

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY NELSON B. UPDELL, Publisher. E. BREWER, Gen. Manager.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS... The Associated Press of which the Bee is a member, is authorized to use for publication of all news dispatches received in it as an authorized outlet for this paper, and also the local news published herein.

Net average circulation of The Omaha Bee, July, 1922 Daily... 71,625 Sunday... 76,332

E. BREWER, General Manager; ELMER B. ROOD, Circulation Manager; JOHN W. H. QUINN, Editor; (Small) W. H. QUINN, Editor; (Small) W. H. QUINN, Editor.

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The average paid daily circulation of The Omaha Bee for 1922, was 71,751, a gain of 12,397 over June of 1921. The average paid Sunday circulation of The Omaha Bee for 1922, was 76,332, a gain of 10,150 over June of 1921. This is a larger gain than that made by any other daily or Sunday paper.

ENOUGH CONFUSION NOW.

Public sympathy, which may have inclined toward the railway shompen after their acceptance of President Harding's original proposals, can not be expected to extend also to a sympathetic strike by members of the four brotherhoods. It is one thing to quit work over a direct grievance, but quite another to threaten to go out in behalf of a third party.

The brotherhood leaders appear to be paving the way for a sympathetic strike to be based on the claim that cars and engines are unsafe from lack of repairs, and on the suppositious danger from the guns of guards, officers and troops.

There have been no railway accidents ascribable to faulty equipment thus far in the course of the strike. Nor has any instance come to light of members of the brotherhoods being injured by railway guards. No citizen properly objects to being protected, either by the police or any other force.

The present determination of the brotherhoods to act according to the individual judgment of each member or local unit is not commendable. The value of the rail unions has been in the guidance of the individual by the united will. To depart from that policy and leave the matter of working or striking up to each member is utterly confusing.

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ment that might be applied to such work. This means outsiders must again assume responsibility for the succor of the sufferers. The task, compared to that of feeding the famine victims will be slight, but it will have to be attended to by nations whose possessions and organizations permit them to act in such cases. Swatow will be looked after, and will retain a permanent place in the record, because of having suffered such a terrible experience through the operation of a great natural law.

NEBRASKA AND THE PRIMARY.

It was a republican legislature, in 1907, that gave Nebraska its primary law. In the nation wide movement for broader public participation in party affairs there also were many republican leaders. Hughes, Roosevelt and Cummins gave their active support to this reform.

The time called for a revolt against dishonest political machines and the too intimate alliance between certain business interests and political bosses. By the device of the party primary the people were given veto power over the acts of party leaders. Without question they have been able by this means to restrain the tendency toward arbitrary conduct both in party councils and in public office.

This wholesome influence of the primary system should not be removed or limited even though it may be considered that many of the practices that called it forth have disappeared. Who can guarantee that once this check is removed the old evils would not again spring up?

It is true that the primary system has not fulfilled all of its expectations. Apathy of the citizen in these elimination contests sometimes allows minorities to control the naming of candidates. But against this may be brought the fact that a primary election never fails to bring out a larger vote than did the caucus system. The original cry that the primary would break down party lines has been untrue. That it puts a penalty on a betrayal of public trust is pretty well authenticated.

The sifting process of the primary campaign is now concluded in Nebraska. The records and personalities of the candidates have run the gauntlet, and the winners rank well with the party candidates who have stood in the days before the primary. There has been a general discussion of the advisability of modifying the primary system. The law has been repealed in two or three states by act of the legislature. A noteworthy fact, however, is that in every case in which it has been submitted to a direct vote of the people the primary has been upheld.

The people of Nebraska are rightly jealous of any suggestion that would limit their nominating power. The republicans of the state have no desire to see the primary weakened. This question is not a party matter—and no change can be made in the law without a referendum of the whole people.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

With bountiful crops assured, the second half of this year is sure to be better from a business standpoint than that half which is just past. And the first months were such as to bring, in the words of the Federal Reserve bank of Kansas City, "remarkable improvement to the general situation."

On the one hand, the United States Department of Labor reports a decided increase of employment. On the other, the reserve bank finds agricultural and live stock interests in a more favorable position at this time than for many months. Mercantile reports likewise reveal healthy activity in almost all lines, and the banks are in a stronger position than at any time since the outbreak of war.

In the first six months of 1922 building permits aggregating \$4,689,254 were issued in Omaha, an increase of 39 per cent over a year ago. The federal reserve analysis shows new activity in the meat trade, with 132,402 cattle received at the Omaha stock yards in June. Shipments of hogs aggregated 318,000 head, and sheep receipts 141,140. Wheat receipts at the Omaha market in the same month amounted to 669,000 bushels, and corn to 2,298,800 bushels. Flour production in the reserve district in the first six months increased 1,748,725 barrels, or 23 per cent over the corresponding period of 1921.

