## THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)-EVENING-SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR

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THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG



Do it today.

Omaha is going after Christmas in the oldfashioned way this year.

Merry England will have its first real Christmas in five years, and plans on making it a real one

Cato Sells boasts of the part the red men played in the war, as if it were any especial sacrifice for an Indian to take the war trail.

A die cutter in Boston is reported to be collecting wages at the rate of \$220 a day, but that still leaves him outside the Rockefeller class.

Mr. Baker will probably welcome a recess of nine months with no congress to interfere with his peculiar way of handling the army.

into the life of the coal man, who was beginning to wonder when his harvest would come. Thirsty Denverites stood all night in a snow

Old Boreas has blown a little bit of cheer

storm, waiting to get their booze from the express office. In Omaha that would be consid-

The navy is looking ahead to recruiting 200,-900 men next year. This will afford some opportunity for the boys who have not had enough of the fighting.

Just as a sort of Christmas gift, the "four minute men" are to be demobilized the day before Christmas. The country will do its own talking hereafter.

The prince of Wales is about to make a tour of the British dominions. He ought to be reminded that no bars are up between the United States and Canada.

Mr. Wilson's coming week will be a busy one if he carries out the program laid down for him. But congress will not be in session, and that will ease his task a little.

No room to question the patriotism and selfsacrifice of our Omaha school children! They come across and over the top in response to every call made in the name of their country...

The Home guards will give up their career of glory and return to a peaceful life again. conscious of knowing that if a call had come for their services, they would have met it in some fashion.

No matter where the flu originated, or what caused it, the scourge is upon us, and no one will lose anything by observing reasonable caution in the matter of personal conduct until the danger is over.

If New York school children are dying of hunger, as is reported, it shows that someone has been terribly careless, for in this country no one should be hungry at any time, and especially not when so many agencies of relief are actively searching out every case of need or

Our democratic brethren are more than ever worried for fear the republicans are going to commit some great blunder that will ensure their defeat in 1920. If they will just be patient they will see the party of progress and liberty redeem its promises, just as it has in

It is not only in Europe by a good deal that our mail service has broken down, as any business man with an extensive correspondence can testify. Burleson methods work out inevitably wherever put into effect.

Senator "Jimmy" Reed is having trouble with the Department of Justice over the proteut propaganda, but will probably finish about where he did on the food administration matter. Yes, he is a democrat, and so must be an administration "supporter."

#### Americans at Coblenz

American troops are on historic ground at Coblenz, capital of Rhenish Prussia, on the Rhine. The frowning fortifications of Ehrenbreitstein, atop a 400-foot rock across the river look down upon them. If they had eyes to see and minds to think, they doubtless would be amazed at the spectacle of an alien armed force privileged to take them over whenever demand

s made for their transfer. At this point on the Rhine is some of the nost interesting and impressive scenery in all The old town of Coblenz is hoary with buildings four centuries old and more. The present Ehrenbreitstein fortifications themselves n part are 100 years old. They succeed the ones captured by the French in 1799, after a siege of fourteen months, and destroyed by them two years later upon the signing of the peace of Luneville. Cession from France to Prussia was made in 1815 by the peace of Vienna, and the following year the present

stronghold was started. The American, army of occupation, in its silent, bloodless taking over of Coblenz, will look upon the equestrian statue of William I at the junction of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. They will be reminded afresh thereby what a change has come over the deeply lined face of Europe in the last month. Verily, the right of might, proclaimed by Treitschke and Bernhardi and the whole Prussian militaristic crew, has lapsed, never, we hope, to find another footing .- Minneapolis Tribune.

FIXING REVENUE LAW FOR 1920.

Partisan control of the senate by the democrats has enabled them to incorporate in the new revenue bill provisions fixing the tax rates for 1920. This was done presumably at the behest of the president, who adopted the suggestion-made by Secretary McAdoo before his retirement. It is ostensibly to stabilize business conditions, by giving advance notice as to what taxes will be.

This, however, is regarded as a mere pretext. The real reason is found in the fact that democratic control of congress will pass after March 4, and with revenue legislation out of the way, a call for an extra session of the Sixty-sixth congress may be avoided. In order to accomplish this, and so provide for an interim of nine months, during which time there can be no interference with democratic legislation already on the books, the present congress usurps the function of its successor.

