THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING — SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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Last chance! Button up and break into the crush.

Have you early-Christmas shopped yet? If not, last chance.

What is evidently needed is a few big guns in place of the small bores at Washington.

The Luxburg disclosures dig a broad and deep grave for Kultur in the southern republics.

A period of "low visibility" seriously interferes with the pie counter getting the range of the Columbus war cruiser.

The danger is that the Seventh may itself furnish "the political pirate" a valid reason for keeping the regiment out of the federal service.

An overdose of advertising seems to have queered Germany's big drive on the west front. Even saber rattlers may get too much of a good thing.

Conscription won in Canada and lost out in Australia. The United States, however, tilts the scales of democracy to the side of equality of service and responsibility.

Stripped of Moslem rule for the first time in seven centuries the Christmas celebration at Jersusalem undoubtedly will surpass the recollection of the oldest inhabitant.

Admiral Von Tirpitz observes that Germany will not triumph in the war unless she captures Calais and Boulogne. Might as well throw up the sponge, admiral, and take the count.

It may be suggested incidentally that a few "live wires" in control of army equipment would quickly head off civilian complaints. Live wires burn up red tape and deliver the goods.

Most of the credit for Omaha's fine showing in the Red Cross membership drive, however, belongs to the people who responded so willingly without waiting to be solicited a second time.

One by one the grub routes of Germany through neutral lands suffer a permanent break down. Tightening embargo lines at the same time take up loose notches in the belts of blockade runners.

The New York World, which is pretty good democratic authority, insists that the submission of the dry amendment will split the democratic party in the south right down the middle. We should worry.

Official spokesmen of the allies cannot be charged with backwardness in telling enemy powers what they must do to be saved. Heedlessness merely prolongs the agony without altering the funeral of autocracy by a hair's breadth.

Clubs built on the model of the stone age are recommended by former President Taft as effective tools for letting the light into junker heads. Possibly, in short arm fighting. However, a storm of shells will prove useful as a preparation for the major operation.

General Allenby, the captor of Jerusalem, wins an enduring niche in the hall of fame. The Holy City is an unfailing fount of world-wide publicity and its capture by a modern crusader will ring down the ages long after other war leaders are smothered in the dust of time and forgotten.

One of the disagreeable facts sticking up like a sore thumb in the congress inquiry, is the absence of co-ordinated effort in the War department. Had there been business system and unity of effort the blunder of calling the national army to camps unready and lacking in proper equipment would not have been possible.

Bismarck's Three Wars

Minneapolis Journal

Germans, as well as others, have traced the present war to Bismarck, whose policies led to the growth of a German national philosophy that made peace in the long run impossible. Bismarck himself saw the trend and predicted a great war leading to world domination or downfall.

At any rate, there can be no doubt of Bismarck's large responsibility for three former wars. Attention has been called again to the well known life of Bismarck by his secretary, Moritz Busch, who tells how Bismarck, a short time before he died, sat before the fire in the great room of his house at Varzin, being then in his eighty-third year, and threw one fir cone after another upon the open fire, saying at last after a long period of meditation:

"But for me three great wars would not have been fought, 80,000 men would not have perished, fathers, brothers, sisters, widows, would not have been plunged into mourning. I have settled all that with my creator. But I have gained little or no joy from all my work."

It may well be that the aged statesman who deliberately brought about three great wars with the death of 80,000 men and all the misery that followed in their train, thought that he had it all settled with his creator. But the ordinary man who loves peace and human brotherhood may well question whether Bismarck's creator may not have had in reserve a few words more on the subject.

In this world or any other, most of us would prefer to take our chances with the record of a Howard or a Wilberforce rather than with that of a Bismarck.

Henry Dodge Estabrook.

The sudden death of Henry Dodge Estabrook comes as a profound shock to his many friends and admirers in Omaha, and throughout the whole west.

