THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WATERWAYS FOR THE WEST.

A new era of internal improvements may follow the election of a congress in which the middle west holds the balance of power. Foremost of all is the need for cheaper and more adequate transportation. A cut in railroad rates is desirable, but this in itself would do nothing to diminish the perennial car shortage. Highway building and the development of motor truck traffic will of course be encouraged, but it is possible also that the federal government will move to bring the waterways into service.

The project for the Great Lakes route to the sea has been held up by Canadian hesitation, but there are many other waterways wholly within the United States that are large enough to carry immense tonnages of freight. One of them runs right by Omaha.

Opening of the Missouri, Mississippi and Ohio rivers to furnish competition with the railroads and give Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Minneapolis and St. Paul an outlet at cheap rates to the east and south is to be proposed in the next congress in a bill asking a billion-dollar bond issue for the purpose. Senator James A. Reed of Missouri has announced that he will father this measure.

The bill, Senator Reed says, will provide for electric power dams, canals and other improvements, furnishing at once a new source of power and new shipping routes. The Missouri river would be improved as far up as Omaha, and the present work on the Ohio would be continued.

Discussion of the Great Lakes project brought forcibly to the middle west the fact that some method of moving heavy freight is needed to supplement the land lines. Congestion is almost as great a handicap as high freight rates. Barge lines now operating on the lower Mississippi and the Ohio serve to point the way toward a general program of internal improvement.

One of the Pittsburgh steel mills has installed its own line of barges on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to carry its freight, and the system has been so successful in reducing freight costs that other great factories are making similar plans. The output of middle western farms is larger in volume than that of any group of mills, and the need for cheap transportation is greater, too.

Some definite national program for the utilization of America's great streams is imperative. The problem first of all is an engineering one, but the place to initiate the work is in congress. Nothing would so widen the markets and encourage production as would cheaper freights. While to a useful extent the water lines would compete with the overland lines, yet it would not be destructive competition. There is freight enough to keep both traffic systems busy, and there will always be many shipments that are unsuitable for water transportation. One would supplement the other, and the nation's business as a whole would be relieved of a terrific handicap.

MEDIEVAL DAYS IN CHICAGO.

Discovery of alleged crimes in Chicago leads to the revival of something like the superstitious fear that prevailed in the Dark Ages. Then the witch and the werewolf, the enchantress and the wizard were dreaded by the simple folks. Necromancers worked their will, and dread held the mind in check and stopped the tongue. Death in terrible form was visited on any who incurred the displeasure of those in league with the powers of darkness, and the worship of Sathanas hung like a pall over minds in other respects clear and brilliant.

In Chicago two women are accused of poisoning husbands and children, and while the authorities are ferreting out facts to establish the guilt or innocence of the suspects, their names are adding to the burden of life in the neighborhood. Children no longer wait for the curfew to sound; they fly home before nightfall and remain safely sheltered against the evil influences of the doers of dark deeds. Elders, also, have caught the infection, and doors are tightly barred against the possible entrance of an agent of Old Nick. This may amuse some whose minds have been liberated from this form of superstition, but it is no comedy to those whose lives are affected by it.

Witchcraft long ago was exploded, seemingly, but credulity did not go with it, and it is not hard to fan into flame embers of terror that have only slumbered. Chicago's authorities have a double task before them; they must clear up the mystery surrounding certain deaths, and at the time time restore to a considerable number of people the faith in their security that is necessary to happy social relations.

CHILEAN CATASTROPHE GROWS.

Fuller reports from the Chilean ports affected by the tidal wave that followed a Pacific earthquake disclose greater loss of human life and destruction of property than has attended any such disturbances in recent years. Already enough is known to give the affair rank among the greatest catastrophes in human history.

Popular fancy will be taken by certain incidental phenomena noted by observers. The presence of an unusually large sun spot, the conjunction of Neptune, Jupiter and Mercury with the sun, and several similar accompaniments give the affair an aspect that will enlist the attention of scientists as well as pseudo-scientists. Astronomers and astrologers alike will undertake analysis of this, to determine how intimately the framework of the universe is articulated, and whether such fortuitous co-operation of the planets really can pull the earth all out of kelter.

Most pressing, however, is the question of relief for the suffering. Thousands are dead and other thousands homeless and without shelter or food. Relief must be provided for them, and it will be remarkable if no call is made on Americans for assistance. Whatever the move, it will be generously met by our people, who never fail to respond to such requests.