If the needs of the country for revenue were known that far in advance, the action might be excusable as a mere partisan maneuver, but the late secretary of the treasury admitted that estimates could not be safely made at this time. He fixed \$4,000,000,000 as the sum needed on the general theory that federal expenditures are not likely to fall below that

If the president will gain anything by not having a republican congress in session during the summer, it is quite apt to be at the expense of exposing the country to dangers of financial disturbance, and maybe to an inordinate tax levy in 1921. It would have been far wiser to have allowed each year to be taken care of as it comes until recovery from the war has been farther advanced.

#### America's Merchant Marine.

The future of the American merchant marine is far from being settled. No longer is there any argument as to the desirability of having our foreign commerce carried on American bottoms and under the American flag. How to provide for means to attain this is the great problem.

The enormous energy expended in the production of freight carriers to meet the war emergency produced tonnage, not to the amount that was promised by reckless press agents of the enterprise, nor even up to a point that bade fair to fill all requirements. Contracts for construction on government account of a large number of similar vessels are being carried out. These in time will come into commission and will be engaged in ocean traffic.

But these vessels will outlast the lifetime of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and then what will happen? It may be, although it is hardly probable, that the United States will continue in the shipbuilding or traffic-carrying trades. Will the term of five years after the war, as now established, be long enough for the complete revival of the American merchant marine? This question will come before the next congress in this and in other forms.

Under the law creating the Shipping board it was to investigate shipping conditions and study shipping laws and navigation throughout the world, that an authoritative report might be made to congress as a guide to legislative action. This report has not been made, for, as Chairman Hurley puts it, the board has been "too busy building ships."

In 1924, according to the present outlook, the Emergency Fleet corporation will cease to operate ships, and the Shipping board will sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the government vessels. Before that time a definite program should be adopted, and that does not seem long, when it is remembered that the merchant marine has been a subject of more or less active debate for forty years, and the Shipping board is the nearest approach to a solution yet presented.

#### Can Germany Pay the Bill?

Estimates as to the bill that probably will be presented to Germany as liquidated war damages are mounting higher day by day. These will be subject to a final scaling by a commission, which will determine eventually the amount to be exacted from the Germans as reparation and indemnity. In anticipation of this interest centers on the ability of the Germans to meet the demads that will be made upon them.

Dr. Walter Rathenau, the greatest of the scientific captains of industry of the empire, says his country is bankrupt. English and French authorities insist the capital and resources of Germany are scarcely impaired as a result of the war. Man power has been considerably diminished, but may be replenished, temporarily at least, by the employment of men from neighboring countries whose industries were deliberately destroyed by the Huns, who systematically wrecked factories of all kinds wherever found, that the empire would have a

market for its wares when peace was restored ... It has been discovered that the German plea for food was largely a sham, and it may be found that the poverty now set up is also fictitious. Careful inquiry will be needed to determine the value of Dr. Rathenau's assertion. He is right as to one thing, that it is the worst calamity that has befallen Germany in 2,000 years, but this will not relieve the Huns from the debt they owe. Restitution and reparation will be strictly and justly insisted upon. Payment of the bill will require the product of generations of Germans, and they may outgrow their notions of another war by the time the last claim

#### Again the Child Mind.

French socialist deputies have withdrawn from a committee of the chamber because the chairman would not accede to a demand that Clemenceau be interpellated on a point that might raise a row, but scarcely would serve a good purpose. In Ireland Sinn Feiners elected to Parliament will not take their seats, allowing their constituencies to go unrepresented. In either case the motive is the same. It is negative rather than positive resistance to the course of government. The socialists resign as a protest and deprive France of any service they might give on the committee, because they cannot have their own way. The Sinn Fein leaders will have no share in the deliberations of the imperial Parliament, because they seek autonomy for Ireland. It is the child-mind manifesting itself in the sprit of refusing to play because unable to dominate the game. Rea! reforms, social or political, do not make progress this way. Protests are only potent when presented with reason and logic behind

Right in the Spotlight.