These facts all have bearing on the promising outlook of the middle west. The increased purchasing power of the farmers has been reflected in a heavier distribution of merchandise, which signifies furthermore increased employment for workmen in the cities. The strikes that have lasted so long have been an untoward influence, but once they are settled satisfactorily, nothing can check the progress toward prosperity.

LAW, PUBLIC AND CULPRIT.

One of the first purposes of law is to safeguard society. In this is involved the protection of the individual. No man should be punished until he has had advantage of every defense permitted him under the law or in its reasonable application. On the other hand, social safety requires that once the guilt of a culprit be established, that he take the penalty prescribed for his offense. Unless this be true, human justice falls short. Nor should the quality of mercy be strained, so that in extending clemency or forgiveness, the greater right of the public be made to suffer that undue advantage is given an offender.

These reflections arise in connection with the case of Willard V. Matthews, who was sent to prison after pleading guilty to charges made in an indictment returned against him in Douglas county. If it be true that the law under which Matthews was indicted had been repealed a year previously, the fault does not lie with the defense. This fact should be noted, although it will not relieve a feeling on part of the public that if there was anything criminal in connection with the wrecking of the Pioneer State bank, the guilty one should be properly punished.

Public opinion will have little to do with the case however, for it is now a question of administering the law, and is in the hands of the courts for determination.

Douglas county progressives find difficulty in agreeing on who is to give the show. It would have been easy enough if fusion had prevailed, for then they would have received instructions from Prince Arthur.

Forest fires in the northwest continue to draw heavily on the future lumber resources of the nation. The situation is serious.

Something more potent than a diplomatic breakfast is needed to end the troubles of Europe.

What Other Editors Say

Bryan, Hitchcock & Co. Hamilton County Register (Aurora). "Come now, the showdown. Is Charley Bryan in favor of the restoration of beer and whisky? Is Hitchcock a convert to prohibition? Do both of them have a political purpose? Do both of them, on record with the statement that the question of little importance? Both men should be too big to dodge or trim further. The voters are not the only ones who will require information whether each is a man of honest intent, or the kind of a man? Charley Bryan and Gilbert Hitchcock, pulling together, have demonstrated that they are not men of honest intent, and believe their united strength can pull the dry democracy, men and women alike, into the camp of the wets and deliver the state to the hands of one man of them receiving an office however honorable or important. Some of our friends tell us that the cause of prohibition is a national and state political act, and it can only become a thing of the past by Gilbert Hitchcock following the example of Nebraska and setting a precedent for the rest of the nation, and he makes the women voters regarding support of a Volstead act, and the words that he will oppose any and all liquor laws, and say this liquor issue should be eliminated, but he persists in an equivocal course when fairly interrogated by honest voters, and warranted in assuming that he is hostile to their principles and in voting accordingly. They are not helping the cause of prohibition, but the republican ticket. He is equally able, has a better past record on important questions and will be a credit to Nebraska and the womanhood. You have taken your time, Mr. Hitchcock, but before election you must squarely meet this liquor issue. How can you not do it, if you are as honest as you claim to be? The vote in Nebraska is small and getting smaller. If you want a share of the dry vote you will have to earn it. You cannot try to outdo Mr. Mullen did Norton, nor trade with them as was done with Charley Bryan. You will have to deliver the goods, and not let a churchman put his eye on your attitude on this question in the past to say nothing of the Butler vote, the drys will take delivery in advance.

End of the Longest Day. From the Washington Star. "Some senatorial committee will perhaps write a song entitled 'The End of the Longest Day' in celebration of the close of the most protracted legislative session in the history of the congress recorded in history. Maybe the strains of that composition will resound through the years to come. Yesterday came the end of the longest day. The calendar, it is true, said August 2, but the Congressional Record said April 20, and that settled it. For it was on the 20th of April when the chaplain of the senate made his last prayer, and the senate, like the house, goes on the ratio of one prayer a day. The explanation was not on the job, but because the job had sidestepped him. For on the 20th of April the leaders on the republican side concluded that the only way to get the tariff bill passed before the frost was to hold the senate in continuous 'legislative' session. As a practical matter, that is supposed to facilitate legislative because it cuts off the morning hour and in theory eliminates other business but the bill in hand. In actual practice, however, it does nothing of the sort, because miscellaneous business is still done in the morning. The bill is held out of hand from time to time and meanwhile the debate proceeds without limits of time or of subject matter. Yesterday's adjournment, the first in 104 calendar days, or 2,475 hours, was taken because of the death of a member of the senate. The republican side proposed a legislative chamber to adjourn upon learning of the death of a member. But undoubtedly if it had not been that of a member, the republican side would have changed forms and merely taken a recess in respect to the departed senator. So the legislative day of April 20 passed, and the longest on record, and, save for a few bits of legislative miscellany and the essential appropriation bills, in proportion to its length the least productive.

