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DECEMBER CIRCULATION
59,541 Daily—Sunday, 51,987
Average circulation for the month, as reported to the United States Department of Commerce, is 59,541 for the daily and 51,987 for the Sunday.

Subscribers leaving the city should have The Bee mailed to them. Address changed as often as requested.

Save food—the world needs what you waste, no matter how little.

These January snows will help the wheat crop and make good spring pasture, so let them come.

Attention given to seed corn at this time is insurance against possible crop failure next summer.

Rioters in Berlin and strikers in Vienna give proof that hunger is a strong antidote for the war feeling.

"Sam" Gompers was born on the same day of the month as the kaiser, but he is not bragging about the fact.

Kaiser Wilhelm is 59 years old today and knows more about the temper of the world than he did four years ago.

Little sympathy will go out to the clerk who carelessly tosses a crumpled bill into the till and hands back \$4 too much in change.

Omaha is to get into line with the rest of the country on the "lightless night" schedule. Saving is essential and every little bit helps.

Bolshevik appeals for relief accompanied by threats afford convincing comment as to the character of the government they provide.

The "horse cuffer" is about to come into his own, Pershing having asked for a regiment of at least 2,000 of them for service in France. Nothing is being overlooked these days.

Wheat in Australia and sugar in Java awaits the coming of ships that soon will be slipping down the ways into the water. If we can stand the pressure a few weeks longer all will be well.

General Gorgas says he asked for hospital ships several months ago and expects a reply almost any day now, showing that our War department has not entirely forgotten the matter.

Von Hertling is not so deaf with the use of words as some of his predecessors were, or he might have more attractively camouflaged the kaiser's demands for a free hand in arranging the world's future.

Mount Kilauwe threatens to add to the spectacle of confusion by one of its magnificent eruptions. It will not get the attention it might have attracted a few years ago, before man began to vie with nature in blowing up things.

Those Beaver City bankers at least know their money is where they put it and also that the burglar-proof guaranty given them with the safe is making good. They will feel better when the safe finally yields up its grip on the coin.

Regulating Currents of Trade.
The proposed regulation of distribution of manufactured goods in order to relieve traffic congestion deserves closer consideration than it has had. It is simple enough to say that any region should depend on goods produced nearest to hand. This is a natural law of trade and in it is involved the preservation of the home market to the maker through the propagation of home industry. The growth of society has supplanted this law in one respect at least, for custom warrants the manufacturer in going out to seek buyers where he may find them. The question just now is which is more desirable—to continue business on a basis as nearly normal as possible or to violently disrupt trade practice by administrative orders? Our ordinary routine already has been sadly upset by so-called corrective measure and may be still further deranged, but some phases of business may well be let alone.

Just 30 Years Ago Today
A party of young people from South Omaha came to this city to call on Rev. P. W. Foster, pastor of the Baptist church, at his residence, 2228 Ohio street.
The letter carriers of the city have organized a benevolent association.

The Day We Celebrate.
John T. Dillon, attorney-at-law, born 1854.
William Lampman, accountant in the county treasurer's office, born 1873.
Samuel Gompers, born in London, 43 years ago today.
Learned Hand, United States judge, born at Albany, N. Y., 46 years ago today.
Bishop Thomas Nicholson of the Methodist Episcopal church, born at Woodburn, Ont., 56 years ago today.
Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle of Missouri, the oldest bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States, celebrates his 81st birthday anniversary today.

20th Day in History.
1813—Major General Henry Dearborn was appointed commanding general of the United States army.
1862—President Lincoln ordered a general advance to be made against the confederates on February 22.
1884—Theodore Rymon, United States ambassador to Germany, died in Berlin. Born at Somerville, N. J., October 25, 1832.

Twice Told Tales
A Child's Hunch.
"So you prefer winter to summer, Mr. Featherbrain?"
"Not especially, Dorothy. Why do you ask me that?"
"Well, sister said yesterday it would be a cold day when you took a girl automobile riding."—Florida Times-Union.

Divorcing the Family.
A little boy aged five had been punished by his parents for disobedience, and the next day without a word to any one he hurried off to the family legal adviser, who happened to be a particular friend of his.
"Well, Johnny," said the man of law after he had shaken hands with him, "what can I do for you?"
"Please, Mr. Brown, said the young litigant, "I want to get a divorce from my family."—Philadelphia Ledger.