Gustav Ador, who has been elected president of the Swiss confederation for the year 1919, celebrates his 73d birthday today. For many years Dr. Ador has been regarded as Switzerland's foremost citizen and statesman. Of late years he has become widely known outside his own country as president of the international committee of the Red Cross, to which office he was chosen in 1910. During the European war he had an opportunity to prove his skill and talents as an organizer. He founded the now world-famous agency of the prisoners of war, the main purpose of which was to act as intermediary between prisoners and their families or friends. It was he who was largely responsible for the exchange of wounded and sick prisoners by the belligerents. Dr. Ador is personally known to many Americans, having visited Washington several years ago to attend the international Red Cross conference.

One Year Ago Today in the War. Austro-German forces in the Asiago offensive stormed the summits of Col de Rosso and Monte albella, cutting off more than 6,000 Italians from the main army.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago Today.

Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Duryea assumed his duties as pastor of the First Congregational church, delivering his first sermon to crowded pews. The noted divine is described as "of impressive appearance, about 45 years of age, iron gray hair, lofty and striking forehead, with strongly arched eyebrows and penetrating gray eyes. He is clean shaven and wears the usual garb of black.' Mrs. Pierson was appointed to assist County Poor Agent Mahoney

to receive \$75 a month for three Cold wave flag is flying with notice of a drop of 24 degrees in the temperature.

in looking after the poor. She is



gunners bagged eight fine geese Frank Bandle is being talked about for the staff of Association umpires.

The Day We Celebrate.

Dr. A. A. Holtman, physician and surgeon, born 1869. Jacob Marks, salesman for the Eagle Lye works, born 1867. John A. Rine, former city attor-

ney, born 1878. Giacoma Puccini, whose new operas have recently been presented for the first time in New York, born n Lucca, Italy, 60 years ago. Oscar S. Straus, New York merchant, philanthropist, diplomatist

and former cabinet officer, born in

Georgia, 68 years ago. Connie Mack, the veteran manager of the Philadelphia American league base ball club, born at East Brookfield, Mass., 56 years ago.

This Day in History.

1834-Hansom cabs were patented by Joseph Aloysius Hansom. 1875—Royal palace at Barcelona,

Spain, destroyed by fire. 1893-President Santord B. Dole of Hawaii denied the right of the president of the United States to interfere with Hawaiian affairs. 1914-The Austrian garrison beseiged in the fortress of Przemysl,

made an unsuccessful sortie against the Russians. 1915-German reply to latest American note on Frve case failed to satisfy American demands.

1916-British aircraft carried out successful raids in the El Arish region of Egypt.

Timely Jottings and Reminders. King Albert of the Belgians today enters upon the tenth year of

his sovereignty.

Close of the "Christmas roll call" campaign of the American Red

Cross for membership. Today is the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Phillip Francis, the British politician and pamphleteer,

whom many believe to have been the author of "Letters of Junius." King Victor Emmaruel of Italy will conclude his stay in Paris today and depart for Rome to complete arrangements for the coming visit of the president of the United

States and Mrs. Wilson. The return of the American battleship squadron from Europe is to be made the occasion for a naval review at New York today which is expected to be one of the most notable affairs of its kind in the world's history.

#### Storyette of the Day.

One infantry sergeant, badly wounded in action in Argonne, did not really come to till he woke one morning in a snowy bed in a distant hospital. The nurse, a benevolent vision, was bending over him. "Are you feeling better, Lieutenant Johnson?" she asked.

He thought that over for a while and then decided the voice was not part of the strange dream that had been haunting him.

"You've got me wrong, miss," he "I'm Sergeant Johnson." "Oh, no, you're not," said the nurse, "you were promoted while you were asleep."-Stars and Stripes.

#### "AND BE A CHILD AGAIN."

would free myself from the love of pelf. From the grasp of glittering gold; would envy not the rich man's lot would free myself from the world-mad

rush,
From the greed of power and gain;
would free myself from the love of p
And be a child again. would free myself from the autocrat,

From his vile and hardened plan: would try to live and let others live would find some good, I would find some

In the hearts and lives of men;

would covet ways of my youthful days And be a child again. would trust myself with the common lot, With a patriot's word and pen; would trust myself where the stars and stripes

Float o'er the lives of men. I would trust myself where the land is free From a tyrant's curse and reign; I would trust myself with the common lot

And be a child again. H. M. HOPEWELL.