And Still the Wonder Grows! From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "The esteemed World-Herald, whose editorial utterances we eagerly devour for their literary excellence even though logic is frequently conspicuous by its absence, takes Nebraska republican newspapers to task because they persist in showing surprise at the bedlam attending the election of Charley Bryan and Hon. Hitchcock. Why should republican editors be chastised, Mr. Newbranch, for their unrestrained outbursts against a womanhood? Isn't it strange, cruel and unjust to crowd the democratic bedstead with such uncleanly and unbecoming heads of brass, and use their stinkiness as the well known senator from Douglas county, and you can see Mr. Hitchcock's skin be thick and his memory so poor that he is induced, perhaps forced—for political reasons—to lie down in great pain and beside the manner of speaking, watters and show such charming indifference to the snoring of Brother Charles and the perishing and pestilential leader? Knowing Mr. Hitchcock and the Bryans, as they do, republican editors are well within their rights when they express wonder and surprise. They are not criticizing the factions for their laudable efforts to get together; they're merely amazed that it has happened, holding their breaths until something happens—as it surely will. Democratic harmony is something always devoutly to be wished, but it is observed more in the breach than in the performance.

Trees Worth Visiting. From the New York Times. "One of the most interesting sight-seeing places in California for the nature lover is Calaveras Grove, famous for its giant sequoias and other big trees. The grove is privately owned and is in a small valley near the headwaters of the San Antonio, at an elevation of 4,700 feet. In the grove are 10 trees, each 30 feet in diameter, and more than 70 trees between 15 and 30 feet in diameter. One of the trees, called the largest tree of the forest, must have been 450 feet high and 40 feet in diameter. In 1855 one of the tallest trees, 225 feet in height, was cut down. Five men worked 25 days felling it, using large axes. The stump of this tree has been smoothed off and now accommodates 32 dancers. In 1858 a newspaper, the Big Tree Bulletin, was printed on the stump. Near the stump is a section of the trunk 22 feet in diameter and 20 feet long; beyond lies the immense trunk as it fell, measuring 302 feet from the base to the extremity. Upon this was situated a barroom and tempin alley, stretching along its upper surface to a distance of 100 feet, affording ample space for two alley beds side by side.

At the entrance to the grove were, until 1818, two more trees called the Sentinels. Only one is now standing, the other having been blown down.

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South of the Sentinels and to the right of the road on the hillside stands a tree over 14 feet in diameter which has been named Old Dowd, in honor of the discoverer of the grove, which discovery was made in 1852. The south grove extends for miles and contains large trees. Any tree there under 18 feet in circumference is not considered a large tree.

The President at Home. From the New York Evening Post. Warren G. Harding, the country boy, rode into Marion, O., on a mule through the mud. Warren G. Harding, the president of the United States, made his latest entry by motor car from the national capital on hard-surfaced roads. The contrast between the boy's lowly estate and the man's eminent position is scarcely greater than that between the physical condition of the United States then and now—a half century of progress for both man and commonwealth.

The president must have enjoyed himself at the 100th anniversary of Marion's founding. He is, as the author of the 'Mirrors of Washington' truly says, a small-town man. In other words, a neighborly person, and fitted by nature to enjoy a homecoming. True, this native gift has been developed into an art, and towards the end of the front porch campaign its exercise became decidedly formal. Still, there was a stiff spring down the wages and stave labor to subjection, which they are trying to do now. Several men have gone from the office and pulpit, done overalls and worked in factories by the side of the men that produce the wealth of our country, and they all say the same thing: 'the laborer does not get what it should have.'

My friend does not have to read between the lines today to discover that both the mine and railroad operators are in close combination, or union, to prevent a separate settlement with their men. This has been done to force labor to do just what my friend thinks it ought to do. He would not grant labor the same rights that he would the big operators. He evidently has always been surrounded with plenty and does not appreciate the fact that all people are not as fortunate as himself. He is not a church man, often wonder how Christ would settle this dispute between labor and capital. A. M. TEMPLIN, 120 South Thirty-fifth street.

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Readers' Opinions

This department is designed as a broadening station through which readers of the Omaha Bee may speak to an audience numbering well above 50,000 on subjects of public interest. Letters should be numbered and should be accompanied by the name of the writer, even though he requests that his name be withheld. Each letter must be accompanied by the name of the writer, even though he requests that his name be withheld.

Points in Dispute. Omaha, Aug. 8.—To the Editor of the Omaha Bee: Mr. Crocker is a very smooth writer, and on the labor question he more than made good, from the standpoint of the operators. To question his honesty in presenting his program would be far from me. But to state that his views on the present industrial situation is somewhat warped would be the best way to put it. If the gentleman had been unfortunate, and had spent the biggest part of his life working for the operators, he would think need protection, and during that time he just barely made a living while he saw his employers rolling in wealth. His labor at that time would cast a different reflection.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" was what our forefathers fought eight years for, that all our citizens of this country might enjoy it. But my friend would have a system provided whereby the employer could force down the wages and stave labor to subjection, which they are trying to do now. Several men have gone from the office and pulpit, done overalls and worked in factories by the side of the men that produce the wealth of our country, and they all say the same thing: 'the laborer does not get what it should have.'

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