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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETOR

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG

Now for the real rush of Christmas shopping.

Also, do not forget to mail your Christmas packages early.

A dollar is all it costs, and the Red Cross badge is yours.

Our present president resembles our first, in that both have been made honorary citizens of Paris.

Max Hardin talks of coming to America to plead for Germany, but he ought to recall that the Hun beat him to it.

Mr. Wilson has given Paris the supreme thrill of the war. After his visit even that center of gaiety will seem quiet.

China is to adopt a system of symbol writing, but that will not make the tea-box labels any clearer to a "foreign devil."

The commander of U-53 escaped the surrender, but he will not be able to get away from the ignominy of his calling.

An opera singer serving at a lunch counter may be a novelty, but we have many an example of cooks and waitresses singing opera.

The suggestion that Karl Liebknecht have his head examined is timely, but it ought to be extended to include a lot of his followers.

Dr. Blue of the navy tells us the flu has passed its crest and will not stage a comeback. For this assurance, much thanks, but how are we to know?

Six Christmas ships are carrying good cheer from home to the boys over there. Do you remember how you helped The Bee load the Jason, back in 1914?

Nebraska's crop for 1918 did not come up to some others the state has garnered, so far as quantity is concerned, but the market price makes up the difference.

Uniform traffic laws for the several states are suggested as a possible solution for the motorist's present perplexity. The first one should require observance of all the rest.

Why should it be necessary to urge anyone to join the Red Cross? It is a badge of honor that anyone should be proud to wear, and admission to the roll is an honor anyone might covet.

Sir Thomas Lipton will find American sportsmen quite eager to renew the ancient controversy for supremacy of the seas as represented by the "mug." And both sides know there is no power in it.

Bill Hohenzollern evidently looks forward to an unpleasant time in court, having called in lawyers to prepare his defense. This is quite a come-down for a gent who lately held himself answerable only to his old friend, Gott.

Chairman Moon is meeting some obstacles in his effort to convince the house that the purchase of the wires is an immediate necessity. Perhaps if Burleson were not in the background a different light might shine on the proposal.

The "mummy" ice plant might quiet some local apoplexy incident to next summer's service by announcing an extension of its plan for furnishing citizens with ice. Last summer's operations were all right as far as they went, but did not go far enough.

The Mauretania sailed into Halifax with 7,000 returning "Canucks" on board, and claimed the record for the load. This was on Saturday, but here comes the Leviathan with 9,000 Yanks on its passenger list, just to show what a real transport can do.

The Lost Troubadour

Where, oh where, is Karl Rosner—Rosner who revealed the kaiser as a botanist and his firstborn son as a naturalist?

Tales of lugubrious Hohenzollerns fished from Holland inspire regret that the once reverential biographer of German royalty did not follow his idols into exile. When his touching description of the elder Hohenzollern picking violets while he wept over the disasters which his stiff-necked enemies had brought upon themselves is recalled, one longs for the individual plucking nettles or other noxious weeds and shedding upon tulips tears for his own sad fate. Rosner's vivid portrayal of the younger Hohenzollern relating to the elder the miracle of the frogs which croaked so thunderously as to drown the noise of the German artillery and permit his armies to advance unexpectedly prompts longing for his account of that fanciful personage listening to the thunder of the waves against his seagirt prison as he gazes upon the sorrowful picture of the Prodigal Son in his simple domicile.

Nane there was so deft as the missing Rosner in verbally disguising devils as Madonna, in training the morning glories of poetry over the Hohenzollern dunghill. By leaving or losing him Wilhelm and Fritz have deprived posterity of an epic work beside which Virgil's classic tale of the adventures of Aeneas would have appeared as a narrative of the simple life.—New York Herald.

SELECTIVE DRAFT A SUCCESS.

General Crowder is well within reason when stating that the selective draft system has more than justified its adoption as a method for raising an army. It would be absurd to contend that by the volunteer system the United States could have raised an army numbering more than 4,000,000 men, to have trained, equipped and sent across the Atlantic more than 2,000,000 of these, and to have had another million ready for such transportation within the short time we were in the war.

Registration of more than 23,000,000 men, with accurate detailed information relative to the personal affairs of each, is alone an achievement of such magnitude as to give the law an impressive standing. All its operations were novel to Americans, but generally were carried out in such spirit as made them more effective. The early establishment of the constitutionality of the measure was helpful, and those who opposed it at the time of the great crisis unconsciously did the republic a service. That it will be relied upon for the future as the agency through which the military forces of the United States will be provided in time of war may be accepted as fairly well settled.