#### Work for League of Nations

New York Evening Post.

It was once said that if Austria had not been in existence she would have had, for the peace of Europe, to be invented. But now, for the peace of the world, Austria has been destroyed. The half-truth contained in the epigram, however, still remains valid. Something must be invented to take the place of the badly fitting hoops of oppression, called the dual empire, which kept that almost inextricable mixture of races and languages in middle Europe from constant explosion. A political philosopher might well point out that the League of Nations, far from being a remote Utopia, must become a reality if the broad swath of discordant elements from the Baltic to the Adriatic is to develop in peace and prosperity, with justice and an equal chance for all. The heague of Nations must take the place, and indeed much more than take the place, of the discarded Hapsburg monarchy; must substitute justice for the time-serving Austrian policy that played off racial hatred against racial hatred in order that, by the plan of divide et impera, the empire might survive. The chief problems of middle Europe con-

cern national boundaries and minority rights. light. The president of France and The peace conference will do its best to settle national boundaries, to make as equitable a map as possible for Lithuania, Poland, the Ukraine, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Roumania, and Jugo-Slavonia. But island minorities, of varying sizes and importance, will be left within the boundaries of each new state. This would what it lacks in modern speed. be unfortunate enough if these majorities and minorities were mutually compatible; but where ages of competition under oppression have bred hatred and mistrust, so that race groups in the same town, living on opposite sides of the street, to put it concretely, boycott each other, you have a situation full of dyna-

Lituhania, if erected into a separate principality, will inlude many settlements of Poles that can be traced, and all known and Jews; the new Poland must include colonies of Germans in Prussian Poland and the Dantzig district, a very large percentage of Jews and a considerable number of Russians within six miles of Metz on the and Ukrainians as well. Czecho-Slovakia will morning of November 11," writes have to cope with a German Ulster; Hungary must contain many islets of Roumanians, Germans and Slavs; Greater Roumania, in Transylvania, will have not one, but two, Ulsters, of Hungarians numbering almost 1,000,000 and Miliel sector was wiped out in Sep-of Germans fewer in number. Jugo-Slavonia tember, for I was there then, too. will attempt the most difficult task of all. It will try to unite not only the Austrian Serbs there would be an armistice and you and Croats, two elements which, till little more than a decade ago, had not acted together politically, but it will also attempt to absorb the kingdom of Serbia, Bosnia, with about 500,-000 Mohammedans, and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The magnitude of this task can be appreciated when one considers only the question of religious differences, leaving aside sectional antagonisms; since, in addition to its Mohammendan citizens, the new state will contain Roman Catholic and Orthodox Greek populations in about equal numbers. The Ukraine will have a very acute Polish, Russian and Jewish problem, though, in the event of federation with a great Russian republic, the final appeal for the Ukrainian minorities will be to the

Russian central government. Current events must convince the veriest skeptic of the need for some higher authority to protect minorities in middle Europe. The wave of anti-Semitism that seems to be sweeping through Poland, the terrible conflict that is going on at the present time between the Poles and Ruthenians in eastern Galicia, the complaints of the Magyars that the Czechs are taking over more than true Slovaka from Hungary, the outcry of the Dalmatians, of the new Jugo-Slavonia, against Italian irredentism, are but a few symptoms of the strife that even peace, the justest peace ever devised by man's honest intention and utmost ingenuity, will not lay. Be it remembered how the Congress of mother of seven or eight children. Berlin in 1870 provided that Roumania give the Jews equal civil and political rights, and that Jews equal civil and political rights, and that Kelvie made no mistake when he whole years within which to consider the Roumanian government never paid the selected J. E. Hart of this city to and act, and when the opportunity slightest attention to this provision. No peace treaty will enforce the rights granted race minorities. There must, therefore, be a tribunal, sitting always, to which these minorities may appeal for justice. This tribunal would be the League of Nations. Its courts will be full of middle Europe's litigation for years to come. and by this litigation the great nations will benefit. The world-public will gradually be | come accustomed to seeing international dis- years. putes settled peaceably. Then, when a serious difference between two of the great powers finally arises, it will, as a matter of course, be referred to the league. The small lawsuits will serve to develop a new body of international law, and to accustom mankind to discard the arbitrament of machine gun and hand grenade for the law court.

