

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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"A dry" America in eight years! Let that
speak in.

Enlisted with the Red Cross for 1918? If
not, why not?

He who runs may readily read the figures
on the coal price board.

Too much disparity in the ages of Sprackles
and Hoover puts a "finish go" outside the range
of real sport.

"Fighting railroads is out of date," observes
the State Council of Defense. Mark up another
horror of war.

The reported shortage in iron, however, is
not likely to interfere with the output of con-
gressional probes.

Every morning sun schedules a day's work
for readers of federal regulation orders. No
charge for overtime.

A world shortage of sheep is the latest note
of alarm. Coming from official sources the yarn
may be accepted as all wool.

Emperor William is very solicitous about
the welfare and divine treatment of ex-Czar Nicholas
of Russia. Divine right rulers just naturally have
a fellow feeling.

As early as last July the Russian General
Brusiloff denounced Lenin as a German emissary.
Events prove that the general had the red boss' number in advance.

Our poor overworked lawmakers at Wash-
ington will take only a two weeks' Christmas
vacation. Such sacrifice and self-denial cannot be
too deeply appreciated by Mr. Common
People.

One Omaha naval officer went down with
the Jacob Jones and now another is among the sur-
vivors of the F-1. It seems fated that our Oma-
ha boys are to be in at the thick of the trouble
everywhere.

As colonel-to-be of the "Unlucky Seventh,"
Governor Neville, has, nevertheless, gotten a lot
of free advertising, but not necessarily the kind
he can convert into political capital as a candi-
date for re-election.

Yesterday reports laid special emphasis on
the scarcity of pork. This week farmers are ad-
vised that the market is glutted with hogs. If
these reports appear confusing, safety suggests
joining a "Don't worry" club.

Several congressmen naively declare they did
not know they had voted to exempt themselves
from the excess income tax until they read
about it in the newspapers. There is nothing
under the sun so innocent and guileless as a
member of congress.

The house of representatives set January 10
for a vote on the national suffrage amendment.
Perhaps the date has no other significance,
still the sandwiching of a crisis between Jack-
son's day and the blizzard anniversary suggests
a brief period of hot and cold waves.

Surgeon General Gorgas sounds a note of
warning on army camp conditions that should
receive instant attention. Deficiencies are not
confined to proper equipment. Medical attention
and treatment is not what it should be, to put
it mildly, and the surgeon general should set
the example of giving effect to his own warning.

Final Crop Estimates

Wall Street Journal

Final figures of the crop production have
been published by the Department of Agriculture.
Taking this estimate as a basis, the total
money value of crop and animal production ap-
proximates \$21,000,000,000. This is 50 per cent
more than the official estimate of the 1916 har-
vest. Impressive as the figures may be, it must
be remembered that the real value of the crops
is measured by the quantity of food they rep-
resent.

The wheat crop falls considerably below the
November estimate. While it is 15,000,000 bushels
greater than that of 1916, the reserve of old
wheat this year was approximately 125,000,000
bushels less, so that at the lowest estimate, our
wheat supply is 100,000,000 bushels short of last
year. Remember, also, that the 1916 crop was
170,000,000 bushels less than the average of the
crop in the five preceding years. The moral is,
to save wheat. Save wheat for war purposes.
Is our oatmeal?

What shall we eat? The report shows food
in plenty, if we will put our country above our
appetite. Rye, corn, oats, barley, buckwheat and
rice are large crops, and some are of record pro-
portions. The two kinds of potatoes total
5,343,000 bushels. This is almost 25 per cent
more than last year. There is a crop of onions
and cabbage almost double that of last year.
Feed for live stock and poultry is abundant.
There should be no talk of famine, nor should
there be any famine prices.

But the food condition of the world is serious.
Heavy drafts will be made on North America,
not only to support the armies of civilization,
out to keep neutrals alive. Some figures put out
by Mr. Hoover differ from those of the Depart-
ment of Commerce. But if they are correct, then
we have already exported all our surplus wheat,
if we keep up our normal consumption. In that
case, what will Europe do? How will the armies
fight without food? This crop report should
call Americans to the duty of saving wheat and
meat.

