#### Stock Raisers and the Public.

President Hagenbarth of the National Wool Growers' association is credited with an astonishing statement at Salt Lake City. According to the news reports, he has advocated a more extravagant use of beef and mutton, because, he says, herds and flocks are increasing and it is too much to ask the live stock raisers to carry the burden.

For years the price of meats to the consumer has been steadily advancing and even during peace times we were urged to save because of the diminishing supply. Since the war commenced the drain on our resources has been tremendously increased, while prices have gone up to record heights. In the meantime a hungry world has turned to all sorts of strange foods, seeking a substitute for the beef and mutton to which it is accustomed. Yet Mr. Hagenbarth "views with alarm" the slight increase in number of animals noted during the year just over and urges that we abandon all our efforts at saving, that the meat producers may more readily turn their holdings into profits at expense of the public,

Mr. Hagenbarth represents the sheep men, whose industry has been one of the most profitable during the last year. Wool that sold around 15 cents in January, 1914, is now selling around 80 cents and the call is for more wool than can be produced. Mutton has also advanced in price, until it has reached an all but prohibitive point, and the president of the great national association of wool growers urges that even the moral restriction under which the public rests be removed, that greater profit can come to the flockmaster.

It is difficult to conceive that such an attitude can be assumed by anybody in America, where the efforts of all patriotic citizens are in the other direction. It is to be hoped that the stockmen in session at Salt Lake City will not be shortsighted enough to adopt the policy suggested by the president of the wool growers.

selective draft law young men attaining their majority since the law was enacted is wise. It has been introduced by Senator Chamberlain at request of the War department and its early passage will do away with much that might otherwise have stood as an injustice. Limits set to the draft age have much of reason to support them, but the class will be continually diminishing by the older men emerging at the top. This deficiency will be made up by including those who come in at the lower end. No reason to exempt them from the law's operation appears, while all sense of justice supports the proposition that they should be required to serve the same as their brothers who happened to have attained their manhood age a few months earlier. Through the operation of the amendment we will approach, for the war period at least, a little nearer to the ideal of universal training and will be assured of men for the army in the field as long as they are needed.

# • First Year of War in United States Broad International Business Recession from 1916 New York Journal of Commerce

score.

accident, as it were, have overlooked.

When it witnessed our formal participa-1 thus intensifying the activity and prosperity tion in the greatest of world's wars, the year Even some of our government officials came 1917 at the same time saw the entrance of character. But it did not take long for the our country into the foremost rank of the real conditions to assert themselves. "Progreat nations of the world. This may be said soberly, without attempt at exaggeration or offensive conceit. There has been a war. President Wilson, it is true, did not the government to fix prices of iron and steel be saved without loss or inconvenience sign the formal declaration until April 6, but our diplomatic relations with the enemy to be available not alone to our own governhad been broken on February 3. Before the ment but to our associates in the war. Startlatter-named date the drift toward war was ing from this point, price-fixing became genso clear as to be unmistakable. In trade, in eral. It was made to apply to sales to all industry, no less than in finance, there have been the natural readjustments from the boom period that was so naturally a conprices of materials to show profits, but it at comitant of the three-year period of maronce became evident that these profits could not be expected to approach the figures that velous prosperity preceding.

Prices of securities have fallen with such olence as to merit surprise that financial failures on a comprehensive scale-institutional as well as private capitalists-have not been forced into conceded insolvency. At the beginning of the year a selected list of 40 stock exchange investment securities showed an average quotation very close to par. A few days ago, before the year-end advances set in, the average quotation was 68-an average loss of no less than 32 per cent. Such a startling decline as this represents cannot have failed to cause distress in important financial circles, especially in circles where investments furnish the basis of credit ar-

rangements.

The year 1916 was one of accumulation of the same time appeared in aggravated form new wealth. In numerous ways 1917 was one the labor problem. Our experience merely of corresponding distribution. Before our entrance as a participant we were among the chief beneficiaries of the war. We were selling, at prices very profitable to ourselves, war ing, at prices very prontable to ourselves, war material of every kind, including munitions, foodstuffs, clothing, etc., to what have now become our associates in the war. Riches were piling up on an unexampled scale. We had virtually paid off the bonds and other evidences of indebtedness to foreign countries This display of loyalty was not confined to wealthy interests or to employers. It was general, and in connection with the increased demand for labor incidental to the war's requirements, soon began to exercise a perceptible influence on the nation-wide supply which had been so instrumental in aiding in the work of developing the resources of our ployed. In turn further important inroads country. Instead of owing billions of dollars to foreign countries we had turned the tables. American investors had loaned them huge amounts for war purposes, and still the balance was hugely in our favor. Our foreign pronounced in all directions. trade had been advancing-aside from the war exports-by leaps and bounds. It would, indeed, have been difficult to conceive a more highly prosperous condition of affairs than was suddenly punctured by the pre-cipitous entrance of war conditions. It is not surprising, therefore, that the year just ended should have witnessed a