#### Breaking Up Big Fortunes

A will recently probated disposes of the estate of the widow of a man from whom she inherited \$9,000,000 when he died in August, 1911. How much of this sum remains is not yet known, but the testator's son, who inherited who makes a number of suggestions a like amount from his father, had reduced his patrimony to \$5,000,000 by the time of his death two years later. At the rate of two million a year spent during the brief span of life that remained to him he was on the high road to the problem by having the respective

poorhouse. These facts are worth the consideration of those eminent publicists who are clamoring for a redistribution by some process of legal confiscation of what they call the "swollen fortunes" of America. There is no need for any special legislation on this subject. The work of breaking up the great inheritances is carried on automatically in a way that is far more thorough and effective than by any scheme that even the most radical wielder of the red flag could devise. Of the fortunes of forty years ago, then regarded as stupendous, only a few remain intact. The others have either been wasted in stock gambling and dissipation or have been divided and subdivided to the vanishing point.

Moreover, nearly all these fortunes have been accumulated by men who began life with no capital save brains and ambition, and this fact is a constant stimulus to young men of the rising generation. Back of these schemes of legalized confiscation lurks that mean envy of or not. the rich which is a failing that human nature is heir to .- New York Herald.

#### People and Events

A confederate veteran of 75 years, living in Arkansas, has just been married for the 12th time. Of course such old codgers are profoundly touched by war's havor on men and strive to ameliorate a partial famine. Besides, a real Arkansas reb cannot easily put the fighting habit aside.

Orange profiteers in Florida received a lively roast from State Food Controller Beacham and volubly "passed the buck" to the middleman along the route to northern consumers. Mr. Beacham says there is no reason why oranges should be sold at retail for more than 5 cents each. Dealers might supply reasons enough to

A telephone girl in a Wisconsin town saved the town from destruction by sticking to her post to spread the alarm, while the exchange was burning about her. Similar instances of heroism have been noted in Omaha and in many other communities, demonstrating that peaceful pursuits reveal courageous conduct "no less placarded. Who really gets the bene-

A strong sidelight thrown on the operations of tax lien sharks on Long Island revealed a armstice went into effect the system of swindling of home-makers which drew Cologne Chamber of Commerce, in a batch of criminal indictments from the grand a formal resolution reported from jury. A stretch of land taken in by tax title and heavily mortgaged was sold to home makers on the installment plan. As title did not pass until the last payment was made, purchasers were not aware of the mortgage and stand to lose all unless they get together and satisfy the

#### In the Wake of War

While the cost of living in London increased 80 per cent during the war, the percentage of children found in a poorly nourished condition is less

than half what it was in 1913. The doughboys at Brest taught the youngsters to sing, "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here," and handed the ragtime package to the president on Moreover.

"okey" to a maker of "limericks." Thrifty folk in France foresee the such of American tourists and are outting their houses in order. In putting their houses in order. the Vosges region hotels are being planned and the fortified sectors held by American troops preserved for the sightseers with appropriate

"American troops in all their fighting in France," says the Stars and Stripes, "took more than 21 German prisoners for every American captured by the enemy, number of Germans captured is 44,934, not including prisoners taken in Belgium in the last few days of hostilities."

Once in a while Old Dobbin steps high as he moves before the spotpresident of the United States rode away from the railway station in Paris in a carriage drawn by two horses. Although considerable gas is burned up in one way or another in Paris, horse power is still in high favor, offsetting in old-time stateliness

Some of the thieves are disgorging the loot gathered in France and Belgium, but the quantity restored is a trifling part of the total. The shell-blasted cathedral at Rheims gets back some of its altar vessels and art goods, through the medium of Cardinal Hartmann of Cologne No doubt the victors will press for the restoration of all stelen goods robbers receive a full measure of justice.