Turn the Search Light Full On.

Congress may count on unqualified public ap-
proval and support for the inquiries it has begun
into the preparations for the war if only it makes
a thorough and impartial job of it.

The great body of the American people have
responded, without stopping to measure the sacri-
fice, to every demand that has been made upon
them so far in connection with the war, and they
expect and have a right to know that the
money they are advancing and the sons and
brothers they are furnishing for service are be-
ing employed under competent and efficient di-
rection to the best advantage in procuring the
desired end.

As everyone knows, the air is full of reports
and gossip about incompetency and mismanage-
ment in many departments, about needless de-
lays and mistakes, about favoritism and self-
advantage—some of these stories doubtless wholly
without foundation and others based on firm
footings of fact.

Congress is responsible to the people for ex-
ercising a strict control of the expenditure of the
moneys it votes, and it properly devolves upon
congress to check and correct whatever abuses
or waste or futile expenditure may be uncovered.
It also devolves upon congress particularly to
see to it that the machinery for whose running
it has provided so generously and lavishly, is
speeded up, because the faster the movement the
quicker will the goal be reached, and every
month or week or day or hour saved, carries a
corresponding saving of life and limb and suffer-
ing and sorrow.

Neither should congress be squeamish or
hesitant about fixing responsibility for blame-
worthiness. Our people are playing no favorites
in army or navy or in administrative positions.
Those who have failed to deliver the goods
should be set aside without compunction regard-
less whether they occupy a high or low posi-
tion.

Let the search light then be turned full on.
Let us have thorough reorganization and
strengthening wherever there is a weak spot
in the lines.

Why?

It was officially announced by the secretary
of the navy in Washington Tuesday evening that
an American submarine had been rammed and
sunk by another American submarine in home
waters Monday afternoon and 19 lives lost.

If this disaster occurred Monday afternoon,
why was the news of it withheld by the secre-
tary of the navy until Tuesday evening?

Are not the relatives and friends of the men
whose lives were sacrificed, is not the public in
general, entitled to have information of such an
accident with reasonable promptness?

What good purpose could be subserved by sup-
pressing all tidings of this affair for more than
24 hours, and how could its disclosure through
the channels of the press affect the question of
culpability any more or any less by keeping it
dark so long, presumably as long as it was pos-
sible to do so?

We all realize the necessity of a censorship
over army and navy news that may be turned to
account by the enemy, but why should the secre-
tary of the navy do things like this, so need-
lessly, that are sure to bring the censorship into
discredit?

Where Do Building Materials Come In?

A member of the Omaha Builders' Exchange
recently said that Omaha enjoys the reputation
of doing more building now and having more
plans for the winter than any other city of twice
its size. This statement may not be strictly ac-
curate, yet it is approximately true, and is
significant of Omaha's standing among the solid,
progressive cities of the west. We have been
forging ahead steadily for 10 years and particu-
larly during the last five years.

With all the construction work going on here
and in contemplation for the winter and spring,
the master builders naturally are somewhat
solicitous as to what the transportation com-
panies can do for them in the way of handling
the building materials which in some cases must
be shipped long distances, either in the raw state
or finished. These builders are somewhat anx-
ious lest the demand for building materials and
skilled labor may at some point or other con-
flict with the government interest, or in some
way interfere with construction work in promo-
tion of the war.

The situation in this regard while not alarm-
ing is such as to render uncertain these plans for
the construction of a number of large build-
ings contemplated. No man can say what is to
be expected in the matter of transportation for
the railroads themselves are powerless. The ex-
traordinary demand made upon them for the
transportation of materials, merchandise, etc., is
greater than ever before, and the transportation
board, operating for and in behalf of the govern-
ment, has found it impossible to cope with the
situation in all particulars. The question is, is
the transportation of materials for the construction
of buildings in this and other cities more
pressing than is the transportation of materials,
manufactured or to be manufactured for the im-
mediate purposes of war? This question can be
answered only by men in position to survey the
whole field of industry and the many branches
of war work. It is not a local question and any
approach to the solution of the problem can be
made only by those in a position to take the
broadest view of existing conditions.