Almost a native of Nebraska, raised and educated in our city, always ardent and devoted to this state which he regarded as his home through all the years he was residing in the east, we had a right to be proud of his steady advance to eminence as a national figure in his profession and as an orator of exceptional eloquence and finished parts. He was broad-minded and thoroughly free from bigotry, though an intense political partisan in the better sense of the word. Had he lived, there would have been higher things in store for him.

Striking Live Leads.

The senate inquiry into complaints of delay and inefficiency in the preparedness work of the War department is already striking live leads. The shortcomings have been most manifest in the ordnance and supply divisions and the army training program has been noticeably impeded by failure to speed up the machinery.

The story of the inventor of the Lewis machine gun and how he repeatedly but in vain tried to persuade the War department to take advantage of it without exacting any royalty and was driven to present it to foreign governments who at once adopted it, has been more or less known, but is now for the first time put into an official record. There will doubtless be explanations forthcoming though it is difficult to see how any explanation can be satisfactory.

If we measure public sentiment correctly, this is no time to let personalities stand in the way of getting our mobilization into full force. The big places must be ma ed with men big enough to handle them and nothing should count but ability to "deliver the goods." The investigation should go on and go to bedrock and then should be followed by quick remedy of deficiencies disclosed.

How Ratify the Amendment?

The Lincoln Journal throws several different kinds of fits because The Bee, in discussing the submission of the proposed national prohibition amendment, said we would prefer to have the question of ratification passed on by direct vote of the people instead of by the legislatures in the different states, particularly in states like Nebraska where the initiative and referendum prevails. It quotes the language of the amending clause of the federal constitution "when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourth of the several states" as if that precluded resort to the initiative and referendum. A cursory reading of the constitution of Nebraska, however, will show that legislative power here rests only provisionally in the legislature, subject to direct action of the people themselves, who, when they do act, are their own legislature.

The Bee has not the slightest inkling of what the attitude of either wets or drys will be, but the Journal is already cock sure that the mechanism of direct legislation which the wets fought against so hard is to be resorted to by them to defeat this one prime object which the advocates of direct legislation had in view. That paper says further:

> Any attempt to secure the adoption of national prohibition in initiative and referendum states by the initiative would apparently be illegal. The further suggestion that the action of the legislature on the amendment might be held up by the referendum is adding an interesting complication. It is not an academic point. National prohibition might conceivably be defeated by invoking the initiative or referendum in some of the dozen states now under direct legislation. For example, Iowa has a dry legislature, but the state went wet on a popular vote last fall on account of the heavy wet vote of a few river counties. Missouri is dry outside of St. Louis, and wet when the whole vote is counted. Ohio is dry outside the great centers of population. Cities have been growing so much in recent years that it is difficult to reapportion the legislative districts fast enough to prevent the rural communities from holding a disproportionate number of seats.

This is indeed, interesting but the Journal's examples are not well chosen for while Missouri is equipped with the initiative and referendum, Iowa is not. But suppose both were and suppose Iowa had a wet legislature as has Missouri, should the wishes of its people be blocked and frustrated if the sentiment of the majority were dry? Here in Nebraska the state went overwhelmingly dry at the last election, but there is no certainty that the next legislature will be dry. Is not every argument for letting the people have what they want in favor of submitting this amendment to them for a direct expression rather than leaving it to a combine of 17 members of the state senate banded together to "deliver the goods"? On the other hand, if by any chance the majority of the people of Nebraska are against ratifying the amendment (of which there is no indication) they certainly should not be put in the wrong column by legislative misrepresentation.

We repeat that so far as we are concerned we would rather see the adoption or rejection of the amendment settled by direct popular vote in the several states than made the subject of barter and trade in 48 different state capitols.

"If proper methods of selection and care are immediately followed out, Nebraska will have plenty of seed corn for its own needs next year," so the experts of the Nebraska experiment station tell us. Yes, we know that, but the problem is to secure immediate application of the proper methods of selection and distribution. If that is not done, Nebraska will not have plenty of seed corn for its next year's needs.

Christmas brings no cheer and precious little hope to the victims of autocracy in Teutonic lands. Beneath the thin veil of misty professions of success with which royalty deceives the multitude stalks the specter of semi-starvation and hardships surpassing and preceding winter of war. The Berlin Tageblatt admits that much and draws a gloomy picture of the outlook for the masses. "As ye sow so shall ye reap."