Chile, however, is accustomed to such visitations. Valparaiso, far to the south of Antofagasta, was almost wiped out not long after the San Francisco disaster, and was rebuilt on a much more elaborate and substantial plan, yet attracting scarcely any attention in this country. Relations are much more intimate now than then, and it is not unlikely that people of the United States will be brought even closer to those of Chile as a result of this calamity.

KEMALISM CREATING TERROR.

Familiar headlines are appearing in the newspapers, dealing with stories from Constantinople. While much of the matter may have the tinge of propaganda, some foundation for its sensational and alarming character certainly exists. Execution of leading Turks, known to be opposed to the Kemal program, is not reassuring as to the liberal attitude of the so-called nationalist government. The murder of Ali Kemal Bey, the most prominent of Turkish journalists, by a mob is another sign of how completely the populace has been stirred.

General Harrington is winning admiration by his cool, temperate manner of handling the situation while steps are being taken to reach a settlement. The postponement of the Lausanne conference to next Monday does not appear to be delay sufficient to wreck the chance for avoiding war, in spite of Turkish insistence upon immediate action. Demands from Angora have risen to a point far beyond what may be granted, unless the Turk is to be restored to full status as a power of Europe as well as of Asia. To grant this means the abandonment of all that Italy, France and Greece have sought, as well as the neutralization of the straits zone.

It is not improbable that this latter condition may be met. Turkey should have the right to secure the integrity of its own capital and this is not possible unless the Dardanelles be under Turkish control. As an international oceanic highway, its situation is comparable to that at Panama, Gibraltar or Suez. The approach to the settlement would be a great deal easier were order better preserved in Turkey, but that is a point for the Kemalists to deal with. At present, all the elements for serious trouble are presented, and the way out is not plain, unless the Entente Allies are ready to make some notable concessions to Kemal.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OMAHA.

Representatives of twenty-two civic organizations met the other night to discuss plans for the establishment of a police patrol booth system for the protection of Omaha's residential districts. They met in a good cause, and there are many other municipal questions that might well be brought up for similar round table discussion. An excellent idea is that of the formation of a civic federation composed of delegates from all the improvement clubs, lunch clubs and other public spirited organizations.

If the support of these forces can be enlisted behind the movement for motorcycle patrols operating out of branch police stations or booths, action can soon be had and crime will be held under better control. In some districts now the householders have hired a private guard to make the rounds all night long on a motorcycle. The effectiveness of such policing could be greatly enhanced by taking it under municipal control. Then there could be a patrol booth connected by telephone with every home and one officer on guard while the other made the rounds.

Omaha is well supplied with civic organizations, but many of them seldom come into contact with each other and their influence for the general welfare is accordingly limited. If they prove their ability to work together for the cause of a more efficient police system, it is fair to expect that they may later come together for the consideration of other problems—that of a community chest, for instance.

WHEN CONGRESS MEETS AGAIN.

Congress, called to assemble next Monday, will meet with the echoes of last Tuesday still ringing in its ears. It is hardly possible to misinterpret that message. Whether it contains any intimation as to the program the people would like to see carried out, it leaves no room for argument as to what is not wanted. And this touches on the program that was under consideration when the recess was taken in September.

The merchant marine bill, which is to be taken up at once by the house, is popularly known as the ship subsidy bill. This measure was included in the general criticism leveled against the present congress, and can not easily be separated from the adverse verdict. Therefore it will surprise nobody if the subsidy feature of the bill is set aside, not abruptly, but with such perfunctory attention as will prove that congress can read signs as plain as those left by the election. Americans are interested in their merchant marine, but it is difficult to convince a midwest farmer that the federal treasury should be open to a ship owner more widely than it has been to a food producer.

The big supply bills that must be passed before the time comes for adjournment in March may provide the opportunity for delay already talked about by the democrats, who plan to carry over the appropriation bills and compel the president to assemble the new congress in extraordinary session at once. A similar predicament confronted Mr. Wilson in 1919, and it was well for the country, for the incoming congress lopped more than a billion dollars off the bills passed by the democratic house but jammed in the senate. Under the budget system the measures will be more carefully prepared than the estimates that were formerly submitted to congress from the several executive departments, and therefore may hold less of excuse for a prolonged filibuster.

Little else is likely to be undertaken by the congress that has been rebuked as this one has; routine work will go on, but big things will wait until the Sixty-eighth congress has been called to order.