Its application in time of peace has not as yet been decided upon. Advocates of universal training will rely on it, finding in its provisions ready support for their convictions. If we are to have our young men trained in the rudiments of the soldier's trade, the selective draft law will make easy the approach to such a system.

Whether the disbanding of the draft boards was justified at this time, or whether it would have been wiser to retain them to assist in the muster out, need not now be debated. The public owes a great deal to the men who served on those boards. They were charged with a grave and important duty, accepting responsibilities rarely put upon citizens. That these duties were well discharged is shown by the results.

If the law did not always operate smoothly, and sometimes apparent injustice or hardship resulted, it was not the design of the draft boards that was to blame. No chapter of all our experience in the war is of greater moment than that written by these men, on whose judgment, patriotic prudence and devotion rested the first step of forming the new army. To them belongs more credit than they probably ever will get.

Our New Merchant Marine.

The report of the Emergency Fleet Corporation and the United States Shipping board gives a careful review of the activities of the great organizations that have achieved so much of real accomplishment within the year. When the squabbles that began under the chairmanship of Mr. Denman were brought to an end by his removal and the work was reorganized under Mr. Hurley, the building of ships actually commenced.

The Hog Island episode may be dealt with at another time, as the senate still is in the mood to more thoroughly inquire into some of the conditions that surround that deal. With this at one side, the fact stands out that the United States did make great progress in its ship building program. Although the full amount of tonnage asked for was not delivered, on November 21 the Emergency Fleet Corporation owned 455 new ships of 2,648,892 deadweight tons. In all, on that date, the fleet corporation had control of 1,386 vessels, aggregating 7,498,075 deadweight tons, owned, managed or chartered. Part of this fleet has been returned to its private ownership since.

The coming year, says the report, will see a larger turn-out from the shipyards, because many technical difficulties have been conquered and improvements have been adopted. It is proposed to complete the full number of steel vessels contracted for, and wooden ships under the conditions recently announced. No concrete vessels will be added to the fleet till the engine builders overtake the hull constructors.

While Mr. Hurley does not specifically outline a future for the great fleet, he has expressed himself in other places as favoring its continued ownership and operation by the government. Other authorities have discussed the question, with varying opinions, but all agree that in the existence of the ships called forth by the U-boat warfare found the future for American commerce. The place we held prior to the war of the rebellion may be regained through the war of 1917.

Confusion Becoming Confounded.

The uproar at a little gathering in New York, when a speaker sought to expound an idea in connection with colonial control, is symptomatic of the state of public mind. Representatives of "submerged" nationalities, just now breathing the air of freedom, find it not easy to curb all the aspirations that have been repressed for generations. Therefore a confusion of thought has ensued, and this is being confounded as these patriots come together for conference over the future. It is not that insuperable difficulties have appeared, yet it is clear that all expressed hopes are not to be realized. Adjustment of claims with respect to the rights of others, that justice may be done to all, is the greatest job ahead of the old nations lately become new. That they will find help in America and elsewhere is certain, but it is equally true they must begin by helping themselves. National greatness may be denied them, perhaps, but national dignity, prosperity and happiness will be theirs, if they will only just start right. This is a time for wiping out ancient grudges and getting under headway with a clean sheet for a new world.

Mr. McAdoo reassures the Missouri river navigators that the Mississippi barge line is not to be abandoned. This is one government enterprise that means a great deal to the middle west, and Omaha is deeply interested in its extension. When the towboats go up and down the Missouri on regular scheduled trips, dreams now entertained will be realized, and one big transportation problem will have been solved.

The water wagon is to follow the Allies into Germany, if the Hun's other idols are to be taken from him, why not let Gambrinus go with Wotan? It looks like the "gotterdammerung" all right.

Another makeshift public market is proposed. If Omaha is ever to have proper accommodations in this line, it is time to start right

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.

Carter Glass, who today takes office as secretary of the treasury of the United States in succession to William G. McAdoo, has been a member of congress for eight terms and is regarded as one of the best informed men on currency and banking in the country. During the past few years he has had many offers from banking institutions, but has preferred to remain in public life. Mr. Glass is a native of Lynchburg, Va., and is in his sixty-first year. He learned the printing business when a youth, and is now the owner and publisher of two newspapers in his native city. He is now the second newspaper man in President Wilson's cabinet, the other being Joseph Daniels, secretary of the navy.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

The armistice between Russia and Germany came into effect. British and French troops joined the Italian army in the defense of the Piave line.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago Today.