Through the energy and vigilance of the federal secret service the ranks of alien plotters thin out steadily. Rarely does the outstretched nets fail in landing the right party. Court trials and innumerable convictions emphasize the thoroughness of the service.

South Omaha proposes to inaugurate union church services to economize on heat and light and other expenses. Not a bad idea where it is feasible! Nor is there any patent on the scheme to prevent other communities from adopting it.

Uncle Sam's Mail Bag

By Fre eric J. Haskin

Washington, Dec. 22.—One of the best ways to get an idea of a man's business is to look over his morning's mail, to scan the letters he writes and the letters he receives. Washington's daily war mail casts an interesting light on the nature and magnitude of various war activities.

The Washington city postoffice for months has had to deal with a constantly rising tide of what is known as "penalty mail." This term does not connote, as might appear to the uninitiated, that the sender is subject to fine and imprisonment. Penalty mail is official mail sent under government frank, each envelope or package bearing the phrase "Penalty for private use $300."

On a typical day, according to Postmaster M. O. Chance, the Washington postoffice will receive and handle 150,000 pounds of outgoing penalty mail. Some days run far above this mark. The record was probably established when the Treasury department on a single day mailed 3,000 sacks of Liberty loan publicity matter, which averaged 100 pounds to the sack.

The Liberty loan bureau of the treasury is the heaviest single user of the mails among the government offices, when Liberty loan campaigns are at their height. Besides the Liberty loan material, the war saving stamp matter is mailed by the treasury. Recently for a period of 10 days this single item totalled 200 sacks a day.

Other offices which call heavily on the services of the local postoffice are the provost marshal general's office, the adjutant general's office, the food administration, and the committee on public information. Of course, the importance of a government bureau cannot be estimated in terms of the letters it writes, but the test is a fair one when agencies that work with the public as a whole are considered.

It is interesting to note that each of these bureaus, which are now more intimately connected with the daily life of the American people than any other government agencies, has only been established since the declaration of war, and in some cases much later. The only exception is the adjutant general's office. Most of the thousands of sacks of mail matter sent out by this office go to the various training camps, and deal with military matters from a more or less technical standpoint. The incoming mail addressed to the adjutant general has increased enormously. The greater part of it deals with enlistment in various special branches of the army.

The provost marshal general's mail is concerned with the selective draft. Ten million questionnaries were just distributed to every corner of the nation through the mails. Their aggregate weight was 1,250,000 pounds. This represents only a fraction of the total mail from this office, for scores of millions of forms were distributed for the first draft, the first and then the final selective service regulations were sent to all boards, as well as frequent additions and emendations to the rules of the draft. The provost marshal general has sent out as many as 1,500 sacks of mail in a single day, and each sack was so heavy that it required two men to handle it.

The committee on public information publishes the Official Bulletin, a daily account of government doings, which has attained a circulation of 270,000 copies a day. Besides this, the committee prepares and publishes a constantly growing series of pamphlets on the war, large and small, which are mailed out in bulk by millions. Five numbers of the so-called Red, White and Blue series have been published and 10 numbers of the war information series. The Red, White and Blue series includes some numbers which fill a large volume. They deal in various ways with the American case and position in the world war. Thus the committee has issued some of the speeches of President Wilson, with historical and diplomatic references explained in foot-notes. Another number consists entirely of carefully selected utterances of prominent Germans in every walk of life, showing how completely the dream of world domination had fastened on the Teutonic empire, and the consequent danger to the United States. Still another number of this series is taken up with the reprinting of various authenticated items showing the barbarity of German war theories and methods.

The food administration sends the public all manner of pamphlets and papers dealing with war-time conservation. About 200 sacks of mail is a fair day's work for Mr. Hoover's offices.