"I was with the railway artillery Ralph Pembrook of Harvard, Neb. to the home folks. "You can take it from me there was the most terrific artillery fire on that Monday morning that there has been since the St. No one had the slightest idea that can imagine what took place when we got the general order from General Bullard at Toul about 10 a. m. Then that whole sector cut and there was one roar of artillery right to the stroke of 11. Of course, from 10 a. m., November 11, no one had talked of anything but going We thought that our talion might get home among the first, but that fell through with last night, when we received orders to fit up 65 American boxcars for rolling quarters and await orders to move up some place in the neighborhood of Luxemberg. men were so happy they were yelling and howling continually because of the prospect of getting home early in the spring, but tonight they are making about as much noise as a bunch of clams. I can't believe we will be in Germany so very long, and to do some good this spring."

#### STATE PRESS COMMENT.

Hastings Tribune: When in doubt what to do, go back to the farm and enjoy a real independent life. Columbus News: We brag about the freeing of black slaves, but nobody seems to be doing anything the women who become the

York News-Times: Governor Mcbe secretary of the state banking board. Mr. Hart is well qualified for the position and everybody, regardless of party preference, is well pleased with the appointment.

Kearney Hub: The Nebraska State Railway commission does not fall in with the McAdoo suggestion that the government retain control of the railways for a period of five Commissioner Taylor is quoted as declaring that government control has developed a type of railroad autocrat much less endurable than under private operation

Hastings Tribune: Farmers in Nebraska ought to raise more chick-They don't cost much and are money-getting property the year round and all the time. Stock raising and dairying should also come in for more attention. Iowa farmers are still making barrels of money with cattle. Aurora Republican: The wisdom

of electing a trained newspaper man for lieutenant governor is demonstrated by Col. P. A. Barrows to the approaching legislature that will greatly expedite its work, if multiplicity of bills has always been the great stumbling block. Mr. Barrows would solve this committees of the two houses mee: jointly and consolidate all bills deal ing with the same subject. He would choke off the free advertising abuse by eliminating the names of introducers from all bills, which is the sole incentive for much proposed legislation. The lieutenant governorelect has represented The Omaha Bee at the state house for many years, and no one knows better that he how much human nature there is in the average legislature. He shows the wisdom of Solomon by striking at the real cause of most of the inefficiency in that branch of the state government.

#### WHITTLED TO A POINT

Baltimore American: President Wilson's attitude towards the freedom of the seas may hinge upon whether he experienced mal de mer

Kansas City Star: An inventory of the former kaiser's personal be longings shows that he had 598 untforms. He probably took the other two with him when he went to Holland.

Washington Post: When Wood-row thinks of the soft snap he has France and then looks ahead to bucking a republican congress, he almost makes up his mind to stay over there. Philadelphia Ledger: One of the

surprising things about these revelations concerning the activities of the German propaganda is that, although they did not escape detection, they escaped punishment. Detroit Free-Press: The forme kaiser might turn over his 598 uniforms to the society gathering

clothes for Belgians, if the Belgians could so alter their appearance as to make it safe to wear them. Brooklyn Eagle. A new invention that will multiply by four the capac lty of each long distance telephone wire and by eight the capacity of every telegraph wire is formally placared. Reduction of rates is no

fit of mechanical inventions? New York World: Even since the sympathetic Zurich, expresses the hope that the destruction of indusries in Belgium and Northern France will allow a rapid regenera-Germany's international power, in spite of harsh peace terms Will nothing enlighten such appall ling stupidity?

# The Bee's

New York, Dec. 14 .- To the Editor

of The Bee: In the existing condition of national legislation, includit sounded ing in that expression the executive orders which such legislation has authorized and which, pursuant thereto, have been made, argument of the strongest has been provided why the legislatures which assembl in 1919 should stay their hands on the subject of the federal prohibition amendment and await the results of the laws now, or soon to be put, in force. These results will be tre-mendously informing. No legislature can act at its coming session with any tithe of the knowledge that will avail to it within the next two years. It is always easier to do thing than to undo it. Federal prohibition will be hard to repeal and state prohibition has been so often repealed as to afford abundant proof that laws taking from people their rights are unsteady laws, laws that provoke restlessness, trouble, prejudice and, when they are really difficult to get rid of, revolution.