Casper E. Yost has been appointed by Judge Dundy to be receiver of the Omaha Republican and will continue to run the paper. Word comes from Boston that Dr. Duryea preached his farewell sermon as pastor of the Central Congregational church there preparatory to taking charge of the First Congregational church of this city.

Rev. A. W. Lamar Preached at the First Baptist Church on "Fatherhood, Its Responsibilities and Its Joys."

Herbert Taylor, eldest son of Cadet Taylor, fractured several bones of his right foot and will be confined to his room for a week or two.

Fred W. Jones, manager of the cloak and suit department at Falconers, died at his residence, 1513 Howard street.

The Day We Celebrate.

Frank L. Weaver, city attorney, born 1861.

William A. Smith, vice-president of the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company, born 1847.

Admiral Austin M. Knight, U. S. N., born at Ware, Mass., 64 years ago.

Rear Admiral James M. Helm, U. S. N., born at Grayville, Ill., 63 years ago.

William J. Snow, who held a commission as major general in the national army, born in New York 50 years ago.

Oscar B. Colquitt, former governor of Texas, born at Camilla, Ga., 57 years ago.

Dr. Isaac Sharpless, former president of Haverford college, born in Chester county, Pa., 70 years ago.

This Day in History.

1824—Thomas Starr King, a Unitarian divine to whose remarkable powers as a writer and speaker has been ascribed the loyalty of California to the Union in the civil war, born in New York city. Died in San Francisco, March 4, 1864.

1857—Ten thousand lives lost in an earthquake in Calabria.

1870—The French under General Chanzy repulsed a German attack at Vendome.

1918—Nineteen persons killed in a German raid on the English sea coast towns of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby.

1915—Italian destroyer Intrepido and transport Re Umberto sunk in Adriatic.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Today is the centenary of the birth of John Laurence Smith, one of the most original and independent of American scientific investigators of the nineteenth century.

A special meeting of the board of directors of the National Lumber Manufacturers' association has been called to meet in Chicago today to consider the advisability of providing additional revenues for the association.

Nevada is to take its place in the list of bone-dry states today as a result of the November election, when the initiative prohibition amendment was adopted by a majority of between 2,000 and 3,000.

Twenty thousand hotel men from all parts of the United States and Canada are expected in New York City today for the opening of the National hotel exposition and congress, which will hold forth for a week in Madison square garden.

Storyteller of the Day.

Edward Marshall, the noted author and war correspondent, said in London:

"I can sympathize with the English hatred of the slacker."

"The slacker gets it good and hard in England nowadays. One of these slacking chaps boarded a tram the other evening that was crowded with muddy, unshaven soldiers just back on a five-day furlough from the trenches."

"The slacker was in evening dress—silk socks, pumps, brilliantined hair, and dainty white gloves. There were no seats, so he took hold of a strap. As he stood there, strapping, the Tommies studied him thoughtfully. Finally one of them got up, touched him on the elbow politely, and said:

"Have my seat, miss."

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN SOLDIER BOYS

He is not dead; 'tis but the shell that breathes here so cold and still. He who has yesterday, Did greet us with a smile. Hath but preceded us Across the bridge. Yea, and I must cross In the afterlife. And in that land where God hath decreed And that shall cease. Our soldier boy today Dost dwell in peace. Mayhap with some who, By the iron of fate, Became his foe. Who 'mong us all Desires to say, 'Tis not so."

CHARLES H. JACOBS.

Future of the Red Cross

New York Evening Post.

Having risen splendidly to a tremendous emergency task, the American Red Cross feels that it has proved its capacity for the permanent shouldering of new responsibilities. It now has 22,000,000 members, and at Christmas intends asking all Americans to join and pay their dollar dues. The American people have given it nearly \$50,000,000, and what remains, the membership fees and the gifts of materials that will be asked from time to time, will be sufficient for the present. But as Chairman Davison indicates in his statements, the American Red Cross intends no slackening of its relief work. Its undertakings will merely have a slowly changing character as its war work merges into more normal peace activities. The winter is expected to see us suffering abroad. In alleviating this misery the American Red Cross expects the European governments and the European relief organizations to step forward more prominently. The governments in particular may take entire charge of some fields.