Congressman Medill McCormick reports the
British short of artillery, as well as the French
and the American armies. German correspon-
dents appear unaware of the deficit. A writer in
the Berlin Post, describing a battle in Flanders,
says: "Shells of the heaviest caliber thundered
across, with mines and machine gun volleys and
hand grenades, all uniting in a blood-curdling
hellish pandemonium such as even Dante would
never be able to describe." Wonder what would
happen if the British had a full assortment of
artillery?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier fought his last political
battle at 76 and lost. Formerly the leader of
progressive thought in Canada the liberal party
chief failed to measure the spirit of the battle
for world democracy, in which Canadians are
taking a glorious part, and fell out of the ranks.
Leaders who will not lead must be content with
the dust of onward marchers.

According to official returns, there are 22,696
millionaires in this country, almost 8,000 of them
breaking into seven-figure society within twelve
months. Uncle Sam is not supposed to play fa-
vorites, still his affection for millionaires rises
above the average and approaches a fifty-fifty
ratio.

Housing Enemy Aliens

By Eric J. Haskin

Washington, D. C. Dec. 18.—The United
States government is now holding nearly 2,000
prisoners of war. Most of them are officers and
seamen from interned enemy ships; some are un-
welcome German subjects who failed to leave
with von Bernstorff and still others are more or
less suspicious individuals arrested by the De-
partment of Justice. But, whatever they are, they
have to be fed, clothed and housed by the gov-
ernment.

This does not sound like much of a problem
in the days when almost every country in the
world is accommodating prisoners of war, but
you can take it from the Department of Labor
that it was. In some way the job of caring for
enemy aliens was handed to the bureau of im-
migration of this department, without, however,
any appropriation or suggestions as to how it was
to be done. The government itself had not pre-
pared for such an emergency. Its own prisons
were full. There was, in fact, no appropriate
place for the enemy aliens to go.

Nevertheless certain officials of the bureau of
immigration remained at their desks all night on
April 4 waiting for the verdict of congress. At
3:14 a. m. they received the news that war on
Germany had been declared. Exactly one minute
later a message reading, "proceed instantly, Wil-
son," was telegraphed to every United States
port. Less than an hour later immigration offi-
cials had boarded every enemy ship, removing
the crews and placing them in the nearest avail-
able prison quarters.

Having done this much the bureau wondered
what it was going to do next. Congress was
too preoccupied with other war problems to feel
any great concern or sympathy over the welfare
of German prisoners. The prison quarters chosen
by the immigration officials were in most cases
the immigration stations. Sixty-four men were
imprisoned in New Orleans immigration station—
a modern well equipped building, but hardly
a permanent prison accommodation; 71 officers
and 49 seamen were detained in the Philadelphia
station at Gloucester City, N. J.; 86 offi-
cers and 191 seamen were held in the immigra-
tion station of Boston, 180 interned aliens at San
Francisco and 200 officers and men at Ellis
island.

None of these accommodations was suitable.
In New Orleans the men had to be removed on
account of climatic conditions. The station at
Gloucester was entirely inadequate to the situa-
tion. In Boston the United States public health
officials very courteously handed over their quar-
antine station at Gallup's island for the accom-
modation of the prisoners and they have since
been removed there. Additional buildings have
been constructed by the aliens themselves under
the direction of the immigration officials, sup-
plies have been bought, and the place has been
turned into an excellent prison cantonment, with
a section of the Young Men's Christian associa-
tion in army huts furnishing entertainment for
the alien prisoners.

