THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Just the same, that big Red Cross stocking might be more shapely.

Too many deaths from pneumonia among the boys in the training camps.

A charge of persistent gun toting would scarcely hold against General Crozier.

Omaha is booked this year for its first dry New Year's eve. Make your reservations early.

National prohibition this time drives through entanglements almost as easily as a British tank.

The kairer's eagerness for peace shows a marked advance over the quotations of July, 1914.

Extraordinary efforts to clamp the lid on the sugar deal suggest the need of opening the barrel at both ends.

Note, however, that the absent treatment healer resorts to the materialism of the courts to collect the disputed fee.

On the basis of the returns to date it is evident that Mexican gunmen expedite suicide by shooting across the Rio Grande.

Even if he did break jail in Siberia, Little Nick is a minor factor in the pending controversy. The present problem is to put Old Nick out of business on both sides of the Rhine.

Senator Kenyon has boldly introduced a bill proposing a war cut of $2,500 in the salaries of members of congress. The proposition challenges a congressional investigation of Iowa's nerve tonic.

Congressman Lobeck explains that he has heard of a change of sentiment on prohibition among his constituents. He must have listened to one of Mayor "Jim's" famous dry talks while he was home last time.

Tradition tells of ancient swords turned into pruning hooks and plow shares. Modern skill improves on primitive methods. By a few revolutions of a silent road roller "political pirates" transform swords into pie knives.

The cereal and animal harvest of the United States in 1917 represents a money value of $21,000,000,000, an increase of 50 per cent over the crop of 1946. The figures gauge the steam pressure behind the punch directed at Potsdam.

The multiplicity of drives for different war activities should drive home the need of centralized control over the solicitation for these funds. The temptations of the present methods are a standing premium for fraud and imposture.

Two successful raids by German sea craft in the North Sea indicate considerable freedom in that section of the briny. Besides the direct fruits of the raids there is the additional hurt of successfully poaching on the preserves of the British battle fleet.

The Commercial club once appointed a special commissioner to keep tab on what is doing in city hall and county building. Let him jog his memory with the letting of the annual contracts for supplies awarded with the beginning of every year and which always bears watching.

Victor Duras, the Nebraska man held prisoner in Russia on a trumped up charge of being a spy, was The Bee's correspondent at different points where he was located while in the American consular service. If he gets a chance to tell his story, he will tell it graphically and well.

Ruining Germany

New York Times

The state to which Germany has been reduced by the war is clear to the vision of that Hamburg business man who tells the Leipsic Neueste Nachrichten that Germany will be isolated commercially after the war. It makes no difference, he says, whether England grants her "the freedom of the seas" or not; "no voluntary agreement of England's, no paper understanding, can protect us." The German merchant marine has been destroyed; her commerce with the world is so irretrievably gone "that we must literally begin from the beginning again, and decades of strenuous work will not suffice to rebuild what has been destroyed in these three years."

This calamity, he declares, has not been brought about so much by the forcible destruction of the merchant marine as by the alienation of hitherto neutral countries, which, of course, he ascribes to England's machinations, not to the real cause.

"The heaviest blow of this kind was the inducement of China and most of the South American countries to take steps of this nature. The German business man, who, after peace is declared, goes out into the world, will find ruins everywhere, and if he attempts to rebuild them he will be prevented by a wall of enmity."

If this condition is kept up, he declares, "the German empire would be reduced to a second class power." All this he makes an argument for continuing the war until England is thoroughly beaten, so that she cannot effectively keep up her enmity after peace is declared. It seems a non sequitur, and inclines one to believe that the conclusion is recorded only for the purpose of avoiding the censorship. However that may be, he has, possibly without knowing it, framed a terrible indictment of the German militarists for the injury they have inflicted on their own country.

National Prohibition Up to the People.

The vote in the lower house of congress recording the necessary two-thirds majority puts up to the people the question of incorporating national prohibition into the federal constitution.