Annie Oakley has been gone from Nebraska for a long, long time, but a few of the citizens will recall when she caverted around the state, shooting glass balls from horseback and doing other stunts that gave her a world reputation later. These will hear with regret that she is now suffering from the effect of an automobile accident. Annie should have stuck to her broncho as the safer proposition.

Men connected with the service note the relation between the name of the postmaster general and their vocation.

The real question is what Henry Ford can see in football, it being a college game?

Another week of increased business activity is reported. Let's keep it going.

Corn on the hoof solves one element of the transportation problem.

We had a fine spell of fall weather, at that.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from other newspapers—

Low Shoes and High Ideals.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

The excited and grieved communication asking why "in the name of common sense men and women of today insist upon wearing low shoes in winter" indicates that the ultimate number of organizations for the betterment of the human race has not yet been reached. If thinking people are really beginning to be engaged with the subject of the fundamental connection between low shoes and the low ebb of civilization, it is sure that we shall not have to wait long for the establishment of a society to deal with the matter. We already have many belligerently reformative associations—the anti-cigaret leagues, the anti-jazz societies, the anti-flapper groups. Now, however, an entirely new field has been opened.

Momentarily we may expect the first challenges to the forces of evil from the League for the Prevention of the Wearing of Low Shoes After September 1; the League for the Enforcement of the Wearing of Woolen Underwear; the League for the Encouragement of the Wearing of Knitted Wristlets. There will of course be a new crop of special weeks. Chilblain week should be announced very soon. Keep Your Throat Covered week will undoubtedly follow not long after. And then in the spring the reformer's fancy will weightily turn to new responsibilities and Wear Your Rubbers week will be celebrated.

It has been suggested that all of these organizations might work more effectively if they were banded together under some central leadership. The Grandma League of America, which has existed as a name for some little time, could no doubt readily be persuaded to assume guidance. Concentrated effort would surely bring to light innumerable other little ways in which the great American public needs to be kept in order.

The Community Chest.

From the Wichita Beacon.

We do not believe there is a single man or woman in Wichita who has not said, at some time, something like this:

"I am willing to give to worthy causes, but it makes me tired to have one 'drive' after another, week after week, month after month. The worst of it is that it is so hard to tell the good cause from the bad or indifferent ones and one is likely to get 'stung' every once in a while. We must keep up our philanthropic work, but why can't there be some system to it?"

The community chest is the answer.

It meets all the objections that have been raised against the frequent, haphazard and indiscriminate "drives."

People got so they hated that word "drive."

A committee of representative citizens has been working several weeks on a chest organization.

Under this method the different charities and philanthropic causes have been carefully investigated as to their needs and the support they deserve. A certain proportion of the gross receipts of the chest organization will go to each cause. This, however, does not prevent the donor from specifying if he desires to favor some particular cause.

This committee has had the opportunity to investigate thoroughly the merits of the different causes. The O. K. of the committee is worth a great deal to the average busy man, who does not have the time or opportunity to investigate. When a person contributes to the chest fund he has the comfortable feeling that every penny of his gift will be used wisely and there will be no fake or fly-by-night charities levying tribute on the public. The donor will be given a card to post in his place of business and this will be insurance against questionable begging. If the individual donor wishes to differ with the judgment of the committee he has the perfect right to make his wishes known and felt. Thus a very satisfactory condition is created whereby money for philanthropic causes may be handled in the most efficient method possible.

The "overhead" expense of a score of separate organizations is eliminated. The "worker" or "captain" saves a lot of his own time, as he has only to make one canvass a year. The donor saves a lot of time as he has only to make one gift a year, and the expert investigation of worthy causes is already made so he does not need to spend a lot of time looking up the merits of each cause.

Many other communities have given the chest plan a thorough tryout with most satisfactory results.

Why Men Lie.

From the Fremont Tribune.

Two men approached the foot of a mountain which they intended to climb. Before them they saw two trails. The first one was winding and tortuous and seemingly of interminable length, but it made the ascent at gradual stages, affording an easy and uniform grade. The second trail started at the base of the mountain and went straight up the side, avoiding all the twists and turns and cutting off more than half the distance to the top.

The first man was an experienced mountaineer and he knew that the longest trail up a mountain side is really the shortest trail, because in making a gradual ascent his physical strength would be conserved for the last part of the climb to the summit.

