PAY YOUR 1918 RED CROSS MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW

"Do Your Bit" And Do It Now

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER
Fair

VOL. XLVII.—NO. 156. OMAHA, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1917.—TEN PAGES. On Trains, at Hotels, News Stands, Etc., 5c. SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS

PRISON DOORS YAWN WIDE FOR NICHOLAS; HOOVER AND SUGAR MAGNATE GO TO MAT

FOOD HEAD SAYS REFINER 'SORE' AT SLASH IN PROFITS

Hoover Declares Spreckels' Balance Sheet Shows Up Poorly Since Prices Are Regulated; Refutes Charge That Administration Is at Fault in Shortage; Lack of Transportation Responsible.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 16.—Charges made by Claus Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining company, before a senate investigating committee that the food administration is responsible for a sugar shortage, drew from Food Administrator Hoover last night a vigorous attack on Mr. Spreckels.

SPRECKELS IS "SORE."

An open intimation is made by Mr. Hoover that Mr. Spreckels' testimony was inspired by the fact that the food administration cut profits in sugar transactions.

"It requires no proof from me," said Mr. Hoover, "to establish that Mr. Spreckels, a leading sugar refiner, is sore at the food administration and would like to see it destroyed. I realize that Mr. Spreckels' balance sheet will not look as good next year as last, for refiners' profits have been regulated. Furthermore, his balance sheet would have looked better this year if the price of last August had not been reduced and held fast, in the face of a partial shortage that promised a fair opportunity for 30-cent sugar and much increased profits.

SPRECKELS FEELS BADLY.

"Mr. Spreckels, therefore, has reason to feel badly. There are other citizens who will feel the same way, and no doubt can entertain the public by assaulting the food administration. While many feel badly, still the vast majority of men and women of our business community and of our farmers are sacrificing their profits daily to the nation's necessities without complaint, for many are sacrificing more than their money—their sons.

"We have had two months of partial sugar shortage—October and November—and will also have December before relief from the new crop. The American people have had 500,000 tons of sugar in these two months—that is 70 per cent of normal supplies in each month, and if cars are available, they will have 70 per cent in December. Owing to lack of cars, the shortage has been most acute in the northeast and abou 200 cars are today blocked from that region.

Twice What French Get.

"This 70 per cent is twice the French ration. In the meantime we have given France a good part of the 30 per cent and are proud of it. This supply to France was given deliberately and the American people were told of it at the time. We have also agreed to draw 10,000 tons for our friends in Canada. I have yet to meet an American citizen who would have had it otherwise.

"As to the food administration stopping the sources of supply the fact is that all available supplies have been brought here that ships and cars could bring; and that it has already been eaten is sufficient answer.

"Mr. Spreckels knows the bitterness of the 10-year fights between producers and refiners—between different refiners—and if he looks back over the last three months he will observe a desire of many of these elements to use the food administration as a club to settle their long standing bitterness.

"If Mr. Spreckels will tell us where there is any sugar today that ships can be obtained to carry or cars can be obtained to deliver, it will be delivered at once with the same resolution that we have requisitioned or distributed over 60,000,000 pounds of embargoed sugar since October 1. In the meantime the 900,000 tons of sugar in Java is as remote as cheese out of the moon—unless we wish to take bread ships from our own soldiers and the allies to provide ourselves with candy."

Electrician Killed.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Dec. 16.—Special Telegram.)—H. B. Jones, local electrician, aged 30, married, was killed this evening by coming in contact with a live wire.

The Weather

Fair Monday; warmer in east portions Monday.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

5 a. m.	11
6 a. m.	14
7 a. m.	14
8 a. m.	14
9 a. m.	15
10 a. m.	19
11 a. m.	22
12 m.	25
1 p. m.	31
2 p. m.	34
3 p. m.	35
4 p. m.	35
5 p. m.	35
6 p. m.	36
7 p. m.	36

Comparative Local Record.