The fact that the resolution had already passed the senate at its last session in identical form, except a small variation in the time limit for ratification, unquestionably had much to do with the result in the house, which has heretofore been disposed to pass such ticklish questions over to the senate, leaving that body to serve as the buffer. With the senate responding first to the rising tide of prohibition sentiment, it is not so surprising after all that the house should follow suit.

The vote to submit national prohibition, it must be understood, is merely preliminary to the move to secure the ratification by three-fourths of the states requisite to making it a part of the fundamental law of the land. It is fair to assume that some states whose legislatures meet this winter, will take action at once, but in most of the states the legislatures to which the amendment will go are yet to be chosen, so that in these the wet and dry issue will naturally be drawn for the next election.

Whether this will be true in states like Nebraska, already under state wide constitutional prohibition, remains to be seen. Another question is more likely to arise here as to whether action by the legislature may be forestalled by submitting the resolution as an initiative measure, or be delayed by invoking a referendum upon it. For ourselves, we believe it would be better to have the ratifying resolution accepted or rejected by direct vote of the people without waiting for the aid or consent of any intermediary legislation, as this would come nearest to a popular verdict which would be accepted as final.

The outstanding fact is, that not only in this country, but everywhere throughout the civilized world, the popular trend toward prohibition has been greater in the last few years than in the whole previous half century, and no reaction is in sight.

What's the Matter With the Post Office?

The Bee's strictures on the "shameful surplus" boastfully exhibited in Postmaster-General Burleson's report find powerful support and corroboration in the remarks explaining different features of the post office appropriation bill offered by Chairman Moon of the post office committee when he presented that measure to the house. It transpires that this alleged surplus of $9,000,000 has been chalked up in spite of the increase in the cost of handling foreign mails and mails to soldiers' camps not foreseen when the budget was made out, in spite of another little item of $1,750,000 of relief given a favored contractor released from his obligation to supply stamped envelopes, and notwithstanding also the claim of the department that the rural delivery service is costing $20,000,000 more than it ought to cost and would cost if handled on a star route basis.

The demoralization and inefficiency of the whole postal service could not, however, be denied, for when prodded to tell why it now takes twice as long to send a letter and get an answer from New York to Duluth, Mr. Moon replied:

"Not being entirely familiar, or even partially familiar, with the administration of affairs in the office of the second assistant, who has jurisdiction over this subject, I can not say; but if I were to venture a suggestion at all, I would say it was due to the fact that there has been an effort to cut down the crews on the railway post office cars and to force distribution at terminal points instead of upon the cars, as heretofore, and to reduce the work to fixed hours instead of working until the distribution was finished, as heretofore. I think these things have brought about the delay. They effect some economy in money, but the delay is more costly to the people than the benefit which results from the financial economy."

The trouble is that the Burleson administration of the post office promises no improvement or even serious endeavor to correct existing unsatisfactory conditions. In its effort to make another "record," no increase is asked in the appropriations for the branches of the service which have been most crippled, and the post office committee is letting the department have its own way. "I want to say to the gentleman from Missouri," explained Chairman Moon, when asked if the appropriation for rural delivery should not be increased, "that the committee hardly ever thinks of increasing the appropriation asked for by the department because we have always found that they ask for a little more than they need." In the meantime every business in the country, in any way depending upon the prompt transmission and delivery of the mails, is suffering delay and irreparable loss because of a post office policy that makes efficiency impossible.

Omaha and the Teachers.

Members of the Nebraska State Teachers' association have by ballot expressed their will as to the next meeting place and again in favor of Omaha, the place of the last meeting. We think that both parties in interest are to be congratulated. The people of Omaha did their best at the last meeting of the association to show the pedagogues their visit was appreciated and that there was a sincere desire to have the teachers return as often as they will.

