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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER
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"A dry" America in eight years! Let that sink 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"Fighting railroads is out of date," observes the State Council of Defense.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 congressional 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 Washington 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 survivors of the F-1. It seems fated that our Omaha 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 candidate for re-election.

Yesterday reports laid special emphasis on the scarcity of pork. This week farmers are advised 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 Jackson'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 approximates \$21,000,000,000. This is 50 per cent more than the official estimate of the 1916 harvest. 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 represent.

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. It is our citadel.

What shall we eat? The report shows food in plenty, if we will put our country above our appetite. Rice, corn, oats, barley, buckwheat and rice are large crops, and some are of record proportions. 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, but to keep neutrals alive. Some figures put out by Mr. Hoover differ from those of the Department 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 approval 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 sacrifice, 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 being employed under competent and efficient direction to the best advantage in procuring the desired end.

As everyone knows, the air is full of reports and gossip about incompetency and mismanagement in many departments, about needless delays 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 exercising 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 suffering 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 regardless whether they occupy a high or low position.

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 secretary 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 suppressing 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 possible 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 secretary of the navy do things like this, so needlessly, 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 accurate, 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 particularly 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 companies 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 anxious lest the demand for building materials and skilled labor may at some point or other conflict with the government interest, or in some way interfere with construction work in promotion of the war.

The situation in this regard while not alarming is such as to render uncertain these plans for the construction of a number of large buildings contemplated. No man can say what is to be expected in the matter of transportation for the railroads themselves are powerless. The extraordinary 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 government, 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 immediate 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 correspondents 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 favorites, still his affection for millionaires rises above the average and approaches a fifty-fifty

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 unwelcome German subjects who failed to leave with von Bernstorff and still others are more or less suspicious individuals arrested by the Department of Justice. But, whatever they are, they have to be fed, clothed and housed by the government.

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 immigration of this department, without, however, any appropriation or suggestions as to how it was to be done. The government itself had not prepared 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, Wilson," was telegraphed to every United States port. Less than an hour later immigration officials had boarded every enemy ship, removing the crews and placing them in the nearest available 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 officers and 191 seamen were held in the immigration 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 situation. In Boston the United States public health officials very courteously handed over their quarantine station at Gallup's island for the accommodation 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, supplies have been bought, and the place has been turned into an excellent prison cantonment, with a section of the Young Men's Christian association in army huts furnishing entertainment for the alien.

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 conspicuous. And it was planned to let the aliens build the roads. But the forest contained no buildings capable of housing the aliens immediately, so the bureau had to look elsewhere.

A location at Kanuga lake, near Hendersonville, N. C., also seemed to offer ideal conditions, 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 location for its picturesque beauty instead of for its 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 possible by cultivating a part of the 100 acres. A special staff was put in charge of this construction work and the erection of the barracks began. Meetings of the alien had appointed a committee from among their own members to deal with the government. All complaints, suggestions and requests were made by this committee. 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 all of this, though. An officer may not 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 10-foot barbed wire fence with electric lights at certain intervals.

Moreover, the aliens built the foundations for their own water, sewer and electric light systems. 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. 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 saving 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 sidewalks 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 enrolled 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 persist 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 toter. 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, arrived in his fifth year today, having been born December 29, 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 situation arising from the war the governor displayed those qualities of fairness 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 Moldavia 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 Morrison, the lion's champion featherweight, and Ike Weir, the "Bellfast Spider," and a most interesting exhibition is forthcoming.

A 205-pound buck was killed three



miles north of Florence by H. A. Farley 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 preliminary arrangements for the erection of the home of that order in this city. It was resolved to select Farman and Nineteenth streets as the site for the proposed structure, which, with the ground, will cost \$200,000.

The Elks elected the following directors for the ensuing year: C. S. Parrotte, W. N. Babcock, I. W. Miner, R. C. McClure, Sidney Smith, Thomas Swobe, P. 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 canvass of that portion of the city lying north of Cuming 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 Pittsfield, Mass., February 15, 1782.

1862—Holly Springs, Mass., surrendered to the confederates.

1871—A college for women was opened in connection with the University of Wisconsin.

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

1883—William W. Walker was consecrated Protestant Episcopal missionary bishop of North Dakota.

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

1914—Russians checked the German 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 December 29, 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 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., 68 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 today, having been formed in Philadelphia, December 29, 1768.