severe reversal of the conditions that made 1916 so remarkably brilliant. Instead of the war wasting those supplies which our manufacturers were then producing at wonderful profit for the very purpose of waste, it at once became obvious that our own wealth. our own manpower, our own substance of every kind must be thrown into the general melting pot. We found that the process of distributing the wealth that during the earlier years of the war we so actively accumulated



Omaha, Jan. 13 .- To the Editor of forward with specious arguments of this The Bee: I am surprised at the lack of prominence given article by "Loyal Citizen" in Saturday's Bee in regard fiteering," which was the term by which to saving coal. Someone's idea to save a shovel of coal is given a full column on the front page, but his idea exorbitant war profits became known, was taboo. The reaction came gradually, but it and similar products on a fair selling basis,

to anyone is given an obscure space in The Bee's letter box. Do not think there is a store in Omaha or any other city that has enough business before o'clock in the morning of after o'clock in the evening to pay for the consumers, whether governmental or private, light they burn let alone the coal wasted for heating their places of An endeavor was made to permit the selling Why not business these two hours. take up a real idea to conserve the fuel and push it for all it is worth? The coal saved in one of our big stores

previously had been current. The figures, in one day by cutting off these two it was true, were well in excess of selling hours would heat our street cars for prices current in normal times. But the a week, so we could ride to and from high cost of material and of labor were quite our business with a little degree of A READER. sufficient to cut down the profits on this comfort.

Seed Corn in Nebraska. Silver Creek, Neb., Jan. 13 .- To the Then came the tax problem. After re-Editor of The Bee: On the evening stricting prices in order to prevent profiteerof January 10 at the late Farmers' ing and in order to provide war supplies for Union state convention held in the ourselves and others at reasonable quotaauditorium at Lincoln, with a view to tions, the amended income and the excess getting a line on the seed corn situaprofits taxation plans were enacted. In tion in Nebraska, at my request I was numerous instances they seem to threaten granted about five minutes time in to deprive manufacturers and others of what- which to present the matter and to get a showing of hands in answer to ever profits the price-fixing schemes may, by

questions: After a preliminary statement. I asked questions and received responses as follows:

was that of other civilized nations. At the "How many of you either have seed beginning of the war many of the finest repcorn sufficient for your own use, or know where you can get it of your resentatives of patriotic American manhood left their business to volunteer for service.

At

neighbors? In answer there was a veritable sea of up-raised hands all over the great hall Then in a similar manner I asked

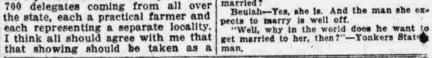
how many did not have seed corn, and the uplifted hands were comparative-

ly very few and scattering. "How many of you have 1,000 bushels or more of seed corn to sell?" was the next question, and five hands upon the available volume of labor were made. Wage scales were advanced and were held up. A call for those who had 500 bushagain advanced—a process contributing to the higher cost of living which became so

els or more brought forth eight hands, and for 250 or more bushels, 20 hands

When it is considered that there were present at that time upwards of Then entered the necessity for the conservation of foodstuffs causing further addi-700 delegates coming from all over tions from this source to the cost of human the state, each a practical farmer and requirements. Contemporaneously came the mobilization of finances, at first the issue of

Women's Coats





Women's Dresses

fair index of the seed-corn situatio in the state at large, and as proof that there is seed corn enough for all, and to spare. The carload proposition alone would indicate that we had over 700 carloads of surplus seed corn to every 10,000 farmers. If now all the above figures should be cut one-half, it would still appear that we have enough seed corn for Nebraska farma-ers and much for those of neighbors

ing states.

It was ordered by the convention that arrangements should be made to have the Farmers' Bureau exchange at Omaha handle this surplus seed corn for all those who might so desire.

CHARLES WOOSTER.

Publisher Abuses the Mail.