The action in this case has some little significance not apparent on the surface of things. For one thing, it marks the diminution of a senseless prejudice which certain people have made it their business to fan and to do so it was necessary to misrepresent Omaha in many important particulars. The bogey man which these ill advised shouters raised to intimidate the teachers has been laid low and it is now and will hereafter be very difficult for the busy-bodies who disparage Omaha to find an excuse for so doing.

The truth is that Omaha takes no back seat culturally, educationally, morally and artistically, for any other city in the state. It has more and more effective organizations for moral uplift than any other community. Omaha is well entitled to the distinction of metropolis in all that the word implies, and in addition to a social order unexcelled anywhere, it offers the teachers many opportunities to acquire practical ideas, not only along educational lines, but also in the domain of social welfare. It will be mutually beneficial for our Nebraska teachers to come to Omaha to hold their convention.

The reds of Petrograd must be credited with practicing what they preach. In cleaning up the city's banks for 300,000,000 rubles the war on capitalism scores heavily and whets the appetite for more power and plunder. Still the reds' efficiency in that line falls far short of German thoroughness in looting Belgium and France.

Land for Soldiers

By Frederic J. Haskin

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—While the American people are facing for the first time an actual shortage of food millions of acres in this country that might be productive remain wholly undeveloped. Nor is much new ground now being broken despite the unprecedented demand for products of the ground. On the contrary men are leaving the rural districts where they can make a few hundred dollars a year as farm hands or farm owners for the high wages offered by industry in the cities. There is little apparent prospect that production of foodstuffs will catch up with demand unless some fundamental change is made in the method of production.

The reason cultivation does not extend and production of foods increase is simply that farming does not pay. The cost of farming operations has advanced fully as fast as the price of foodstuffs. No doubt, too, an unduly large share of that price is absorbed by a badly regulated system of distribution, which the government is now trying to improve by its food administration and its projected control of the railroads. But back of all these abundantly advertised troubles of the farmer stands the fact that the land is so expensive it cannot be farmed at a profit; it is impossible to make a fair wage, much less any interest on his investments. Nor does increasing efficiency of production solve the question, for the valuation of the land advances faster than the price of its product.

This situation has long been recognized by students of the question. Professor Spillman of the Department of Agriculture, by a detailed study of a number of typical farms, showed that the man who buys his farm can make but a fraction as much as the man who spends the same amount in renting land. But his investigation also showed that a man must be a capitalist, so to speak, in order to earn fair wages even on rented land. Another investigation by the department has shown that the vast majority of farmers make but a few hundred dollars a year. The department has recently made some effort to determine whether present high prices are resulting in any "back to the land" movement, but all the evidence seems to indicate that the bulk of the movement is the other way.

Not only are farms being deserted in some sections and undercultivated in others, but great areas of swamp, cut-over land, timbered and arid land that might be made productive by reclamation, are idle, and under present conditions apparently doomed to remain so.

There are estimated to be a hundred million acres of these wild lands in the continental United States which might be made fit for agriculture. In addition to this there are 65,000,000 acres in Alaska which are believed to be useful for farming or grazing.

These wild lands in the United States obviously offer the best chance for instituting a new system of land tenure which will make it possible to farm at a profit, increase our food production and provide the soldiers who will return from Europe with the means to an independent livelihood. Various schemes for us using them are in the air.

The first and most indispensable step in the plan is a classification of unused lands, showing exactly what they are fit for. In the past, many men have taken up homesteads in the west upon which it was nearly or quite impossible to make a living. The waste and discouragement involved in such mistakes will not be allowed to take place any more. Neither will forest and mineral lands be held as farms, for this scheme contemplates a scientific utilization of all natural resources. Forest lands will be conserved, and used in such a way that the men who work them will have homes instead of "camps" to live in. Mineral lands are to be developed in the same way.

The administrative body which is to have charge of this national enterprise in real estate is to be known as the colonization board, and is to be given broad powers. In the case of lands owned by the government, it will simply proceed with the work of reclamation, much as it is being done now, except that in order to prevent speculation title to the lands will probably remain in the government.