	1917.	1916.	1915.	1914.
Highest yesterday	36	42	25	9
Lowest yesterday	14	26	18	—7
Mean temperature	25	34	22	1
Precipitation	.00	.00	.14	.00

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1:

Normal temperature	28
Deficiency for the day	3
Total deficiency since March 1	474
Normal precipitation	.08 inch
Deficiency for the day	.08 inch
Total rainfall since March 1	21.76 inches
Deficiency since March 1, 1917	7.65 inches
Deficiency for cor. period, 1916	12.67 inches
Deficiency for cor. period, 1915	1.82 inches

— Below zero.

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

RELIEVE THOSE AT HOME, HEAD OF CHARITIES SAYS

Mrs. G. W. Doane Appeals for Aid for Worthy Poor Through The Bee; Many Make Donations.

"We must relieve the trenches at home," remarked Mrs. G. W. Doane, general secretary of the Associated Charities, Saturday afternoon, when she received a large package and various smaller packages of clothing and shoes sent to The Bee office to help the worthy and needy.

The large package was sent by Mrs. S. O. Royce of Boelus, Neb., and the other bundles were brought to The Bee office by Omahans who wished to promote the co-operative Christmas work of The Bee and the Associated Charities.

Send Checks for $10.

J. N. Cox of Exeter, Neb., and Clara Hawley of Omaha sent checks for $10 each to The Bee office Saturday afternoon, indicating that they wished to help needy ones during the Christmas season.

Mr. Cox wrote the following note: "Omaha Bee:—Please find my personal check for $10 to be given where it will help alleviate suffering among the poor children or any worthy poor. I will in a day or so send a package of clothing also."

"What are some of the particular needs?" was asked of Mrs. Doane.

"Shoes, stockings and mittens for children. We have received many calls for these articles. We can use a few soft coal stoves. I mentioned this several days ago, but we still need a few more, and there are real needs. Read this letter," she replied.

Letter from Widow.

The letter she handed was from a widow, who wrote:

"I do washing for a living and trying to take care of four small children. It is hard to make ends meet, and I am afraid it won't be much Christmas for my children this year, so I thought I would ask you to kindly send some things for the children."

Mrs. Doane stated that persons who wish to send baskets of provisions to needy families for Christmas dinner may leave the articles at the Associated Charities office, 519 Farnam building, Thirteenth and Farnam streets, and she will see that the baskets are delivered to worthy families in time for Christmas day.

Money and goods for Christmas relief work may be sent to the Associated Charities office or to The Bee office.

"Your help is needed now," added Mrs. Doane.

Two Nebraska Soldiers At Cody Die of Pneumonia

Camp Cody, N. M., Dec. 16.—(Special Telegram.)—The bodies of the following soldiers who died in the base hospital have been sent to their homes: Private Eddie Lowry, Company M, 134th infantry (Fifth Nebraska infantry), who died of pneumonia. His father, Fillmore Lowry, resides at Richards, Mo.

Private Willard D. McGee, Company C, 109th engineers, pneumonia. His father, Ernest McGee, resides at Fayette, Neb.

Private Willard E. Harding, machine gun company, 136th infantry, pneumonia. His mother, Mrs. E. C. Harding, resides at Watertown, S. D.

Tears and Love Figure in Pathetic Human Drama Lat[illegible] Staged in Omaha Hospital

Welfare Superinte[illegible]t and Municipal Judge First Aid to Cupid in Life and Death Emergency.

By HELEN MAR M'DONALD.

This is a hidden love story. It is the history of how two men won the same woman; and how Omaha's welfare superintendent, a municipal judge, and a hospital served as first aids to Cupid.

George married Martha, a northern girl, 15 years ago. The first year they were happy; the second, things were a little different. When the second baby arrived, George grew restless and longed for freer fields.

One day, he disappeared without explanation, leaving his wife and children destitute. For months, Martha struggled bravely, although her spirit was broken and she had no ability to earn money. Finally, the remnants of her pride urged her to try among strangers. She must win. It meant the lives of her little ones.

They came to Omaha where further misfortunes befell them during the ensuing year. Starvation threatened and the babies grew ill. Still, she fought with all there was of life left in her. Then Charles discovered her. He understood.