"Co-operation" Mr. Davison emphasized in speaking of the Red Cross future in countries which will show a rapid expansion of agencies for kindling the war.

"We must not and cannot act alone," we must wait on the general program before outlining our definite policies. But this co-operation has been a watchword to a greater extent than we commonly realize. * * * The Red Cross, which may seem to the hasty American mind to have begun work in a huge vacuity of social agencies, has labored in communities full of them. They are loyally supported and intelligently managed. Few things in the Red Cross record are more admirable than the tact shown in utilizing or being utilized by them.

Just before fighting ended the Red Cross accomplished a reorganization in France which partially decentralized it and gave it greater flexibility. The country was divided into irregular zones, each with its manager. The administrative departments became six. That of requirements was given charge of supplies, personnel, transport and manufacturing; the medical and surgical department was given the children's bureau, nursing and the bureau of reconstruction and re-education; that of army and navy service the home service, canteens and army field service, and that of general relief the refugees, war orphans, soldiers' families and agriculture. The two other departments are those of medical research and research in France and in the alignment of Red Cross work as it affects all Europe and America; but the old organization, adaptable as it was to a nice adjustment between civilian relief and army work. The Red Cross has trained agents studying the field with care. Homer Folks is abroad with expert helpers examining the war's social effects in most of the allied countries from Britain and Belgium to Greece, and, possibly, Russia. His reports are expected to furnish one basis for the Red Cross' peace plans. Tuberculosis, child welfare, housing, public health, with details of the government solution of food and fuel problems, will demand of the Red Cross planned effort.

Americans were always proud of the Red Cross as an agency of national and international relief. We turned our backs on domestic needs, from that of meeting a mine disaster to that of furnishing funds and plans for fighting tuberculosis. We were glad to point to its record at Messina, in flooded China and starving India, and in the typhus-scourged Balkans. Yet we were put to shame by even Japan in the matter of Red Cross membership, and were remarkably slow in giving the Red Cross the expert help it needed in its work.

In her book on the Red Cross before we entered the war, Mabel Boardman protested against our "happy-go-lucky" faith in emergency measures. Now that the Red Cross is left by the war with extraordinary strength, with an experienced corps, with a many-sided organization well tested, we should be eager to see it kept strong.

Poor Bernstorff's Troubles.

With regret Count Bernstorff confessed that "the fact of an American newspaper being subsidized in never kept secret, because there is no reticence in this country."

This national failing was deplorable. It was annoying and embarrassing to the kaiser's trusted agent in Washington in his efforts to enlighten the American people. They were not so easily fooled as the honest Germans, whose government made it a business to stuff them with stupid official lies. The German ambassador had unlimited funds with which to corrupt the American press, and to nourish needy anti-American editors. It was his ventures turned out, "in my always ends," he complained to Berlin, "in being held responsible for all the articles of any such newspapers."

The only investment Count Bernstorff found profitable was the "peace propaganda, which has cost the largest amount but which also has been the most successful." He had tried the Embargo association, which enjoyed the patronage of a representative since indicted and an eminent western senator. He made use of German western league and other associations, but none gave real satisfaction. After the sinking of the Lusitania he found it expedient to get rid of "all dubious individuals," some sought to fasten themselves on him as permanent pensioners, and failing that, they "try to blackmail us."

The real burden of Count Bernstorff's grievances, however, was not that he spent enormous sums to no purpose, that he was lied right and left by the kind of people he selected for the services he required, but that he was bound to be caught if he subsidized an American newspaper, because the suspicions of American newspaper readers would at once be aroused.

We would not tolerate the system of fraud which the German government cultivated in Germany. We were not cultured.—New York World.

One Idol Amid Ruins.

A man just arrived in Amsterdam from Berlin reports that all save one of Germany's idols have fallen. The others, war lords and statesmen, and the ruler by divine right himself, are no longer subjects even of conversation. Hindenburg alone remains erect amid the ruins of the old regime, and still commands the reverence and respect accorded to every commanding figure of the days that are so remote, though at the same time so recent.

Why this should be so is not easy of understanding. Hindenburg does not look like a great man, though undoubtedly he is a big man, and there is strangely little evidence that he possesses military genius. He did inflict a single crushing defeat on the Russians in the early part of the war, but the circumstances were peculiar and all in his favor, and since then his achievements, if any, have not come to foreign notice. Indeed, outside of Germany he has been held a half-mythical personage. Perhaps he is no more within Germany and in that very fact may be the reason for his survival in popular esteem.