All this is in addition to the usual stream of out-going government mail, which is never a small item. Three or four tons of Congressional Records are sent out to an expectant public daily, the exact number of pounds depending on just how oratorical the two legislative bodies felt the day before. The open season for franking speeches to constituents will soon begin, and another ton or so will be added to the total. The signature of a senator or a congressman will carry a piece of official printed matter free to any part of the United States, and there is now a movement on foot to extend the privilege to France, where a considerable American reading public will soon be gathered.

All the outgoing mail is only one side of the problem. The prompt delivery of incoming government mail is made more difficult by the fact that some of the departments have expanded so greatly that their various bureaus are scattered all over the city, and new ones are opened daily. Recently the postoffice published a guide listing several hundred bureaus and committees, most of them established since the war.

People and Events

Congressman Johnson of South Dakota, who voted against war last April, balances the record by joining the colors as a private. He is 35 years old, married and father of two children.

One Victor Peterson of San Pedro, Cal., sets a new standard of big valuations based on foot rule measurement. Two inches of one foot, cut off by a motor truck, Peterson values at $12,500 an inch. Valuations based on measurement insure greater accuracy and speed in reaching the wherewith of careless truckers.

Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare, the socialist talker who won a five-year sentence in North Dakota for obstructing the draft, is the mother of four children, has an occasional home in St. Louis and a husband working out a socialist community plan in Florida. Observe the distance between them! Two radicals working together would boost insurance on prairie fire risks.

A group of New York club men clubbed together last spring and cultivated a war farm. Recently they pulled off a harvest festival and "barn dance" on lower Broadway in honor of a crop of corn, carrots and turnips valued at $20,000. No dividend checks were distributed, but the treasurer reported a good balance which will go into equipment and expansion for next year's cultivation. That is going some for clubby farmers.

Fortunately for the country's safety the mental equilibrium of New York occasionally rebounds from the shocks of war and grapples with questions that concern the inner consciousness, or something like that. "Should golfer have dull or quick brain?" That's the momentous question up for debate among sports of the green. At last accounts featured by the New York Post, argument was about evenly divided with the waiters working overtime.

Mayor L. A. Fritsche and City Attorney Albert Pfaender of New Ulm, Minn., have been removed from office by Governor Burnquist for conduct and utterances tending to hinder the federal government in the prosecution of the war. New Ulm championed the Teuton cause six months ago and acted as if it would secede from the union and move over to the Rhine. Fritsche and Pfaender led the vocal rebellion. Suddenly the community woke up to the fact that Minnesota was bigger than New Ulm and staged a veneered profession of loyalty. Fritsche and Pfaender recanted at the same time, but not before the governor got their measure.

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

General Ferdinand Foch, who has been appointed to represent France on the Supreme War council of the allies, has been one of the most brilliant French commanders during this war. The great victory of the battle of the Marne was largely due to his strategical genius. General Foch began his military career in the war of 1870 as subaltern against the Germans, and distinguished himself as "a soldier with brains." At 26, he was commissioned a captain of artillery and later he became a professor in the Ecole de Guerre. Early in the present war, through his success in forcing the Germans to retreat in the battle of the Marne, he earned the title of the greatest strategist in Europe. He is also the man who did much to prevent the Germans from getting Calais.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Allies continued to retreat in Wallachia.

Tultcha, on the Danube oposite Bessarabia, occupied by Bulgarians.

French senate voted unanimously that France could not make peace while enemy occupied French territory.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Messrs. Hardin and Kennedy have signed articles for a live bird shoot for $50 a side. Hardin to shoot at 25 birds and Kennedy at 26.

The first cable car was run over Harney street to Tenth street and

worked to full and complete satisfaction.

Articles of incorporation of the Omaha and Plattsmouth Belt Line railway were filed with the county clerk. The incorporators are Nathan Shelton, A. A. Egbert, Otis H. Ballan, Robert B. Windham, and George J. Fox.

Prof. G. R. Rathburn will represent Omaha at the convention of the Western Penman association, which assembles at Cedar Rapids, Ia.

T. J. Miner, clerk of the Windsor, received a handsome Christmas gift from his employers, Messrs. Schlank and Prince. It consists of a handmade cigar case beautifully decorated.