At Ellis island no remedy presented itself in
the absence of a federal appropriation, so there
the aliens stayed in spite of much congestion
and inconvenience. In the meantime, however,
the bureau of immigration was working on plans
for a permanent and suitable location for them.
At first the government reservation at Pisgah
forest seemed to answer the problem, its location
and climate being good, its need for roads con-
spicuous. And it was planned to let the aliens
build the roads. But the forest contained no
buildings capable of housing the aliens immedi-
ately, so the bureau had to look elsewhere.

A location at Kanuga lake, near Henderson-
ville, N. C., also seemed to offer ideal condi-
tions, but this also had to be relinquished on
account of some flaw in the title to the property.
At last, however, the Mountain Park hotel at
North Carolina's famous Hot Springs, 39 miles
west of Asheville, was chosen, the hotel and
100 acres of land being rented. The necessary
appropriation from congress came just in time.

It may also be stated parenthetically that if
it had been the bureau's idea to choose a loca-
tion for its picturesque beauty instead of for
utilitarian purposes it could not have been more
successful. The property is located on a broad
stream 1,300 feet up in the mountains in what is
North Carolina's wildest strip of country. In
summer there will not be any need for guards if
they teach the aliens trout fishing.

As the government needed all the labor it
could get to promulgate the war, the plan was to
have the aliens construct their own quarters and
add to their own maintenance as much as pos-
sible by cultivating a part of the 100 acres. A
special staff was put in charge of this construc-
tion work and the erection of the barracks
began. Meetings of the alien committee had appointed a
committee from among their own members to
deal with the government. All complaints, sug-
gestions and requests were made by this com-
mittee. The Department of Labor decided that
each alien who hewed and cut and built for the
government should be paid for his labor at the
rate of \$20 a month. A foreman was to get \$25
a month. No alien is permitted to receive more
than \$10 a month, a seaman not more than \$5.
The rest is put in the postal savings bank to
his credit or spent for him by the authorities,
according to his instructions. No alien can buy
his clothes direct from any establishment, for
example, but his order will be taken care of by
the director's office.

The internment camp at Hot Springs is
rapidly nearing completion and more aliens from
San Francisco and Ellis island are arriving every
week. In addition to repairs made in the hotel
the alien laborers have constructed an officers'
barracks with a capacity for 100 officers, seven
seamen's barracks with a capacity of 150 each,
eight lavatories, a large warehouse, an office for
guard officers, a dining room and kitchen, 15
sentry stations and three-fourths of a mile of
100-foot barbed wire fence with electric lights
at certain intervals.

Moreover, the aliens built the foundations for
their own water, sewer and electric light sys-
tems. Needless to say they have had plenty to
do. German intrigue has not flourished as usual
at Hot Springs, N. C. It hasn't had a chance to.
The officers are so busy directing the work of
new projects and the men are so busy doing the
work that there is no opportunity for hatching
schemes to help the kaiser. And this, in spite
of the fact that the officers' camp is conducted
largely on the honor system, there being only
seven guards on duty at a time. But then the
North Carolina wilderness is a great safeguard
to a man's honor in a matter of this kind, escape
being distinctly impracticable.

People and Events

Two lumps to each cup visions the sugar
saying policy of National Press club at Washington.
The "sacrifice" carries the label: "Practicing
what we preach."

Police hurry calls have gone out to property
owners and tenants in Chicago to keep side-
walks free of snow or else covered with ashes,
sand or sawdust. Failure to obey costs \$5 a day
and trimmings, and Chicago needs the money.

The roll call at the Great Lakes naval station
last Monday brought answers from 25,879 men,
the largest number of young jacksies ever en-
rolled at the station. The enlistment rush of
last week brought 4,000 recruits to the naval
colors there.

Another New York grand jury proposes an
inquiry into the "so-called" Bolsheviki, who per-
sist in knocking government plans for pushing
the war to a finish. The inquiry, to be effective,
should recommend the returning benefits of a
copious rock pile.