But outside of Alaska the amount of land owned by the government is very small. The tracts which must be developed are owned by a great variety of corporations and individuals as well as by states. The problem is therefore one of co-operation between these various interests. There is every reason to believe that such co-operation can be successfully brought about. Since the United States entered the war all of the elements in our industrial and social life are becoming rapidly accustomed to co-operation on a national scale under the leadership of the national government; while the state governments have already co-operated with the federal power in road building, education and conservation.

The development of lands owned by states can be effected by a plan similar to that which has been used in building roads. The federal government can supply a certain proportion of the funds or credit and the states the rest. The disposal of the use of the lands will be in the hands of the federal colonization board and individuals will have conferred upon them all of the benefits of ownership except the right to resell.

In the case of privately owned land the procedure will have to be adapted to various conditions. There is reason to believe, however, that land owners will give the government prompt and willing co-operation as soon as they see that the desire is to get for the land owners a reasonable profit on his investment. Many holders of timber lands and waste lands in this country, owing to the difficulty of developing them at a profit, are decidedly "land poor." A proposition that the government should become their real estate agent, guaranteeing improvement and disposal of the land, would be very welcome to many of these owners. It is only from professional speculators in land who constitute the chief class that has been making any money out of it that opposition is to be anticipated. And this class is so small compared to the great number of citizens who would be benefited by the development and distribution of these lands that its opposition can scarcely be effective.

A Larger Yellowstone Park

Minneapolis Journal

Emerson Hough advocates the enlargement of the Yellowstone National park by the addition of territory extending 60 miles south of the present southern boundary. The addition includes the Teton mountains, said to be as picturesque as any in the United States, and the Jackson Hole region, once the refuge of bandits and still as wild a country as is anywhere now to be found. Congressman Mondell of Wyoming promises to introduce a bill providing for the extension, and even in war time a measure so obviously advantageous should have its chance.

Mr. Hough wants the superb scenery preserved for the people for all time, but he is immediately interested in the preservation of the game, particularly of "the southern elk herd," which passes the summers in the Yellowstone park, but drifts southward on winter's approach. The larger part of the herd's winter range has hitherto been protected in the Teton reserve of Wyoming; but that has now been thrown open to hunters by the state, and Mr. Hough predicts that two years will suffice to wipe out the herd unless the Mondell bill is made law this winter.

Thousands have learned the uses of the national parks and thousands more will be enjoying them. American travel will never set to Europe again in such streams as before the war. Since the war broke out Americans have been discovering America at a prodigious rate. The national parks have proved boons. The only trouble with them is that they are too few and too small. The travel to them augments every year. Within a generation it will be enormous.

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

Henry C. Frick, one of the eminent leaders in American industry and finance, will celebrate his sixty-eighth birthday anniversary today. Born in a western Pennsylvania town, Mr. Frick began his career as a clerk for his grandfather, a flour merchant and distiller. Early in life he saw the possibilities of the coke industry in western Pennsylvania and in the course of time he became the principal factor in its development. Subsequently he turned to the development of the iron and steel industry in the same section. For many years he was closely associated in business with Andrew Carnegie. In later years Mr. Frick turned to the task of financiering many great manufacturing projects. He is on the directorates of numerous large manufacturing and transportation corporations, including the United States Steel corporation. He now resides in New York City, where he has built a great mansion and filled it with one of the finest private art collections in America.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Austro-Germans advanced toward Sereth river in Roumania, near Russian border.

Former Premier Asquith promised full support to Lloyd George and declared Germany's shout for peace was caused by its military and economic necessity.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Amendments to the articles of incorporation of the Knights of Pythias Building association were filed with the county clerk. The capital stock is placed at $300,000, divided into 30,000 shares at $10 each.

A number of prominent citizens met at the chamber of commerce to

take preliminary steps towards the erection of a fireproof hotel.

Tom and Ed Croft left on the Wabash for England, where they will visit their brother.

Bishop Bonacum arrived in this city from St. Louis on his way to Lincoln.