Taylor, Neb., Jan. 11 .- To the Edior of The Bee: As chairman of the Loup county fuel committee, I this day received in a government penalty envelope, and without any other postage eight of the enclosed book adveritsements.

Now we are going without meat and wheat two days each week in order to save, we are closing shop early at night to save the coal for the government, and are suffering many other inconveniences and privations, without a murmer to assist the government, and I would like for you to ascertain who and by what authority any one is using the government mails to send the advertising matter of and for books at the government expense, and if one concern has a right to have the government carry its advertising matter free, through the mails, why every advertising concern has not the same right.

A. S. MOON.

(The foregoing letter was accommanied by the advertisement of a publishing concern, which certainly has but little to do with the saving of coal).

LINES TO A LAUGH.

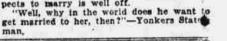
"I don't like the taste of this lip rouge you are using." "The tasts of your plug cut is no treat to me either." rotorted his better half.—Louis-ville Courier-Journal.

Lady—Here, my poor fellow, is a quarter for you. It must be awful to be lame; but I think it's worse to be blind. Expert—You bet it is, mum. When I was blind they was always handin' me counter-feit monwy.—People's Home Journal.

Indignant Wife-What on earth do you de

Indignant Wife-What on earth do you de to your clothes to keep me sewing on but-tons this way? Apologetic Husband-I don't know, my dear. I merely touch the button-I can't imagine what does the rest.-Baltimore merican.

Belle-So your sister is engaged to be married?



# corporate and private enterprise correspondingly increased, and in turn market prices of securities were reduced. It is variously estimated that quotations since the United States entered the war show a depreciation in the value of securities listed on the New York Stock exchange of close to \$4,000,000,was progressing. At first the entirely im-possible theory was preached that our own belligerency would mean a still further strain upon the industrial facilities of our country,

Taking Over Alien Wealth in America How German and Austrian Property Will Be Cared For An effort on part of the British government to secure half a million more fighting men through By FREDERICK J. HASKIN. | a day each, must be administered by the

To the weather man: "Have a heart!" Save food: save fuel; save money; thus you will help save lives that may otherwise be wasted

Chancellor von Hertling is now reported on the sick list, but his case is nothing compared to that of his imperial master.

THE OMAHA BEE

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and also the local new

Let us hope that Charley Wooster's estimate on the amount of seed corn in the state is nearer right than some of his other statements.

That Fremont conference must have been more of a success than its promoters anticipated, else why should Mr. Hitchbranch be so worried?

Secretary Lansing's man at Buenos Aires appears to have been right on the job. At least he made a cleanup of the kaiser's representatives.

Employes of the Union stock yards may feel they have a grievance, but they should remember that a strike there just now helps Germany more than it does them.

Health reports from Camp Funston are most incouraging and should bring something of comfort to a lot of home folks who have been worried about conditions down there.

"Soft drink" places are coming in for a little sadly needed regulation. Too much liberty has been accepted as license by some and the result is that all are likely to suffer because of the misconduct of a few.

Charley Pool is some fixer all right. He says the soldier vote can be collected by the simple expedient of appointing enough deputy commissioners. This plan will give ample employment

# Extending the Selective Draft. The bill to include in the operations of the

### or a lot of deserving democrats

Score one for the marine corps. It was ready when the war broke out and has been ready ever since for any sort of duty. Moreover, its commanding officer has no difficulty in equipping his men with machine guns. This record ought to be posted in every army office in Washington as a reminder of what might have been.

Desperate acts on part of the Bolsheviki leaders suggest that they also realize their rule is nearing its end. It was a sorry day for the Russian people when this crowd of smooth-spoken irresponsibles got the upper hand. Pestoration of order and responsible government will come, but it is bound to be delayed because of the harm done by Lenine and Trotzky.

#### Major Gardner's Service.

Augustus P. Gardner resigned a seat in congress, where he represented a Massachusetts district, to accept a commission in the army. He declined the rank of colonel to take one as major in order that he might sooner reach the fighting front. He died of pneumonia in a training camp. This briefly epitomizes the tragic story of a life devoted to an ideal, that of the defense of his homeland. In 1915 and 1916 Mr. Gardner called attention of the country to its unprepared condition and the imminence of war. Again and again he challenged the pacifists with indisputable facts, only to be waved aside or shouted down is an alarmist. His warnings were unheeded and he succumbs a victim to the system he did so much to remedy. That he left an honored position in civil life to accept a post of danger in the army was quite a characteristic action. Americans now know that Gardner was right and that the "Jimmie" Hays and Champ Clarks and others who would not heed his pleas were wrong. If Americans will only apply the lesson the life of this carnest champion of reasonable readiness for defense will not have been wasted. In any event, his service to his countrymen is far greater than will be appreciated at the moment.

conscription among the war industry plants is being stoutly resisted by a group of extremists who have opposed by all means every movement of the government so far. Just now a general strike in the big shipyards on the Clyde is threatened, the object being to involve all munitions factories and to end the war by shutting off-the supplies needed by the armies. This is an extension of the Bolsheviki policy to the United Kingdom and is not much of a surprise to those who have closely watched developments.