J. L. Mandell and A. F. Holden of St. Louis are visiting W. J. Holden.

The bill introduced by Senator Manderson for the erection of a public building in this city, has been referred to the committee on public buildings and grounds.

S. A. Huntoon, general agent of the Pacific Express company, was called to the front of his office and found awaiting him an elegant easy chair, a present from the employes of that company.

This Day in History.

1754—George Crabbe, celebrated English poet, born. Died February 8, 1832.

1774—William Ferguson, a soldier, was shot on Boston Common for desertion.

1784—The Methodist Episcopal church in the United States organized.

1803—Marriage of Jerome Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon I., and Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore.

1814—Preliminaries of the peace treaty ending the war betwen the United States and Great Britain signed at Ghent.

1832—Antwerp, with a garrison of 3,500, surrendered to the French after a brave resistance of 26 days.

1873—Johns Hopkins, founder of the university that bears his name, died in Baltimore. Born in Anne Arundel county, Maryland, May 19, 1795.

1914—British airmen dropped bombs on German aeroplane sheds in Brussels.

1915—Henry Ford left his "peace" party at Christiania, Norway, and sailed for home.

The Day We Celebrate.

Rev. Adolph Hult, former pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church, was born at Moline, Ill., 48 years ago today.

Queen Alexandrine of Denmark, born in Mecklenburg, 38 years ago today.

Manuel Estrada Cabrera, president of Guatemala, born 61 years ago today.

Brigadier General James H. McRae, United States army, recently assigned to command the 158th depot brigade, at Camp Sherman, born in Georgia, 54 years ago today.

Dr. Bradford Knapp, chief of the farm demonstration division of the United States Department of Agriculture, born at Vinton, Ia., 47 years ago today.

Harry E. Brittain, director of intelligence of the British National Service Department, and who has founded a club for American officers in London, born 44 years ago today.

Viscount Morley of Blackburn, veteran English statesman, born at Blackburn, 79 years ago today.

Bishop Richard G. Waterhouse of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, born near Spring City, Tenn., 62 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Last day for Christmas shopping.

The Red Cross "drive" for 10,000,000 new members closes today.

Thousands of the boys of the new army have been granted furloughs to leave the training camps today to spend their Christmas at home.

In many churches throughout the land the Christmas festival will be ushered in tonight with special services at which prayers will be offered for an early and victorious ending of the world war.

Santa Claus is likely to find fewer and costlier trees in American homes when he comes around with his pack tonight. Because of the labor scarcity men couldn't be found to cut the trees this year, and Uncle Sam was too busy hauling needed freight to clutter up the tracks with trees.

Storyette of the Day.

Prof. Copeland of Harvard, as the story goes, reproved his students for coming late to class.

"This is a class in English composition," he remarked with sarcasm, "not an afternoon tea."

At the next meeting one girl was 20 minutes late. Prof. Copeland waited until she had taken her seat. Then he remarked, bitingly:

"How will you have your tea, Miss Brown?"

"Without the lemon, please," Miss Brown answered quite gently.—Boston Advertiser.

SIGNPOSTS OF PROGRESS.

The name of The Hague, capitol of the Netherlands, is connected with a larger member of treaties and various international understandingse than that of any other city of the world.

During August, September and October this year 485,000 officers and men arrived in England from the front on leave. The number of leaves granted for the same period last year was 85,000.

In the way of newspaper funds, the London Times has made an extraordinary record. The total of its collections for the British Red Cross society and for the Order of St. John has just passed £8,000,000.

The Bee's Letter Box

For Secretary of ——— Anything.

Theodore Roosevelt.