A petition from the African Methodist Espiscopal church, asking for the use of the Castelar school until spring for church purposes, was referred to the committee on buildings and property with power to act.

At the suggestion of Mr. McConnell, a room was ordered prepared in the Cass street school for the use of night school, the same to commence next term.

The bids for $65,000 short-time district paving 6 per cent bonds were opened in the office of the city treasurer. There were two bids, one by Blake Bros. of Boston, Mass., and one by the Omaha Loan and Trust company. The latter was accepted, being the highest.

This Day in History.

1606—The first English settlers left London for Virginia.

1777—Washington's army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, on the Schuylkill river.

1814—Edwin M. Stanton, secretary of war under President Lincoln, born at Steubenville, O. Died in Washington, D. C., December 24, 1869.

1828—South Carolina legislature protested against the tariff.

1830—Nathaniel T. Lupton, noted chemist and president of the University of Alabama, born near Winchester, Va. Died at Auburn, Ala., June 12, 1893.

1864—President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers.

1878—Bayard Taylor, famous American author, died at Berlin, Germany. Born at Kennett Square, Pa., January 11, 1825.

1892—House of representatives passed a bill increasing the pensions of Mexican war veterans.

1914—Russians defeated Turks near Alagoaz in the Caucasus.

1915—British withdrew Anzac army, estimated at 100,000 men, from the Gallipoli.

The Day We Celebrate.

Eleanor H. Porter, author of the "Pollyana" books, born at Littleton, N. H., 49 years ago today.

Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, celebrated actress, now appearing in "Mme. Sand," born in New Orleans 52 years ago today.

Maria L. Sanford, for nearly 30 years a member of the faculty of the University of Minnesota, born at Old Saybrook, Conn., 81 years ago today.

Walter Douglas, president of the American Mining congress, born in Quebec 47 years ago today.

Reginald C. Vanderbilt, millionaire sportsman, born in New York City 37 years ago today.

Albert A. Michaelson, Chicago university professor and Nobel prize winner, born in Germany 65 years ago today.

Ambrose Swasey, noted engineer and telescope builder, born at Exeter, N. H., 71 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

The opera "Marouf," by Henri Rabaud, is to be presented for the first time in America tonight at the Metropolitan opera house in New York City.

Retail grocers, commission merchants and hotel and restaurant men of Florida are to meet in state conference at Orlando today to decide upon a policy with reference to food conservation.

More than 1,000 manufacturers with plants in the state of New Jersey are to meet in convention at Newark today to consider measures by which the great manufacturing industries of the state can best serve the government during the war.

A conference between retail automobile distributors and the commercial economy board of the Council of National Defense is to be held in Washington today to discuss plans for co-operation in solving some of the problems which confront the automobile trade as a result of economic disturbances caused by the war.

Storyette of the Day.

She blushed prettily as she walked into the tobacconist's big shop.

"Yes, madame?" said the assistant, smiling interrogatively, as they say in all the best novels.

"I—er—oh, I want some cigars, please," she said, hurriedly, under her breath, hastening to add: "But not for myself—for my husband."

"Certainly, madame, what kind do you like?"

"Oh, the best—quite the best, please."

"Certainly, madame, strong or medium?"

"The very strongest you've got, please," she answered, in decided tones. "My husband was complaining only the other day that the last lot he bought all broke in his pocket, so they had better be strong, hadn't they?"

And the young man behind the counter hadn't the heart to contradict her.—Exchange.

It was stated recently in court at Brighton, England, that a hairdresser who worked voluntarily at a local military hospital had given 56,000 free shaves and hair cuts to wounded soldiers

The Bee's Letter Box

Put National Anthem on Program.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 17—To the Editor of The Bee: I attended the play given by the Forum of the South Side High school, and feel that with a word of congratulation on the splendid entertainment afforded there is deserving a word of criticism on one feature. In the several selections rendered by the orchestra, I listened in vain for the national anthem, which by all means should be given the first place on every program in a school. It might be a good tip to the one responsible for the selection of the music for this orchestra, that if he wants to make a hit he will put the patriotic music on the most prominent part of the program.