Labor Troubles in England.

Before ever the war started socialists preached that armed clashes could be prevented by workmen refusing to produce supplies. It was announced at one time that the coal miners of Wales had agreed to dig no coal to be burned on battleships or in furnaces for making war supplies. In the presence of actual war, the issue of which is vital to freemen, most of the British workmen receded from this ridiculous position, but the pacifists still are sufficiently numerous to make trouble. Not at any time has the socialistic element, represented by Ramsay MacDonald, ceased its efforts to embarrass the government by pacifist propaganda. This advocate of nonresistance now appears on behalf of the shipyard workers, who propose to resist the call to the firing lines.

Sir Auckland Geddes has bluntly told the young men who are now safe enough in their employment what they may expect if they do not respond to the summons. This has brought the situation plainly before the British public and the division is sharp enough, although the faction opposing the government is in the minority.

It will be too bad if British labor forfeits all it has gained in material advantage and public estimation because of the unwillingness of some of its skilled mechanics to expose themselves as others have done. They would better look to Rassia and then remember that the German military machine is still in good working order and that a break in British morale means disaster for democracy everywhere. Even socialism cannot thrive on ecopomic wreckage such as the Bolsheviki has produced.

custodian. Washington, Jan. 9 .- In the Washington office of Mr. A. Mitchell Palmer, alien

Misunderstanding of the purposes of the custodianship is only one of the difficulties property custodian, 10,500 reports of enemy property holdings in this country have al ready been filed, and are now believed to have a total value of nearly \$1,000,000,000. Liquid funds alone are estimated at \$200,-000,000, and these will probably be invested Liberty bonds. Although the last date for the filing of reports by alien enemies having property in the United States was the 20th of December,

there is reason to believe that the task of finding and caring for enemy wealth is just begun. Some investigators think that the amount now on the books is but a fraction of the total. Misunderstanding of the purpose and method of the custodianship has caused a

in

great deal of difficulty. The enormous withdrawals, of postal and other savings which followed the creation of the office was evidently due to an idea that the property of enemies was to be confiscated. As a matter of fact, the duty of the custodian is to conserve this property by acting as a trustee for its owners, and also to prevent any use of it which would be detrimental to the United States government.

There has also been much misunderstanding as to what constitutes an enemy alien. Place of residence or business is the true test of enenty character, and not nationality or citizenship. A subject of Ger-many who resides in the United States and obeys its laws may continue in the possession of his property and in business, even though he has not declared his intention of becoming an American citizen. It is prop-erty located in this country, but owned by enemies who reside in enemy countries that is the special care of the custodian. That is why the estate of Gladys Vanderbilt, whose husband is an Austrian of Austrian residence, must be placed in the hands of the custodian, while in almost any town a German subject may be found conducting a bakery and build-

ing up a bank account as usual. Thus the largest estates which have comwithin the care of the custodian are those of the two daughters of Adolphus Busch, the American brewer. Mr. Busch owned an es-in New York. One of his assistant police commissioner in New York City under Arthur Woods, and tate on the Rhine and spent his summers in Germany. Both his daughters married Ger-mans, and are resident in that country. Hence their incomes, which are said to be \$1,000

With State Editors

which it faces. The great variety of enemy holdings in this country, and the fact that many of the holders are probably not aware of their duties in the matter, make the task of locating enemy wealth an enromous one. Thus large sums in American municipal bonds are held in Germany and Austria. American travelers in those countries have frequently been surprised at the interest expressed by Germans and Austrians in the progress of various American cities, until they learned that a holder of St. Louis or New York City bonds in Vienna or Berlin s by no means rare. It is known that the kaiser at one time purchased some bonds of the city of New York, and he is also be lieved to have owned some western securi-ties. Whether Wilhelm Hohenzollern stil has any property which the custodian will have to administer for him has not yet been discovered.