Omaha, Dec. 20.—To the Editor of The Bee: A friend of mine said to me the other day, "We've got to be patient, we've got to realize that we are up against a big thing and have to go slow, we must not criticize," and of course he is right, up to a certain point. But I want you to stop and think just what it would mean if it were announced tomorrow that Theodore Roosevelt had been appointed secretary of war, or of the navy, or of a newly created department of munitions, and had accepted. Wouldn't there be a stiffening of spines, a throwing back of heads, a squaring of chins everywhere? We'd know, then, that we are going to fight a real fight. Wouldn't those boys of ours over there in France send up a shout that could be heard on Broadway, and a tossing of hats and coats and shoes and guns in the air, till the Frenchmen would think we had sent them an army of lunatics? Now, isn't this just what would happen, whether you are one of those who mistakenly thought that every army officer and every navy officer was a bloody minded cutthroat, and we didn't need any guns or any boats or any uniforms or any training, and that Roosevelt was an imperialistic jingo, always spoiling for a fight, or whether, like myself you considered Roosevelt one of the greatest men this country has ever produced? Here's a man who isn't afraid of dirt and mud and sweat and hard work and blood and wounds, and is willing and anxious to go out and take his share, personally, and in the person of his whole family. Wouldn't you feel sure, wouldn't you know that nothing would be omitted to insure victory, nothing done that might bring defeat to those boys of ours and this country of ours?

And, oh! wouldn't it hearten those tired soldiers of France, fighting, digging, suffering, dying, grim as death itself, there on those tortured hillsides of their stricken country? Leave out all thought of criticism of anyone else, wouldn't they feel as they have never felt, "at last America's in, in in deadly earnest, in to the last gasp, in until those hillsides and those valleys and those orchards have been freed and those tortured women and children, together with the women and children of America and the world are safe?" Personally I believe it would do more good than all the men we have gotten across, and I do not, for a minute belittle the tremendous task of getting them there.

And that little band of Belgians, and that great English army, wallowing waist deep in the mud of Flanders! It isn't easy to improve on the grip of a bulldog, but don't you believe every jaw would set a little tighter and the teeth would pinch in a little deeper and a little faster toward the windpipe of Germany at the news? Real fighters are born, not cultivated. To win victories, you must want to win them and you must not think too much about whether you may perhaps hurt the other fellow; and, fellows, this is a fight, not a physical culture test nor an educational experiment.

We have here a leader and a fighter, ready made and tested. Whether you believe, as I do that he will never fight for anything but right, you must believe that he will fight, and that he knows how. I, therefore, nominate Theodore Roosevelt for any job he will take. H. W. MORROW.

Ethics of Christian Science Practice.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: As I have been unable to find a correction in my edition of the Bee, of statements made in an Associated Press dispatch that appeared in the issue of December 18, I ask space for the following:

Albert F. Gilmore, Christian Science committee on publication for New York, declares Grace M. Trankla, who brought suit against Clarence C. Burger to recover pay for services as a practitioner, was not a Christian Scientist. Careful investigation by him discloses that she is not a member or regular attendant of the local churches, that she is not a member of the Mother Church, nor on the list of authorized practitioners. The methods indicated in Miss Trankla's complaint are not in accordance with the custom and practice of the true followers of Christian Science.

In regard to remuneration for services, authorized practitioners of Christian Science are guided by the by-law in the manual of the Mother Church, which says: "A member of the Mother Church shall not, under pardonable circumstances, sue his patient for recovery of payment for said member's practice, on penalty of discipline and liability to have his name removed from membership."

CLAUDE L. DeLONG,
Committee on Publication.

Of Interest to Taxpayers.

Omaha, Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: I wish to say a few words against the proposed purchase of the property known as Christie Heights for a public play ground, as the city owns a small tract known as Morton park which is only five blocks distant from the proposed Christie Heights site. It seems to me it would be more fitting to purchase more ground for Morton park which is a more desirable site than Christie Heights. I am satisfied that 90 per cent of the tax payers of the southwestern section of the city are opposed to the purchase of the Christie Heights property for the reason that it is undesirable on account of its location being bounded on the east and north by the packing houses and stock yards district, and instead of being popular as a play ground for the pupils of St. Mary's school it would only expose them to more danger as they would have to cross Q street, a busy thoroughfare. They would have to cross street car tracks over which the Omaha street railway company cars travel, the Ralston & Papillion interurban line of cars besides automobile motorcycles, etc.