"I can always help you," he told her.

Somehow, his words seemed prophetic, and she received him daily with eyes full of dumb gratitude. The children adored him. And she was lonely! When he asked her to marry him, she stood as one in a dream. Nevertheless, she told him everything and, thereafter, they drifted into an irregular relationship. Later they moved into a reputable part of the city where they lived as man and wife for 11 years and won the respect of the community.

George Was Dead.

Once, during the early part of their union, an indirect rumor reached Martha that George was dead, and immediately, she and Charles utilized every means to verify the report, but without avail. With the coming of children, they discussed their situation repeatedly. What should they do? Was it best to go on as they were? Some unseen force swept them onward. They waited.

A few years ago, Martha obtained evidence that George died shortly after deserting her. Again, the old question confronted them. It had become a specter. Was it not possible to remain as they were? It seemed probable, because their reputations were unquestioned. Their children attended good schools. Should they wreck innocent lives? Never! None but they knew the facts. They decided there should be nothing but happy days for their loved ones, and again they drifted. Both were ignorant concerning the legality of the common law marriage, but that would not have satisfied them.

A few weeks ago, Charles became ill and was removed to a hospital. Anxious days passed, and, then came the doctor's verdict.

"He will not get well. There is something depressing him. If his mind was freed of that, his last hours would be easier."

Martha Forgets All.

Martha understood. She forgot herself. She forgot their children. She knew what she must do. Oh! there must be someone who could understand and help her.

"Dear God," she prayed, as she journeyed citywards, "send me to the right one!"

She stopped at the city hall. Faster and faster came her breath, and whiter grew her lips. A little sob escaped her * * * *

Omaha's welfare superintendent enlisted the co-operation of a municipal judge. He was told that secrecy must be maintained. His assurances were satisfying, whereupon Martha and he hastened to the hospital. When she knelt by the dying man and whispered to him, his face instantly reflected the joy that filled his soul. At last, he could bestow upon the woman and children he loved that priceless gift—a name. The judge cleared his throat and joined their trembling hands. Unsteadily he put the solemn questions.

"Until Death Us Do Part"

"Charles, do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife?"

Faintly came Charles' reply, "I do."

"Martha, do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband?"

"I do," choked Martha.

"Until death do you part?" softly asked the judge.

Until — death — do — us — part," repeated Charles and Martha together.

"I pronounce you man and wife."

Martha bent over Charles and their lips met in a long kiss. The judge, wielding his handkerchief, crossed to a window, where Martha found him a moment later.

"I can afford to pay for this," she said.

"I can't afford to take it," returned the judge, huskily.

An hour later, Charles died. Peace transfigured the dead face.

What is it in the home fields that smells so sweet? Is the wind that blows in one's face? The songbirds—the sunshine!

Martha and children soon will be home in the north. There will be no more hardships for them—no despair. Charles guaranteed their future long ago. He did more. He gave them golden memories.

ITALIANS HOLD IN FACE OF FIRE OF GERMAN GUNS

Tremendous Bombardment Continues Against Roman Lines, With Berlin Claiming Small Success.

(By Associated Press.)

The Italian front remains the only major field of military operations in which there is more than local activity on the part of infantry. The Italian line, although almost ceaselssly assailed in the mountain regions, is still intact and holding well except for a small recession here and there, forced at the cost of extremely heavy casualties on the part of the Austro-German invaders.

Berlin claims the taking of more than 3,000 prisoners in the fighting of the last few days and the repulse of Italian counter attacks on positions won by the Teutons.

Few Local Thrusts.

The Franco-Belgian front is inactive except for local fighting, mostly due to German thrusts here and there, delivered with the seeming intention of keeping the Anglo-French command guessing as to the enemy intentions.

In P[illegible]estine the British have scored a farther advance northeast of Jerusalem.

In making known the sinking of two more Norwegian steamers, the Norwegian government announces that 5,000 Norwegian sailors have been lost durir the war.

Two Airships Lost.