Almost daily unexpected holdings of enemy property are coming to light. Information was recently received at the custodian's office that a certain wealthy German living in Germany owns much property in the city of Alexandria, Va., within eight miles of Washington. He was once a butcher, made a fortune by selling meat and investing in real estate, and returned to Germany to become a gentleman of leisure.

It is expected that many voluntary reports will yet be made by enemy aliens who have but recently learned what is their duty with regard to their holdings in this country. Although heavy penalties of fine and imprisonment are provided for all who had not made returns within the time limit, those who voluntarily make a later report because of ignorance of the law will be dealt with

Intended. For the ferreting out of holdings that are deliberately concealed the custodian has at his disposal an elaborate machinery. His own investigative department is headed by Francis P. Garvan, whose reputation for get-ting to the bottom of things was established when he was an assistant district attorney in

# Peppery Points

blanks to it yet.

-the mark or the truth.

Brooklyn Eagle: Fresh evidence as to how the kaiser edits the German newspapers, headlines and all, has an interest of its own. Government monopoly on print paper obviates the ne-cessity of many prosecutions. Obed-lence or oblivion is the newspaper's alternative, with or without a prison term for the editor.

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

Shop shooting sticks proved too tame for Major R. G. Douglas, former Minneapolis Journal: The end of the war may beat the income tax

Washington Post: It is somewhat difficult to tell which has undergone the greater depreciation in Germany

The Falls City Journal features in a frame of laurel leaves a reminder to backward subscribers to come across with the wherewith and start the new New York World: One encouraging ign in relation to food administration is to be seen in the fact that its various representatives are numerous enough and enthusiastic enough to hold a national convention.

Women's Silk Underwear Women's Skirts Infants' Apparel Girls' Apparel Boys' Clothing Men's Clothing Is in force throughout the store Der Marson Marso NOW is when you need a Piano most.

Women's Blouses

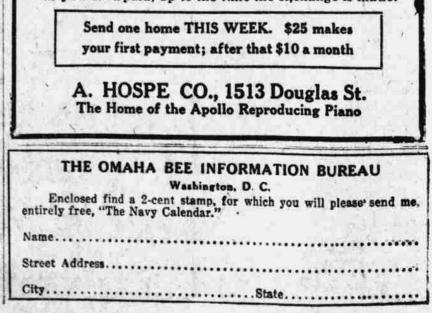
These are times when no home should be without a piano. Music is restful - cheering - a solace for keyed-up nerves and anxious hearts.

> Just now we all need musicand then more music-and then still more music. And the home without a piano today, is indeed a home that is lacking in a lot of mental cheer and comfort. We are selling today the NEW 1918 STYLE

Hospe \$300

This is, indeed, a splendid instrument. It would be hard to find a more satisfactory piano, were you to pay a hundred dollars more.

This piano is just so good, that you may purchase one with this understanding: That if, for any reason, you wish to exchange, at any time within a year, we will make the exchange and give you credit for every dollar you have paid, up to the time the exchange is made.



Switzerland called out 20,000 more roops "as a measure of precaution."

### The Day We Celebrate.

William H. Thomas, real estate and

William H. Thomas, real estate and oan man, born 1857. Baron Wimborne, lord lieutenant of Ireland, born 44 years ago today. Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., retired, who commanded the battleship Maine when it was de-stroyed at Havana, born at Albany, N. Y., 73 years ago today.

ome of his best selections. Prof.



Just 30 Years Ago Today The French Spirit Due Year Ago Today in the War. Anglo-French military council met n London. Crown council of Greece decided to accept allied demands without re-crow.

fraternize. Traternize. "You must know," says he, "that I am a Frenchman living in Canada. I have come over to be ready for my call. They have called the class of 47. My age is 50. Soon they will need me. Of course," he adds, carefully ad-the the structure to an another to subscribers to come across with the wherewith and start the new year four square with humanity's best friend, ye newspaper man. If that doesn't fetch 'em the case is hopeless. Polk Progress serves notice on the tightwads of town if they do not loosjusting the air-cushions to support his alling back, "of course, I cannot hope for the first line, but perhaps I can slip in just behind."

doesn't fetch 'em the case is hopeless. Polk Progress serves notice on the tightwads of town if they do not loos-en up for worthy war objects adver-tising rates will be suspended and their names printed in black type. Editor McGaffin is the boy to dare and do just that. The other day a cranky subscriber hlew into the shop while