In the Dining Room.
As the stout man whose voracious appetite excited the envy of the other boarders, turned to leave the dining-room and mount up to bed he chanced to glance down at his waistcoat.
"I declare," he exclaimed ruefully, "if I haven't gone and lost two buttons off my vest!"
The landlady gave him the benefit of that chilly gaze her boarders had come to know so well.
"I think it highly probable," she announced in clear, harsh tones, "that you will find both of them in the dining-room."—Chicago Herald.

Along War's Sidelines
The manufacture of glycerine from sugar is a war triumph.
Marie Corelli, the novelist, has been fined \$350 in England for sugar hoarding.
It is estimated that \$7,500 nurses will be needed by our army when it reaches 1,500,000.
The mayor of a suburb of Antwerp has been ordered to deliver to the Germans 40 fat cats.
The debt of our government is now \$1 per capita or five times greater than when the war began.
Many concerns that are now producing explosives will, in time of peace, convert their works into dye plants.
A Montana woman is knitting socks for American soldiers with the same needles with which she knitted socks for the soldiers during the civil war.
The French soldier is paid \$20 a year; the German, \$38 a year; the British \$69 a year, and the American soldier gets \$30 a month, or \$360 a year.
Low shoes and spats for women were advocated by members attending the convention of the National Shoe Retailers' association as a war measure to conserve leather.
There is a great shortage of certain supplies in New Zealand, especially in white lead, linseed oil, glass, corrugated iron, wire and hardware generally. In consequence prices have increased in many cases to almost prohibitive figures, glass that cost \$5.47 before the war now must pay \$6.08 for freight alone.

Woodmen of the World
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 1, 1918.
ASSETS
Government, County and Municipal Bonds..... \$31,283,623.20
Cash in Banks..... 1,090,534.03
Real Estate and Building (cost)..... 1,354,302.24
Mortgage Notes..... 133,000.00
Interest Accrued..... 335,938.43
Other Assets..... 2,870,819.27
Total..... \$36,568,217.17
LIABILITIES
Debt (Being Adjusted)..... \$ 1,437,145.04
Monument Claims (Being Adjusted)..... 440,600.00
Salaries, Expenses and Commissions, Due and Accrued..... 75,000.00
Other Liabilities..... 6,394.50
Total Liabilities..... \$ 1,959,939.54
Surplus..... 34,608,277.63
Total..... \$36,568,217.17

THE OMAHA BEE INFORMATION BUREAU
Washington, D. C.
Enclosed find a 2-cent stamp, for which you will please send me, entirely free, "The Navy Calendar."
Name.....
Street Address.....
City..... State.....

Americans and the Law.

A friend of The Bee sends us the following, attributed to Abraham Lincoln: "Let reverence for the law be breathed by every American mother to the babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools and colleges; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation, and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay, of all sexes and tongues and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars." This may or may not be an emanation from the great president, but it is good advice. Better than that, it seems unconsciously to have been realized by the American people within the last few months, and has been given embodiment in action to a degree that is most encouraging to a well wisher of the republic.

Americans have been looked upon as essentially lacking in respect for the laws they make. This charge rests on too substantial a foundation to be lightly passed over. Yet lately we have found our people giving regard to the law in a degree that surpasses the behavior of the most devoted of rigorously regulated communities. In the early part of last summer, a spectacle unapproached in history was observed, when 10,000,000 young men obeyed the law and inscribed themselves as subject to military service. Later on three million of these answered the call of conscription under the law, and above a million were selected for the army. Some objection was made, but it was of little consequence before the suddenly awakened respect for the law.

A few days ago the industrial and commercial activities of two-thirds of the country were cut off in response to a mandate issued by an officer of the law. Objection and complaint, to be sure, were heard, but the order was obeyed. And examples can be multiplied, but these serve to show that in serious times Americans can and do respect the law. Teach the principle, but remember the public understands its obligation.

Selective Draft Disclosures.

A cursory examination of the statistical report on the operation of the selective draft law, just made by General Crowder, discloses some interesting facts. One of these has to do with the comparative condition of physical fitness of the men from different states of the union. South Dakota stands alone at the top of the list with over 80 per cent of selectives found physically fit for service. The great agricultural states of the west follow, with 75 to 80 per cent of fitness, while Alabama is the only state east of the Mississippi river to get into this classification. Pennsylvania, Vermont and Maine fall lowest in the summary, with less than 60 per cent physically fit. Easiest of inferences to draw from this is the advantage of the simple life as lived "out west."