Two airships of the non-rigid type have been lost by the British, one of which was sunk by a seaplane in the North Sea, while on patrol duty and the other being compelled to descend in Dutch territory because of engine trouble.

The British admiralty also announces the sinking of a British destroyer through a collision, all but two of those on board being saved.

Berlin Gloats.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—An official communication from general headquarters making reference to the front of Crown Prince Rupprecht in Flanders says:

"For over four weeks the British have discontinued their attacks in Flanders. Their violent offensive, which had for its objective possession of the Flanders coast and destruction of our submarine bases, may, therefore, be considered closed for the present."

Schumann-Heink's Son Enlists as Army Cook

New York, Dec. 16.—Walter Schumann-Heink, son of Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, enlisted in the army today as a cook of the fourth class, after recruiting officers had satisfied themselves that he was an American citizen. He is the fourth son of the opera singer to enter the army or navy.

GARFIELD TAKES DRASTIC STEPS IN COAL CRISIS

Sixty Carloads of Fuel Start for Cleveland, Where 100,000 Men Are Idle; To Supply Homes First.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 16.—Reports of almost nation-wide suffering due to lack of coal stirred fuel administration officials today to redoubled efforts to release supplies held on tracks by car congestion.

Orders went forth to fuel administration representatives in the middle west to make every attempt to move coal to points declared to be facing coal famines. A. W. Thompson, chairman of the operating committee of eastern railroads, was called into conference by Fuel Administrator Garfield for suggestions.

Tonight Dr. Garfield named C. R. Moriarity of Cleveland, general director of the Middle Western Coal Shippers' Terminal Pool association, and gave him full powers and authority to supervise transportation. Mr. Moriarity will work with Homer Johnson, federal fuel administrator for Ohio, and W. K. Prudden, administrator for Michigan.

After his conference with Dr. Garfield Mr. Thompson said the situation was serious, but that his committee was making great progress towards reli ving congestion in the Pittsburgh terminal territory. The full effect of the committee's efforts, he said, would not become apparent for several days.

Coal for Cleveland.

Fuel Administrator Johnson reported from Cleveland tonight that he had started 60 car loads of coal into that city where 100,000 men were idle today. Mr. Johnson, who has been given full powers in the matter of distribution, said he would supply householders first, even if it forced industries to close down.

"If the weather stays severe," he telegraphed, "my opinion is that all industries, no matter how important, except in case of vital importance for keeping a plant warm or maintaining refrigeration or something of that sort, should give way to domestic needs. The miners are not loading and the emergency will become graver unless the weather moderates. My office is distributing all the lake coal available to domestic consumers and we are trying to make up a train load for country distribution for the northwest part of the state."

Governor Asks Nebraskans To Join Red Cross Society

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln Dec. 16.—(Special.)—Governor Neville today issued a proclamation calling upon Nebraskans to **make Red Cross week a success.**

GERMANS MAY LAND ARMY ON BRITISH SOIL

Invasion of England Hinted in Recent Speech of Lloyd George; Preparations for Move Once Completed.

London, Dec. 16.—(Special Cable to The Bee.)—The Evening Star today, on its front page, suggests that Premier Lloyd George' speech last night hinted at an invasion of England.

The Star says:

"Lloyd George warned against new contingencies against which precautions must be taken. The German attack on the west front is ruled out because that possibility already has been considered by the prime minister. Moreover, such an enterprise has been self-advertised.

"There remain two principal projects: An onslaught on the Saloniki armies and an attempted invasion of England. As for an invasion of this country, it is known that in the autumn of 1916 the headquarters staff had everything in readiness for the kaiser to press the button, but he didn't press it. The enterprise could hardly have success, in the sense of establishing a permanent front on British soil, but it might seem to the kaiser worth sacrificing some tens of thousands of fighting men."

Johnny Kellher of Bears Joins Forces of the Army

Denver, Colo., Dec. 16.—John Kellher, shortstop of the Denver team of the Western league and formerly of the Brooklyn Nationals, enlisted here yesterday in the army. His home is at Brookline, Mass.