George F. Vanderveer, the Industrial Workers
of the World attorney who rushed from Seattle
to Chicago to manage the defense of the men on
trial, barely hit the lake shore before the cops
took him in as a gun tater. The artillery bulged
the hip pocket and gave him away.

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

Robert Lee Williams, governor of
Oklahoma, who recently displayed a
commendable firmness in suppressing
disorders in certain parts of his state
where the draft was being resisted,
will leave his fifth year today,
having been born December 20, 1868.
Governor Williams is an Alabamian
who took up his home in the Indian
territory a few years after he had
graduated in law and been admitted
to the bar. With the admission of
Oklahoma to the union he rose to
prominence in the democratic party
in the new state. He was elected the
first chief justice of the Oklahoma
supreme court and served in that
position from 1907 until 1915, when
he resigned to accept the governorship.
In dealing with the recent trying sit-
uation arising from the war the gov-
ernor displayed those qualities of fair-
ness and loyalty to liberty under the
law which he had gained by years of
experience as a jurist.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

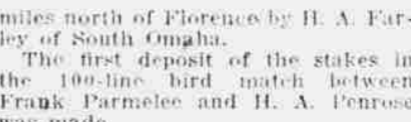
President Wilson sent note to all
the belligerents requesting they define
more exactly their peace terms.

Russians made a stand at Molda-
vian border and in Dobruja, where
violent fighting was reported under-
way.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

All arrangements have finally been
made for the meet between Tommy
Gardner, the lion's champion feather-
weight, and Ike Weir, the "Bellfast
Spider," and a most interesting exhibi-
tion is forthcoming.

A 205-pound buck was killed three



miles north of Florence by H. A. Far-
ley of South Omaha.

The first deposit of the stakes in
the 100,000 bird match between
Frank Parmelee and H. A. Fenrose
was made.

There was an important meeting of
the committee of the Knights of
Pythias, having in charge the pre-
liminary arrangements for the erec-
tion of the home of that order in this
city. It was resolved to select Far-
nam and Nineteenth streets as the
site for the proposed structure,
which, with the ground, will cost
\$200,000.

The Elks elected the following di-
rectors for the ensuing year: C. S.
Parrotte, W. N. Babcock, I. W. Miner,
R. C. McClure, Sidney Smith, Thomas
Swabe, F. Dickenson, T. W. Haines
and George T. Mills.

Rev. C. W. Savage of the Seward
Street Methodist Episcopal church,
and Mr. E. R. Ball, superintendent of
the Sunday school, are making a canv-
ass of that portion of the city lying
north of Cumings street, with a view
to securing the names of all children
who will not be remembered on
Christmas on account of the poverty
of their parents or friends.

This Day in History.

1774—Third continental congress
met at Baltimore with John Hancock
presiding.

1843—William Miller, founder of
the sect known as Millerites, died at
Low Hampton, N. Y. Born at Pitts-
field, Mass., February 15, 1782.

1862—Holly Springs, Mass., sur-
rendered to the confederates.

1871—A college for women was
opened in connection with the Uni-
versity of Wisconsin.

1880—Electric street lighting was
first introduced in New York City.

1883—William W. Walker was con-
secrated Protestant Episcopal mission-
ary bishop of North Dakota.

1894—James I. Alcorn, governor
of Mississippi and United States sen-
ator, died at Eagle Nest, Miss. Born
in Illinois, November 4, 1816.

1914—Russians checked the Ger-
man advance along the Bzura river.

1915—United States protested hold-
up by British warships of parcel post
from America to Sweden.

The Day We Celebrate.

George M. Tunison was born Decem-
ber 20, 1882, at Parkersburg, Ia.

Erhardt C. Hoeg, manager of the
Interstate Lumber company, is 44
years old today.

Dr. Solon Towne is celebrating
his seventy-first birthday.

Prince George, fourth son of the
king of England, who is now "doing
his bit" in the navy, born 15 years
ago today.

Elsie Mc Wolfe, former prominent
actress, who has been engaged in war
relief work in France, born in New
York City 52 years ago today.