The report also puts a damper on some sensational statements that have recently been made. Of the total number that underwent physical examination, 2,510,706, only 730,756 were rejected as unfit, or less than 30 per cent of the total, instead of 80 per cent, as was asserted in Omaha recently. Less than 21 per cent of the Nebraska called were turned back because they were unable to measure up to the government's standard. Nebraska had comparatively few slackers, too, only 1,369 failing to respond out of 28,573 called. Comparisons are not always pleasant, but it affords some little comfort to local vanity to note how other states behaved. Nearest to Nebraska in total called is Montana, with 28,441, of which number 3,854 proved recalcitrant and did not show up. Nevada, with but 5,474 called for service, developed 1,179 skulkers. Nebraska, with almost 41 per cent of its gross quota enlisted as volunteers, stands well up in the list of states in this regard.

The entire report is worth careful study, for it contains much valuable information and will be of great assistance in connection with future studies, not only for military, but other purposes for which accurate data of the kind are desirable.

Success Through Perspiration.

A superintendent of schools from Ohio, talking to the midwinter classes of the Omaha high schools, told the young folks that success is not achieved by inspiration but by perspiration. He simply has restated the dictum laid down long ago by a highly successful man, that genius is an infinite capacity for hard work. The young people to whom his remarks were directed should realize that the school is but the anteroom to life, that graduation was attained through disciplined and directed effort, and that anything worth while will be achieved in the same manner. The difference is that out of school they will come eventually to assume direction of their own efforts. To find oneself is not always easy, but industry will bring its reward, and no occupation is entirely devoid of opportunity to advance. The world's leaders have made their way by steady, determined work, and man's greatest triumphs have been the products of perspiration.

It took Lloyd George to resurrect Leonard Wood from the obscurity into which the War department bureaucrats had thrust him, and the country may therefore thank the British premier for securing to the world the needed services of one of America's best soldiers.

Views, Reviews and Interviews
Personal Observations of Current Events Bearing Upon the Present War Situation

With events moving so rapidly, I fear observations made on the hurry trip to the east from which I have just returned are in danger of losing interest or at least ceasing to be considered among the live topics of the day. War and peace are, of course, the absorbing topics of all conversation. While in Washington I walked in quite accidentally upon the joint session of congress to which the president was delivering his address upon peace terms. To the public, which in this instance included everybody outside of the inner White House circle, this pronouncement was wholly unexpected and the impression has prevailed that Mr. Wilson prepared his statement and rushed to the capitol to deliver it. But obviously it was not done so fast as that, for as I came into the press gallery after the president had been speaking for not more than five minutes printed copies were distributed, run off for newspaper use, as customary, on one side of the paper and duly captioned and dated. The president read the speech from typewritten manuscript in a quiet voice and a rather modulated tone, with practically no gestures at all, and with only occasional emphasis on the different points. Particularly when he outlined his peace program in numbered paragraphs, "firstly" to "fourteenthly," he recalled very much lecturing to a class of students at college, as I have often heard him do, the only difference being the occasional interruptions by applause, in which no well-ordered body of students would dare to indulge. It seemed to me that Mr. Wilson's hair was whiter than when I had last seen him, but otherwise no outward signs of aging or worry. I hardly need add that among those who heard the speech opinion varied widely as to whether it was calculated to hasten the end of the war or whether it was a breach and make it more necessary than ever to demonstrate first that our armies are invincible and all-conquering.

I also heard the principal part of the debate on the national suffrage amendment leading up to the vote in the house in favor of submitting it. It was plain that the speeches were largely for home consumption. Few of them presented an original line of thought or fresh data, much less a comprehensive grasp of the principles involved. The debate was also lacking in humor and repartee which might have enlivened it for the benefit of the galleries and the successive roll calls on the different amendments and substitutes were tedious in the extreme. The only woman who spoke was Miss Rankin, the "lady from Montana," and, though she did not do justice to herself, I am sure the debate would have been more to the point and more instructive had it been carried on by the women who thronged the galleries instead of by the men on the floor. In this respect I noted a great contrast to another suffrage discussion, which I remember having heard at Washington just 30 years before, when, I believe, the first public hearing on suffrage was accorded by a senate committee. That was a real field day for the suffragists.