Thirteen states have at one time or another adopted prohibition and have later changed their minds and repealed the law. These are Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Illi-Maryland, Massachusetts (twice), Michigan, Nebraska, New dered by the Germans, Austrians Hampshire, Rhode Island (twice). South Dakota and Ver-mont, states so widely distributed over the country as to prove that the will to repeal relates not to section nor industrial occupation nor to city or mountain or plain Already the manufacture of spir-

tuous, vinous and malt beverages is forbidden. Already the distillery and the brewery are outlawed, their capital sacrificed, their business deand the industries on which they their homes and cities. consumed or exported. The supply of western wines, if any then

And, until the war is officially over and our armies demobilized (the date of their demobilization to be announced by the president) entirely within the discretion of the the rest of us to follow. president to say when the war is over. It is equally within his discretion to say when demobilization of property is killed in itself he has ended.

So, we are inevitably bound to Yesterday the the federal amendment. It would mon sense for our legislatures, bethey will so certainly obtain from us. the experiment in nation-wide drycosts and what it comes to. They

Is it too much to say that, when cision that he knows must be momentous, the full effect of which sands of tons. FRANK A. AGNEW. by no possibility can he presently determine, when he or the man is succession to him for the purpose of rendering this decision is presented to him to ascertain by a Mr. Hart is well qualified preliminary experiment, an exact, that's a figure of speech." complete, sufficient experiment, precleely what his decision will volve in consequence that he knews will profoundly affect capital, industry public resources and personal rights, is it too much to say that nothing will prevent him as a reasonable man, from taking to himself, or to his successor in duty, the benefit of all the information that this experiment will bring, unless it be a timidity that is contemptible or a prejudice that is vicious JOHN McE. BOWMAN.

Prices and Christmas Cheer.

Omaha, Dec. 19 .- To the Editor of The Bee: One can hardly help protesting against certain merchandis ing practices annually pulled off in not alone Omaha, but in all large ities. During the war we have be come more or less familiar with the 'profiteer." whom, barring the Hun, should stand as the most despicable hing on earth.

We have this breed of so-called business with us, when we went to buy necessities and Christmas things and found many articles marked up, for no other reason than it was believed the price could be gotten "on account of the war." How many millions of dollars have the American people overpaid no one knows. A people who have met every call for taxes, bonds, Red Cross and charity, in fact every-thing for the sake of humanityeven the blunders of the democratic party. These people have exhibited the patience of Job, but the worm has commenced to turn. No people will stand the grafting and exploita tion of others' misfortunes forever They will not pay two prices for ne cause the food administrator says the price is fair. The price printed is usually the maximum. Take bacon, for instance, 65 cents sliced or 60 cents for a whole side. There are about a dozen different grades of bacon, which retails from 22 cents to 65 cents per pound. Now, practically all the stores attempt to get 60 cents or 65 cents, or 56 cents and 57 cents, but the fact is that the best of bacon should be sold at around 40, 45 or 50 cents per pound. With hogs selling at 13 cents on foot, the allowing of 65 cents for bacon is either encouraging profiteering, or an act of ignorance

Butter and eggs are similar examples. I believe creameries can make 1% pounds of butter from 1 pound of cream testing 24. Cream usually tests 35 to 40, and from experience, I would believe that 2 pounds of butter can be made from a pound of butter fat with a little sweet milk. This is only about 100 per cent profit. Eggs-we all know about the cold storage, practically controlled by the packers, who are daily conducting an advertising cam-

ngelic dispositions. The answer i hat they stand practically convicted as profiteers by the courts of the nd, and are now trying to pervert he public mind and evade the final ondemnation and order of dissolution at their hands. Of all the supreme gall this is surely the limit, dmittedly so by their campaign of so-called publicity, for if there wasn't something wrong, why do they have to advertise? No honest man has to carry advertisements of that fact. Nor for that matter do dishonest men, either, as we learn

of men by their deeds. I know this isn't Christmas cheer, ut, noticing the disposition to get Il possible for Christmas gifts, the pirit is dampened when one feels he largest part of the gift is given to he merchant instead of the intended ecipient. For instance, I witnessed of a 21/2-pound box of Christmas stationery for \$3.98, when know its wholesale value to be round \$1, and sold by a catalogue louse for around \$1.60 or usually etails around \$2 to \$2.50. This tore was selling them at a bargain rice, \$3.98. No, this store isn't price, \$3.98. hreatened by bankruptcy.