Greatest Bazar in History Makes $400,000

New York, Dec. 16.—Hero Land, described as the greatest bazar in history, was opened in Grand Central palace November 24 and closed tonight. It was estimated by John Moffat, executive chairman, that the net receipts for the allied war charities which participated will approximate $400,000. The average daily attendance was 12,000. The final day of the bazar was devoted to an auction sale of $100,000 worth of merchandise which had been unpurchased.

Jury May Decide Whether Boy Can Exercise Judgment

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, Dec. 16.—(Special.)—A question whether a child 11 years of age is of sufficient knowledge, discretion and appreciation of danger so that it may be held guilty of contributory negligence is one for a jury to determine, according to the Nebraska supreme court.

The case in controversy comes from the Douglas county district court on an appeal by the Claar Transfer company of Omaha from a judgment of $2,000 obtained by Robert Rule for injuries sustained by his 11-year-old son, who was hurt by being struck by a truck driven by employes of the transfer company.

Evidence in the case indicated that the boy was riding a bicycle on the wrong side of the street, but also that the truck was running above the speed limit and that the driver was not paying attention to where he was driving, consequently the court holds it is a question for a jury to decide and affirms the judgment of the lower court. Judge Sedgwick dissents.

Unmarried Farmers of Draft Age Should Go Slow in "Selling Out"

Unmarried farmers of draft age are advised by the district exemption board officials not to be in too much of a hurry to sell off their stock and farm implements upon receipt of a notice from their local boards that they have been placed in the first class.

"Failure to understand operation of the draft system has lead many young unmarried farmers to dispose of their effects prematurely," said R. J. Sutton of the office of the district exemption board. "If a single man, a farmer, has made no exemption claim except on agricultural grounds he is automatically placed in Class 1 by the local exemption boards in spite of his exemption claim. They send him a notice that he is in Class 1 and he immediately infers that he is to be drafted and begins disposing of his property. But the fact is he may not be drafted at all but may be ordered to remain upon his farm by the draft authorities.

"When the local board places him in Class 1 his case automatically goes up to the district exemption board at Omaha without any move on his part. The district exemption board investigates the claim for exemption on agricultural grounds and gives the final order whether he shall be drafted or remain on his farm.

"A number of young farmers in the first draft closed up their farms and were afterward exempted by the district board on agricultural grounds."

EX-CZAR ESCAPES JUST IN TIME TO AVOID FORTRESS

Red Regiments in Petrograd at the Time Were Adopting Resolution to Send Him With His Family to Strict Confinement at Kronstadt or Peter and Paul.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 16.—A dispatch from Reuters, Limited, Petrograd correspondent says that on Saturday about the time it was reported former Emperor Nicholas had escaped, a meeting of the Ismailovsky and Petrogradsky regiments was adopting a resolution demanding the immediate removal of the former ruler "with Alice (Alix) and family" to Kronstadt or to the St. Peter and St. Paul fortress for strict confinemen.

OPPOSE ASEMBLY.

The meetings of almost all units of the Petrograd garrison have sided with the peoples' commissioners and the soldiers' and workmen's delegates against the constituent assembly in the form originally issued. Three Cossack regiments quarters in Petrograd have been ordered to send detachments against General Kaledines.

The Isviestia, organ of the soldiers' and workmen's delegates, says that the maximalists, socialists and socialist revolutionaries of the Right must be classed with the Right parties and the counter revolutionaries.

Since the ejection of members of the constitutent assembly from Taurida Palace by armed sailors, attempts to meet there have been abandoned. The Bolsheviki Red Guards broke up a meeting for the defense of the constitutent assembly and made 40 arrests. Unruly scenes in the peasants' congress have followed clashes between the supporters and opponents of the constitutent assembly.

The destruction of wine stores in Petrograd continues, accompanied by orgies and shooting.

Reds Gain Upper Hand.

Partial, if not complete, collapse of the counter revolution in Russia is indicated in an announcement from the Petrograd official news agency, which says the Bolsheviki have captured three important cities in the Don Cossack territory and that General Kaledines, leader of the Don Cossacks, has been arrested, apparently by his own generals.