The Garfield order for five successive coal-less days and nine coal-less Mondays, dropped as if from the sky, while I was in New York, where its effect was almost indescribable. The people were at first bewildered, then curious, but soon quieted down some, although the confusion continued as to exactly what the order called for, with consequent irregularity in its observance. New York had for weeks been on short coal rations, stores and homes only half heated, people working indoors in sweaters and overcoats, elevator service in tall buildings curtailed, streets almost dark at night. Closing down all the factories completely, however, put hundreds of thousands of men and women out of work and entailed hardships not easily realized except by those involved.

People and Events

The championship marriage bet once more is open to competition. Nat Goodwin says he will not marry again.

Per capita of money circulation reached an altitude of \$48.76 per head on the first of the year. Leagues ahead the H. C. of L. kicks up the dust of the road.

Calls to Senator Knute Nelson to stand for another term come from all shades of politics in Minnesota. If he consents to serve state and country for another six years a unanimous election is probable.

Coming and going, as New York views the procession, a congressman is an expensive institution. Quite a bunch of money was burned in electing four members who recently resigned, and filling the vacant chairs will touch the city treasury for \$64,000 for special elections.

"America is all wind and blow. It's a damned poor country and the kaiser is all right." Thus spoke a German-born farmer in Martin county, Minnesota—a farmer who had made his pile in 26 years in this country. He talked in a lower key when he talked of the country and offered an apology with all kinds of money to settle a fine. The court spurned the tender and made the penalty 60 days.

The New York World Almanac for 1918, just out, very properly features the last year's war history, particularly the causes leading up to the entrance of the United States and the measures taken in support of the declaration of war. All of President Wilson's war addresses and the war acts of congress are included, as well as war measures and events abroad. These historic features, constituting epochal world record, alone render the almanac one of surpassing value. All the other great features of the volume are full of interesting material, making the volume a great helper for busy men, for students and for all classes alive to world affairs. If you can't find what you want in the Almanac, it isn't worth seeking.

The famous emperor's bell of Cologne cathedral sounded its own dirge on New Year's day and its four mates doubtless have gone to the melting pot ere this. The bell, weighing 27 tons, was cast from bronze captured in France during the war of 1870-71, and was presented to the cathedral by the first emperor of Germany. The captured metal wrought into a bell eventually goes back to France in a hopeless effort to dodge the penalty for the crime of 1870-71, compounded with the crimes of 1914-18. Within the walls of the Hohenzollern bridge, are two heroic equestrian statues of the kaiser and his father. Doubtless these were spared. The churches must be stripped before Wild Bill's figure tumbles to the melting pot.

Sign Posts of Progress

All the gold and silver mined in the world would not buy the dairy product of this country.

According to the latest statistics there are at present in the Philippine Islands 102 private schools giving primary education.

The British government has fixed a price of \$12 for standard suit for men, of wool in a limited variety of fabrics.

For the first time in the history of American Methodism, the average salary of the Methodist preacher is now more than \$1,000.

The farmers of the United States have been allowing \$300,000,000 in real money to escape from their pockets each year because of poor roads, according to the testimony of experts.

Water valves 12 feet in diameter and so constructed that they will close automatically in event of a break in the pipe line have been built for a hydroelectric plant in Utah.

Surveys in fifteen states by the National League of Women's service show that there are 1,266,961 women in the United States engaged in essential war-industrial work. And the showing is so satisfactory that it is proposed to make it better by largely increasing the number.

Considerable interest has been created in Great Britain in consequence of the recent public statement of Axel F. Ericsson, chairman of the Ericsson Shipping company and the Monitor Shipping corporation, stating that the company's corrugated ships recently built by his concerns have proved to be extraordinarily successful in every respect. The corrugated steel ship is produced from patented designs and is distinguished mainly by the fact that the necessary strength is obtained by deep corrugations instead of a structural framework.

SMILING LINES.

"What makes that hen of yours cackle so loudly?" inquired Jenkins of his neighbor.
"Why, they've just laid a corner-stone for the new workmen's club across the road, and she's trying to make the neighbors think she did it."—Chicago Herald.

"Ever been on a battleship?"
"Once or twice."
"Rather spick and span, eh?"
"Yes. A modern battleship makes a woman who thinks a battleship is a thing to be afraid of look positively sick with envy."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Why do you close your eyes as you use the roller towel?"
"I'm going on the theory that there may be a clean spot on it. If I don't open my eyes, I won't have any evidence to the contrary."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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