Andrew Braid, chairman of the
United States Geographic board, born
at Kirkcaldy, Scotland, 71 years ago
today.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson, president
of the University of Chicago, born at
Jamestown, N. Y., 48 years ago today.

Branch Riskey, president of the St.
Louis National league base ball club,
born at Lucasville, O., 35 years ago
today.

Joseph W. Willott, outfielder of the
New York National league base ball
team, born at Hiawatha, Kan., 27
years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

The American Philosophical society
as at present constituted enters upon
its one hundred and fiftieth year to-
day, having been formed in Phila-
delphia, December 29, 1768.

Today will mark the close of the
country-wide campaign of the Ameri-
can Red Star. Aid will be raised to
a large fund to provide veterinary
medicines and other relief for the
horses in the war.

In Philadelphia tonight John Mc-
Cormack, the famous Irish tenor, is to
inaugurate a country-wide concert
tour, the entire proceeds of which
will be donated to the American Red
Cross.

After today collections and tag
days for war charities will not be al-
lowed by the Canadian government
unless authorized in writing by the
governing body of a registered war
charity association.

Storyette of the Day.

"You can't be too drastic in your
treatment of a nation like Germany,"
said Admiral Couden Perry at a Cold
Springs luncheon.

"You've got to consider Germany
as John Nag considered marriage."
"John," said Mrs. Nag, "have you
read this book, How to Be Happy
Though Married?"

"Nag," said Yagg, "I didn't need
to. I know how, you see, without
reading it."

"Well, how, then?" said his wife.

"Get a divorce," said he.—Wash-
ington Star.

HOGS FOR THE GREEDY.

Let hogs fight to halt and settle.
For good hath made them so.
And those with Hun-like appetites,
For 'tis their nature to.

But patriots should never let
Their appetites for get.
The best of diets get,
But rather under-eat.

Let all your daily portions show,
Your daily helpings, too,
That by a sweet restraint you know
How you can counter your
own.

SAM L. MORRIS.

The Bee's Letter Box

State Treasurer's Limited Patriotism.

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 18.—To the
Editor of The Bee: I noticed an item
in The Bee relative to the exchange
by the state of Liberty bonds for
some securities bearing a higher rate
of interest. It seemed to some of us
here that the state was setting a very
poor example at least. I am enclosing
a copy of a letter addressed to the
Council of Defense which explains
itself and ask The Bee to print same
and prevent waste.
R. P. TURNER.

Fremont, Neb., Dec. 18.—My Dear
Mr. Turney: Some of us here in
Fremont have noticed that the state
treasurer has disposed of \$500,000 of
3 1/2 per cent Liberty bonds and re-
invested in bonds bearing a higher
rate of interest. We have not sufficient
data to know exactly what was done
in this transaction—whether the Lib-
erty bonds were disposed of and the
proceeds invested in another type of
bonds bearing higher interest, or
whether the proceeds were invested in
the second issue of bonds at the
higher rate. We are disposed in either
case to feel that this transaction shows
savors more of thrift than of patrio-
tism.

We are rather of the opinion that
when the state treasurer performed
so patriotic a duty as to invest \$500,-
000 in Liberty bonds at 3 1/2 per cent
he should have known that the patri-
otic impulse of the state of Ne-
braska justified him in this and was
perfectly willing to lose 1/2 per cent
interest for the benefit of the govern-
ment so sorely in need of all support
that can come to it from individuals,
organizations, institutions and states.
As I have figured it out, this action
by the state treasurer would gain
for the state of Nebraska the patri-
otic sum of \$2,500—the enormous sav-
ings each individual of \$5.00 of 2
cents.
A. H. WATERHOUSE.

One Way to Show Appreciation.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 17.—To the Edi-
tor of The Bee: I am moved to make
a suggestion which I think you will
cheerfully give space and I arrange
to myself no special credit for the
suggestion.

During continuation of the war let
no young or able bodied man remain
s