A less fanciful theory of his present favor is that it rests on his refusal to run away or hide when the crash came. He has shown none of the so common fear of his own soldiers, and if the allies want him they will have no difficulty in finding him. By comparison with other war lords, he is now heroic, however he may have been in the past, and heroes are scarce in Germany.—New York Times.

Nation-Wide Question.

"What shall we do with auto speeders?" The question vexes the country east and west and all around the center. Jails are not big enough to hold 'em. Fines make about as much of an impression as water on a duck's back. Safety promoters in New York state now propose a trial judge, who would order to revoke licenses in lieu of the imposition of fines. Chauffeurs are licensed in the Empire state.

Around the State

Adam Breeds of The Hastings

The Hastings Breeds to have landed in his old job. More than one graph decorates the editorial page each day.

When Cheyenne goes dry! The thought loses itself in visions of highway and the Lincoln route to Sidney and beyond the bootlegger warily asks, "Where do we go from here, papa?"

Following the example of the Fremont Tribune in telling its age, the Nebraska Press "kisses up" 60 years and still going strong. Oh, well, as long as old chancellors give themselves away the youngsters have no kick coming.

Crete Vidette will not weary of good work and plans a fresh campaign for paved streets. Now with peace cheering the multitude, failure is impossible. The road roller of progress is bound to move regardless of the most along the road.

Hastings Tribune cherishes paragonically, perhaps reminiscently, graphically, perhaps reminiscently, under the touch awaiting newspaper men flocking to France. Editor Breeds has how does the French eye view how does the home variety?

"Some years ago," says the Beatrice Express, "it was not a serious problem to find a modern house to add to the city. At the present time, however, it requires a good deal of ingenuity to secure a suitable house. They are usually spoken for as soon as it is known they are to be vacant." Similar conditions are noted in other Nebraska cities, foreshadowing an early relief of home building.

Grand Island's clearing house association takes official notice of the activities of salesmen of blue sky stock and warns the people against exchanging Liberty bonds or paying with their savings without investigation or consultation. Glittering promises of big profits are worth about as much as the air that breathes them, and the Grand Islanders render a needed public service against blue sky scaplers.

Booze runners in Nebraska undoubtedly scent big profits when they succeed, or else they figure the advantage with the carrying of months of drought, prosecutions netted \$12,356.55 in fines, equivalent to \$7,900 a month, besides the loss of vehicles confiscated. Pretty stiff prices to pay for wet whistles. Perhaps a few uncommonly slick runners can show a profit, but the all round loss will not deter the fellows always eager to take a chance.

EDITORIAL SNAPSHOTS.

Atlanta Constitution—William Hohenzollern clings to a semblance of royal nomenclature by taking the title of "count." But, in the vernacular of the sports page, he "took the count" before the title.

Washington Post—Bill Hohenzollern hopes that the allies will be wrapped in the intricacies of their own technicalities and thus permit him to escape. Bill, you always were a bit of a dreamer.

Detroit Free Press—The two most dangerous men in the country today are the employer who is going around looking for trouble with his workmen and the workman who is going around looking for trouble with his employer.

Philadelphia Ledger—It is clear, from General Pershing's report, that the armistice came just in time to save the German army from a disaster as great as that which once overtook a French army there.

Brooklyn Eagle—Every good Irishman in British or American uniform will smile contentedly as Pershing receives the "order of Michael" from the king of Romania. He knows what Kelly and Burke and Shea can do when they set started.

New York World—Figures given out by the Public Health Service show approximately 250,000 deaths in the country from influenza and pneumonia since September 15. Comparisons with the death rate in Germany in France from influenza and disease signify nothing. But that they should be made is inevitable.

SIGNPOSTS OF PROGRESS.

A Worcester (Mass.) grocer, unable to secure an efficient delivery boy, is now employing two delivery girls, and says the boy question doesn't worry him any more.

The German potash industry, heretofore almost a monopoly, may have its fair share of competition after the war. Potash deposits have been discovered in Catalonia, Spain.

Machinery for ships in which a steam turbine and an old engine are coupled to each propeller, permitting the use of fuel oil, has been patented by a Swiss inventor.

A parliamentary committee that investigated found that the production of all London's electric power in a few central stations would save 6,000,000 tons of coal a year and greatly lessen the smoke evil.