C. W., A Taxpayer.

Compliments a Bee Editorial.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: I want to compliment you on your editorial regarding the World-Herald's monumental hyphenism. I want to encourage you to produce more of the same.

Mr. Hitchcock, or his paper, have not been with the president on his most far-reaching and clearest policies; Senator Hitchcock has voted no or has been absent. We subscribe to the high qualities of President Wilson, from a patriotic motive. We are all with him. All right thinking men are. All credit and praise to him—but this hypocrisy of the senator is not consistent with his fathering the anti-munition bill, his paper's justification of the sinking of the Lusitania, his stand on the Austrian situation and kindred other statements.

The one motive that seems to actuate him is to perpetuate himself in office with the help of the hyphenates in Nebraska—and other people that are fooled by his hanging to the president's coattails. The people of Nebraska ought to relegate him to the oblivion, which will eventually be his anyway—as he will go down in Nebraska history as a self-seeking straddler and a demagogue. Go to it, Bee, is the wish of

FRANK C. WARD.

TUNING UP FOR CHRISTMAS

With a whirl and a swirl and a terrible roar
It blew in at evening from an Arctic shore.
Traffic it blocked, and the treacherous street
Glitters and twinkles with silvery sleet.

Dolls in Armies and Soldiers a-plenty,
Gifts for Kiddies and Sweet-and-Twenty;
Gifts for Grannies and Aunties and Dads,
Gifts for using and losing and fads!
Gifts for Nurses and Chauffeurs and Cooks,
Gifts for Bookworms—who read ALL their Books!

Gifts for Sinners and Sneerers and Saints,
Tops for spinners, and Pastels, and Paints.
Music mechanical, mirrors or lamps,
Turkeys for orphans and newsboys and tramps.

Gifts that are fluffy and gifts that are grim:
A necklace for Jessie, a scarfpin for Jim.
Full sets of the classics and gleaming gold pieces
Suitable—very—for sweet little nieces.
Calendars virtuous, witty or wise.
Flowers and bon bons and puddings and pies!

Cynics there be who deride and defy them,
But we, in our dreams, even, buy them and tie them!
As ever old Winter, with snowdrift and sleet,
Transmutes the whole Town into Santa Claus Street!

ELIZABETH N. HEPBURN.

LAUGHING GAS.

"Listen to this, wife. This centenarian says he has eaten an apple a day since childhood, and chewed tobacco continuously. Just think of living to be one hundred years old."

"I might manage an apple a day, but I fear I couldn't chew tobacco continuously."—Baltimore American.

"It takes you a long time to sell that lady a cage for her parrot."

"I'm doing the best I can," said the clerk.

"Our stock is large. Can't you suit her?"

"I think I could suit her, but she's trying to get the parrot to make a selection."—Kansas City Journal.

"Does your boy believe in Santa Claus?"

"I don't know. He's writing him a letter."

"Well?"

"But I notice he leaves it around where I can see it."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"He's a practical joker, isn't he?"

"Not very practical; he tried one of his jokes on a guy larger than himself."—Judge.

Higgs—What's the sense of an inquest? Everybody knows he dug his grave with his teeth.

Briggs—Somebody told the coroner they were false.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"I don't see why the tenor excused himself from singing because he had a cold and couldn't be heard."

"Why don't you see it?"

"Didn't the cold give his voice more hoarse power?"—Baltimore American.

"America is composed of three classes of men—first, those who have succeeded, and, second, those who haven't."

"Yes? And the third?"

"Oh, they're the fellows who write articles for the magazines telling the second class how the first class did it."—Life.

Proprietor—What's the trouble?"

Head Waiter—Big crowd waiting for table, sir.

Proprietor—Tell the orchestra to strike up something lively. Maybe it will make these people chew faster.—Boston Transcript.

Flatbush—Got a mortgage on your place?

Bensonhurst—Oh, yes; a Marathon mortgage.

"What's a Marathon mortgage, pray?"

"One that's run 25 years."—Yonkers Statesman.

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