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

In Philadelphia tonight John McCann, the famous Irish tenor, will be inaugurated 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 allowed 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 Through Marriage?"

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

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

"Get a divorce," said he.—Washington Star.

HOGS FOR THE GREEDY." Let your dog fight to bark and snarl. 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 meat. The best of dogs 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 love. 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 settling 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. 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 Liberty bonds were disposed of and the proceeds invested in another type of bonds bearing higher interest, or whether the bonds were included in the second issue of bonds at the higher rate. We are disposed in either case to feel that this transaction savors more of thrift than of patriotism.

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 patriotic impulse of the state of Nebraska justified him in this and was perfectly willing to lose 1/2 per cent interest for the benefit of the government 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 paltry sum of \$2,500—the enormous saving each individual of \$1,000 of 2 cents. A. H. WATERHOUSE.

One Way to Show Appreciation.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 17.—To the Editor 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 sitting in a chair while any body is compelled to stand. Hard working men may be pardoned for retaining their seats but there are a sufficient number of men who can stand with no inconvenience to accommodate everybody. Gentlemen let us do this generally during the period of the war as an expression of our appreciation of the extra work women are doing for humanity and for our soldier boys.

Men we ought to blush when we see young and even middle aged men who sit on a chair most of the day occupying a seat while even gray haired women—many of them worn with household or other duties hanging by straps. Perhaps 60 per cent of the men could stand for a few minutes every day and suffer no impairment.

This should not only become general in Omaha, but in every city and should become nation-wide at once. J. T. DAILEY.

Intended No Reflection on Waffles.

Omaha, Dec. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: We deprecate any reflection upon the food administration arising from the prices to the consumer fixed by them. We are confident of the purest patriotism and integrity in this transaction, of Mr. Waffles. He is serving the government, without pay, from pure love of country. He can have no possible interest to swerve him from the execution of his

duty. It is extremely unjust, ungrateful and unwise to reflect upon him if the prices he fixes appear a little high or a little low. So far as the prices of butter and eggs in this city are concerned, we venture to say, and believe we could prove they are the lowest of any city of this size in the United States. R. A. STEWART, President David Cole Creamery Co.

Another Place to Save Sugar.

Shenandoah, Ia., Dec. 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: As a reader of The Bee, and other leading periodicals, I have looked and waited, and waited and looked to see something in print from some prominent person in reference to the thin, open cheese-cloth kind of inner bags used for sugar. As a grower, it has been my lot to open many bags of sugar into which quantities of dirt had sifted and likewise sugar sifted out.

This is a matter of such serious consequence at the present time that it should be specifically brought to the notice of the proper officials. Sugar being very high and scarce, it seems to me the greatest care should be exercised in keeping it clean and in preventing waste.

Any grower or person whose business compels him to handle sugar in 100-pound bags will bear me out in the statement that not a single bag, or container, is close enough to prevent the sugar from sifting out and being strewn along the floor. Not long since I opened a bag of sugar and found the inner cheese-cloth bag had not been sewed together at the top and the sugar had been fairly pouring out through the meshes of the outside bag, which was made of the cheapest and thinnest kind of bur-lap.

I have for a long time been very much concerned about this but it did not seem that a small retail grocer should be the one to start an agitation along this line, but certainly something should be done about it and that right speedily. E. L. DESH.

SAID IN FUN.

"I understand your grandfather was a profiteer in the war of 1812?" "You got it wrong."

"He was a profiteer, not a profiteer. He profited on the enemy."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Sammy—How do you manage to get on so well with the French girls when you can't speak the language? Jackie—You're dead slow. Can't you kiss a girl without a dictionary?—Browning Magazine.

"Don't you like to collect rare coins?" "I don't." "I'm sorry," replied Harpud. "You couldn't let me have a silver dollar a week or so, could you?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.



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VICTROLAS AND RECORDS

1513 Douglas Street

Storz Beverage advertisement featuring a bottle of Storz beverage and text: PALATABLE—Pleases the most exacting taste; made from pure, wholesome ingredients—good for tired nerves. A genuine thirst-quencher—nourishing and delicious. Appropriate for all occasions. Drink STORZ in every season.

THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU

Washington, D. C.

Enclosed find a 2-cent stamp, for which you will please send me, entirely free, a copy of the book: "The Cornmeal Book."

Name.....