With General Korniloff reported defeated and wounded near Bielgorod and General Kaledines under arrest, the only one left of the counter revolutionary triumvirate of military leaders is General Dutoff, hetman of the Ural Cossacks, who has been operating in the province of Orenburg.

Peace Proceedings Go Forward.

The Russo-German peace negotiations are reported proceeding apace. A German official announcement says the conditions and draft of a "treaty" have been formulated, the discussions having been put over from Friday to Saturday, however, as the Russian delegates desired to obtain supplementary instructions from their government. Whether the word "treaty" refers to a formal peace treaty or merely to the armistice agreement that had been pending is not clear from the German announcement.

This is the first intimation that the Russian and German delegates have carried their deliberations further than the consideration of an armistice, although a Petrograd dispatch yesterday quoted Leon Trotzky, Bolsheviki foreign minister, o the effect that if an armistrice should be signed the Russian delegates would have the power to enter into peace negotiations.

JURY ACQUITS MEANS OF CHARGE OF KING MURDER

End of Long, Sensational Trial Reached When Verdict of "Not Guilty" Brought to Court Room.

Concord, N. C., Dec. 16.—Gaston B. Means was acquitted here today of a charge of slaying Mrs. Maude A. King, the wealthy New York and Chicago widow. The jury received the case last night, but after two hours deliberation announced a verdict would not be returned until today.

Mrs. King was killed at Blackwelder Spring, a lonely spot in the country near here, August 29 last, when with Means and a party of his friends she had stopped on an automobile drive to practice pistol shooting. Means and the woman were alone at the time, Captain W. S. Bingham and Afton Means, a brother of Gaston Means, having walked down the road to shoot at rabbits.

A coroner's inquest accepted the statement of Gaston Means that she shot herself accidentally. It was not until the woman's body was taken to Chicago for burial that charges of foul play were made. There the coroner's physician declared that the wound in the back of the woman's head could not have been self-inflicted.

Charged German Connections.

The investigation shifted to New York, where Mrs. King had resided for several years and where Means had handled her business affairs and a search of the apartments there of Mrs. King and her sister and Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Means, disclosed, according to New York officials that Means had misappropriated the woman's money, and also that he was connected with German agents.

Inherted Great Fortune.

Mrs. King had inherited approximately $1,000,000 from her second husband, the late James C. King of Chicago, and during the trial New York and Chicago witnesses declared nearly all of this sum had "vanished" during the time Means was connected with the woman's affairs. It also was asserted Means was preparing to offer for probate an alleged second will of James C. King which would give an additional $2,000,000 to Mrs. King.

Contended Loot of Money.

At his trial, the state contended that Means had looted the woman's fortune and killed her to escape an accounting. The defense denied this and offered evidence to show that Mrs. King appoved Means' speculations with her money.

Declares Loyal to United States.

Means said on the stand also that he had investigated alleged neutrality violations for German interests before the United States broke relations with Germany, but always loyal to his country and turned over to officials information he thought of value to this country.

U. S. to Train Men to Man Merchant Vessels

Washington, Dec. 16.—Completion of plans for training 58,000 men to man merchant vessels under construction for the government were announced tonight by the shipping board. The men will be schooled for the most part aboard training ships operating out of an Atlantic port.

Two of the training vessels to accommodate 600 men, each already have been selected and others will be put into service as fast as they can be obtained. Instruction will be by able seamen.

The men will be recruited throughout the country and while in school will be allowed $30 a month, board and clothing. Men without seafaring experience will be accepted.

"Suffs" Re-elect Mrs. Catt To National Presidency

Washington, Dec. 16.—Business sessions of the 49th annual convention of the national American Woman Suffrage association, were brought to a close here today with the re-election of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt as president, and of all other officers and adoption of resolutions pledging support to government activities directed to winning the war.

Strong Plea for State Railway Commissions

Washington, Dec. 16.—Representatives of state railway commissions were heard again today before the congressional joint railroad committee and all joined in objecting to any system of regulation which did away with the state commissions.