Why not a little investigation along these lines? DOCK YAK.

#### Why Such Waste?

Omaha, Dec. 19 .- To the Editor of he Bee: By the newspaper reports notice that the envoys to the peace onference from the United States are said to be strongly in favor of the sinking of warships that are in the hands of the allies as surrenand Turks.

For one, I would like to ask why the ships should be sunk? If no other use can be made of them, why not turn them over to the Belgians and let them make use of them in any way they see fit? It would be fitting that the Germans should be compelled to let the Belgians have them and to use them as a small recompense from the struction that was inflicted upon stroyed, their employes thrown out, them by the vicious destroyers of drew for raw material shorn of their had conservation pounded into us market. On July 1, 1919, it becomes every minute since the war with a crime, punishable by a year's im- Germany was declared in April, prisonment and a heavy fine, for any 1917; were threatened with arrest person to sell to another any alco- and fines if we did not strictly folholic beverage in any quantity from low the dictations of the food desa drop to a hogshead. Long before pots, and were called unpatriotic if that time the supply of beer will be we felt nauseated in eating the mixgone. The distilled liquors will have tures called bread a nuraber of months this year, yet the peace envoys to the conference to be held remains, will have become a total soon in France now propose to de stroy vessels that cost millions of dollars and contain much valuable iron and steel that would go far towards repairing the vast damage done to Belgium in the war. there will exist throughout this is to be conservation, the fellows at country absolute prohibition. It is the top should set the example for

The talk of the peace envoys that minute they vote for the restoration of Alsace-Larraine to France, as have a considerable period of na- should be done. They should be contion-wide prohibition-and without sistent and let some nation or nations have the vessels for old iron, if be the exercise of the merest com- nothing more. There has been so much destruction of property that it fore acting on the federal amend- is time it was stopped and real lesment, to seek the instruction that sons in conservation brought before

The war cost us much more than ness that these present laws have was necessary if the government had imposed. They can then see by actual operation what prohibition of food, in other lines, but now that the war has ended all but in name, can then act with full knowledge of there should not be any more dewhat they are doing-and they have struction of property, even if it does six years from now within which to consist of ships built by the Germans. There should be a protest sent out from all over the country a man is called upon to render a de- against the sinking of so much valuable steel and fron up into thou-

#### SMILING LINES.

"Pop, what is meant by a figure on

"Well, my son, when you hear of a wo man being speechless with indignation,

He-I'd like to know why you girls get engaged to several men at once.

She—When you have only one match, doesn't it go out?—Boston Transcript. Smith-I hear Green was sent to the

lunatic asylum. Is it true?

Jones—Yes; poor fellow; he's as crazy as bedbug. Had a manta for exchanging umbrellas every chance he got.
Smith—Pshaw! Almost any n
do that if he has half a chance. Jones-Yes, but poor Green always left a better one than he took.-In-

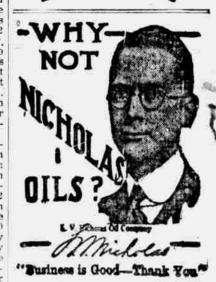
## dianapolls Star.

Eases Quickly When You Apply a Little Musterole.

And Musterole won't blister like

the old-fashioned mustard plaster. Just spread it on with your fingers. It penetrates to the sore spot with a gentle tingle, loosens the congestion and draws out the soreness and pain. Musterole is a clean, white ointment made with oil of mustard. It is fine for quick relief from sore throat, bronchitis, tonsilitis, croup, stiff neck, asthma, neuralgia, headache, congestion, pleurisy, rheumatism, lum-bago, pains and aches of the back or oints, sprains, sore muscles, bruises, chillains, frosted feet, colds on the chest, Nothing like Musterole for croupy chil-





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