of the United States, died at Mount Vernon, Va. Born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, February 22, 1732.

1811—Noah Porter, president of Yale college, born at Farmington, Conn. Died at New Haven, March 4, 1892.

1814—British captured American gunboats on Lake Borgne, Louisiana.

1832—Thomas L. Young, who became governor of Ohio in succession to Rutherford B. Hayes, born in Ireland. Died in Cincinnati, July 20, 1888.

1889—The American Academy of Political and Social Science was founded.

1914—Serbians reoccupied Belgrade, following its evacuation by the Austrians.

1814—General Smith-Dorrien sent command allies attacking German East Africa.

The Day We Celebrate.

P. B. Myers the druggist, is 48 years old today.

Prince Albert, second son of the king of England, now reported critically ill, born 22 years ago today.

Hon. Pierre-Etienne Blondin, who resigned his seat in the Dominion cabinet in order to recruit a battalion and take it overseas, born 43 years ago today.

Hastings H. Hart, one of the most widely known social workers of the United States, born at Brookfield, O., 66 years ago today.

Rev. Frank L. McElwain, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Minnesota, born at Warsaw, N. Y., 42 years ago today.

Louis Marshall, New York lawyer, who headed the appeal of the Jews of the United States in the anti-Jewish Russian protesting against peace with Germany, born at Syracuse, N. Y., 61 years ago today.

George Tyler, pitcher of the Boston National league base ball team, born at Derry, N. H., 28 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

An annual eclipse of the sun takes place today, visible only in the extreme southern portions of South America and Australia and in the South Atlantic and Indian oceans.

Committee representing the National Council of Cotton Manufacturers and the railroads are to hold another meeting in Washington today to discuss readjustments of rates with a view to increasing the cotton movement and at the same time conserving railway equipment.

An exposition of the whole government program for carrying on the war is promised at the annual meeting of the academy of political science, meeting today in New York City. The announced speakers include Daniel Willard, chairman of war industries board; Raymond D. Stevens, vice chairman of the United States shipping board; Dr. Harry A. Garfield, fuel administrator, and Howard E. Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board.

Storyteller of the Day.

Speaking at a political gathering, Senator George Sutherland of Utah, tonight's speaker at the annual meeting of the academy of political science, meeting today in New York City. The announced speakers include Daniel Willard, chairman of war industries board; Raymond D. Stevens, vice chairman of the United States shipping board; Dr. Harry A. Garfield, fuel administrator, and Howard E. Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board.

"Doctor," said one of the congregation, seizing the pastor's hand, "I want to tell you how much I enjoyed your sermon this morning. What a wonderful knowledge you have of your subjects, and how inspiring you preach them!" "He does, indeed!" enthusiastically exclaimed another brother, taking the preacher's hand and saying, "Doctor, we never knew what sin was until you came among us."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

The Bee's Letter Box

From a Valued Subscriber.

Gurley, Neb., Dec. 10.—To the Editor of The Bee: I got your notice and inclose remittance for a year's subscription to Daily and Sunday Bee (including Bumble Bee). The paper is very satisfactory in every way and your loyal and unflinching stand for pure Americanism is a great force for good in these strenuous times.

Our paper comes almost three or four days late and sometimes we get no paper for four days and then again we get four or five papers at once, but we don't blame you, because we understand something of Mr. Burdison's alleged economizing in the postal department and other troubles of congestion, but just the same we miss it when it doesn't come. Maybe another jar from your office would help some. This is Monday evening and today we got last Thursday's paper, so we don't know what congress did in regard to Wilson's message or what Charley Peters did to Joe Stecher. W. P.

Urgency of the Farm Manager.

Omaha, Dec. 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: The exemption of farm labor from military service has been a question for the consideration of the various boards and authorities placed in charge of the conscription division of the recruiting service for the army. The conservation boards pretty generally have found that the labor question on the farm is getting to be one of the most serious questions to solve since there have been such astonishing numbers of young men that have left the farms for the army, have independent of the conscription service.

The farms are short of help to carry on the ordinary and usual routine of crop and live stock operations necessary not only to conserve the resources of the farm, but to keep it up to its accustomed yield and production, a condition that all considerate persons realize is not only a necessity, but a largely increased yield must be planned for and put into actual existence.

We must raise more food and feed crops on our farms; we must increase our crop acreage; we must plow, plant and harvest beyond our accustomed ambitions in times of peace. We are not only responsible for our own country's demand for food, but our interests and sympathy must go out to the hungry and needy of the world.

Who is to carry forward this work when our farmers are drafted and have taken their places in the ranks of the soldiers and our farmers' help are called to service in the army? In order to keep the crops growing, in order to keep the feed yards full of the animals that are to consume these crops, in order to have bread and meat to feed the armies on the battle fields, the artisans in the shops and factories, the people who are carrying on the various forms of human industry that are so necessary for our existence as a people, and a nation, we must not neglect the foundation principles upon which our existence is founded. All things practically are based upon the consideration of the land, upon the soil. We must go to the farmer to feed the world. In times of reverse, in times of drought and devastation when our crops are threatened, who do we look to in our anxiety for food, for the crops that yield the revenue for carrying on business and industry? We involuntarily turn to the man at the plow and inquire, "What shall the harvest be?"

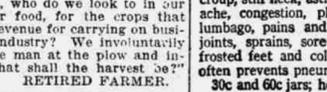
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30c and 60c jars; hospital size \$2.50.



"So you are getting along nicely with your psychology as you, dear," said the lady caller. "How many bones are there in the human body?" "Two hundred," the child answered. "My teacher used to tell us 208." "Well, I guess you're as bonny as they used to be when you went to school."—Boston Transcript.

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THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU

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