Minneapolis Tribune: It is said the German crown prince parades before the mirror in full uniform and has his of depression. A plain case of cause and effect, we should say, remembering what his pictures look like.

The Altoona (Pa.) Council has voted to substitute a motor for three horses in the Great Depression. A plain steam fire engine which, according to the records of the fire department, has not been in service for six years.

THE MARNE.

Twice they came to the river. Once they met with a flaming sword. And fled before the vision.

And when once more they came, Through the dream of power that Confusion fell on their ranks. For the Angel of God withstood them.

There were soldiers who saw the light of stern white boats Elysian. Guarding the hosts in weary men. Through that green vale of wonder.

That the little tranquil stream Should be a sign forever. In a land of high endeavor.

France of the Miracles—see. At every day's declining. In level rays on the river's breast The sun of victory shining.

Marian C. Smith in New York Tribune.

The Bee's Letter Box

Wants Strict Quarantine.

Omaha, Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee:—A leaflet put out by the University of Nebraska on Spanish influenza, in giving the causes, admits of being infected. It is "probably" caused, etc. After telling of the highly contagious character of the disease and warning persons to stay at a distance from other people, it ends up by saying, "Quarantine is unnecessary. It is impracticable."

If ever a strict quarantine was needed it is now and right now, for this disease that is spreading daily and reaping its alarming harvest. And why is a quarantine for this disease impracticable? Other contagious diseases are quarantined.

The writer of the epistle accredited to the University of Nebraska contradicts himself: He warns against crowds, saying they are "potent factors" in spreading the disease, yet declares "quarantine unnecessary."

Now, "avoiding crowds" is a sort of voluntary quarantine, an isolating of oneself from persons. A quarantine is an enforced isolation of the sick. The former cannot be effective in small degree, the latter, where the germs causing the disease are short lived, would be entirely effective. It would soon stamp out the disease.

Four hundred thousand persons dead from influenza in this country in less than three months, and the disease unchecked. Something more than "sneezing in the handkerchief" should be done to stop it. Let's have a quarantine—a strict one—and try to stop this awful scourge.

OMAHAN.

Two Kinds of Picketing.

Smithfield, Neb., Dec. 10.—To the Editor of The Bee:—I cannot refrain from comparing notes on the picketing done by the suffragists at Washington. How were both treated? The suffragists were both treated by unsympathetic police and firemen, and their bodies bruised and scratched. Next, they were thrown into prison along with criminals, made to do obnoxious tasks eight hours a day, eat no food, be held by harsh judges and fined for disturbing traffic. All this for standing silently holding a banner.

How are the carmen treated? Very nicely indeed. Everything is being done to bring the dissatisfied parties together. They are protected by the union. Is this equality and justice?

SUFFRAGIST.

Mail Service for the Soldiers.

Oxford, Neb., Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee:—In Thursday's Bee I read the "Ask for Home Letters to Soldiers." I read the appeal of Secretary Baker to write inspiring letters to the soldiers in France. I desire to ask Secretary Baker what good will do to write inspiring letters if, through the absolutely inefficient postal facilities the soldiers do not get those inspiring letters until age kills the inspiration. Here we are in the second month since the armistice was signed and thousands and thousands of parents have not heard whether their boys were wounded, killed or survive the great war. The "Ask for Home Letters" these soldiers are not getting their home letters written by their parents, sisters and brothers until they are so old that they give an acute feeling of homesickness instead of an inspiration to contentment. If Secretary Baker wishes to inspire our soldiers let him cut the red tape and see to it the boys who have sacrificed so much for their country get a mail service compatible with the debt the nation owes them. There is no sane reason the friends of soldiers are in suspense of the late war conditions in which their soldier boys emerged from the hard fighting in the late war with Germany. I heartily second our secretary's appeal to write often to our soldiers in foreign lands, but a greater obligation rests upon Mr. Baker to take steps immediately to correct what is nothing less than a national disgrace. "Ask for Home Letters" recorded to our soldiers since hostilities have ceased.

A. C. RANKIN.

Hog Prices.

Falls City, Neb., Dec. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee:—In an editorial in The Bee December 11, on "Hogs, Corn and Markets," you appear to think farmers are rushing their immature hogs to market in order to take advantage of the high price of meat or that they are willing to kill the goose that laid the golden egg, only to increase the price of the corn they fed into their hogs for a year or two. Last fall, when the food shortage was asked the