SILLICUS.

Calls it a Germ Bugaboo.

Omaha, Neb., December, 15—To the Editor of The Bee: R. B. Howell says that "Carter lake contains many typhoid germs." I wonder if he has taken a poll of them?

He says "that cold does not hurt them." Well, if this is true, then Joe Hummel should take notice and close the "muny bathing beach" before they thaw out in the spring and we all get full of germs.

Think of ringing in Mr. Germ, in such silly shallow argument, just to put across a deal. Private ownership of municipal politics under the slogan of municipal ownership is sure going some.

I have bathed, fished and hunted for years in and around this lake and feel quite sure that all this germ stuff is only an unproven theory to use to scare people.

Let's be square, and cut out this germ bugaboo and go to cutting ice.

S. ARION LEWIS.

Let's All "Effervesce."

Omaha, Dec. 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: Every so often some of our friends who are, of course, not pro-German—they simply don't want to see anything happen to Germany—call down anyone who shows the least enthusiasm in the interests of America by flinging at him a term like "effervescent patriotism." It's a good term and I'd like to see more of it, only they don't mean it that way. They think they are hitting a body blow when they use it.

Now, let's see. Wasn't it Emerson, or was it some other foolish fellow like him, who said, "Nothing great was ever yet accomplished without enthusiasm." Whoever said it must have had some experience with pacifistic, nonenthusiastic friends. Surely the work in hand is great; at any rate it's difficult. Germany is not going to be defeated by beautifully modeled sentences, nor good will, nor pleas for democracy, nor in any other way than their own way, shot and shell and gas and bombs and grenades and bayonets, used enthusiastically, effervescently, ruthlessly, and the sooner we wake up to the fact, the sooner the agony will be over. And it will help some if our pacifist friends will use whatever influence they may have in persuading their good friends to let slightly on the burning and blowing up and other effervescent pleasantries in this country.

There are a thousand men who are absolutely loyal, a thousand upstanding American men, to every lickspittle, timid, cowering imitation of man who goes about apologizing for baby murder, treachery, lying, raping, on the ground that our own country has at times done such things. It's a lie to begin with. The United States army is not perfect, but if every army in the world had as good a record it would be something to be proud of. In all the rumors that have been printed wholesale outrages and murder of civilians by orders from headquarters has never been charged against our army, and never will be, even if it should by the grace of God get on German soil, where the provocation would be great.

Let's all enthuse, let's effervesce. Perhaps it may help remedy the condition shown to exist by the senate investigation.

H. W. MORROW.

Easy to Make This Pine Cough Remedy

Thousands of families swear by its prompt results. Inexpensive, and saves about $2.

You know that pine is used in nearly all prescriptions and remedies for coughs. The reason is that pine contains several peculiar elements that have a remarkable effect in soothing and healing the membranes of the throat and chest. Pine is famous for this purpose.

Pine cough syrups are combinations of pine and syrup. The "syrup" part is usually plain granulated sugar syrup. Nothing better, but why buy it? You can easily make it yourself in five minutes.

To make the best pine cough remedy that money can buy, put 2½ ounces of Pinex (60 cents worth) in a pint bottle, and fill up with home-made sugar syrup. This gives you a full pint—more than you can buy ready-made for $2.50. It is pure, good and very pleasant—children take it eagerly.

You can feel this take hold of a cough or cold in a way that means business. The cough may be dry, hoarse and tight, or may be persistently loose from the formation of phlegm. The cause is the same—inflamed membranes—and this Pinex and Syrup combination will stop it—usually in 24 hours or less. Splendid, too, for bronchial asthma, hoarseness, or any ordinary throat ailment.

Pinex is a highly concentrated compound of genuine Norway pine extract, and is famous the world over for its prompt results.

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