But the second man was an amateur and he could only see the "short cut." What was the use, he argued, of traveling twice as far as was necessary to reach the objective? He boasted that he would be waiting at the top when his comrade was toiling half way up the slope.

And so they parted. The mountaineer followed the winding trail that took him away off to the far side of the mountain and then brought him back to a point directly over the starting place; and there he found the amateur laughing and mocking him for his slowness. They started again, and again they met, the amateur still laughing but breathing hard.

Once more they met and the amateur was no longer laughing, he was tired and worried. At the next turn he did not appear and the mountaineer went on and on to the summit, from where he looked far down on the steep trail where the exhausted and beaten amateur lay, unable to go farther.

The "short cut" is seldom the shortest way to the goal. Wise is the man who knows when to take the long trail which will conserve his energies for the latter part of the journey of life. Short cuts beset our paths at every step and falsehood is the most deceptive and the least profitable of them all.

Men lie to save time, to save money, to avert disgrace, and in the end find they have lost all they might have gained by telling the truth, by following the "long trail." We lie for many reasons, and for no reason at all. Lying becomes habitual because it is easy. It is like a drug and when once used will cause an untruth to spring to the lips where truth would better serve the purpose.

A lie is a short cut that will never lead to the goal of attainment. The farther it is carried the more obstacles it builds in our path, and long before the "summit" is reached the man with the false tongue is found broken and beaten on the steep trail.

It is hard to force ourselves to take the long trail of truth and honesty when apparently an inoffensive little lie would bridge the gulf which lies between us and the goal in plain sight on the opposite brink. But when we step irreirievably out over the chasm on the strength of falsehood, the elusive goal recedes into the distance and we plunge to the rocks below while the shattered structure of our lies tumbles about our broken bodies.

We can not see the goal at the end of the trail of truth because it must wind around and around the side of the mountain to assure an easy grade and a gradual ascent. But we know that wise men have gone on before us on the long trail and have gained the coveted goal, while the short-cut trail is strewn with the bones of men who have made the futile effort to lie their way to success.

A No-Murder Week Next.

From the Kansas City Star.

Having been kind to animals one week, eating a dozen eggs a day another week, sent flowers to mother another week, ridden bicycles another week and observed the constitution still another week, it was certain that we should be called on, by the governor of Washington, as it happens, for a smile week.

It was an inspiration. Here we were all going around with grouches, ill tempered, scowling, until the Washington governor broke in with an injunction to smile for the week beginning October 1. It may be hard on the muscles of the face. But advance practice is permissible.

"I wish," the kind governor adds, "the newspapers, the theaters and the movies would eliminate the murders and all depressing and sorrow breeding items, acts and pictures."

A pretty large program, isn't it, to combine all this with smile week? Besides the governor is appealing to the wrong people. It's not the newspapers he should call on. It's the prospective murderers. Let all such be incited to desist for the week beginning October 8. Smile week should be followed by no-murder week.

The Waistline's Return.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Paris style makers, it is said, have decided to bring back the waistline. Against this edict the American girl should rebel.

Feminine fashions have been deplored and derided more than usual the last few years, but a good deal of criticism has been mere spoofing. With the exception of the extreme short skirt, which is being corrected, and the inadequacy of winter apparel that ignored the thermometer, modern styles are wholesome and hygienic. They have meant woman's emancipation from the burdensome and bizarre.

Is this freedom to be destroyed by the pronouncement of Paris style makers? That is what is threatened in the reappearance of the waistline. Not immediately, of course, but eventually the decision will mean the return of the hideous "wasp waist," the torture by which such compression is achieved, and the cruel consequences. What those consequences were could not be recorded in vital statistics. The actual story is known only by the practicing physicians of the late Victorian era, when women laced themselves into caricatures and coffins.

Style makers may ordain styles, but the women make the fashions. It is for them to say whether they will supinely jeopardize health and happiness at the ukase of Paris.

Rustling Leaves.

From the Kansas City Kansan.

There is no music sweeter than that made by rustling leaves. The boy likes to tear through them and make as much noise as possible, but that is not the way.

When the leaves lie inches deep on the ground, one should walk slowly through them, letting his feet drag, and listen intently to the music of the leaves as they move about each other. At the same time he should dream. He can see far into the past, if he will, and the future unrolls her scroll as the leaves rustle in the autumn.

The bare black branches overhead, the serene blue sky, the tangle of newly fallen leaves that make earth and the middle heavens and the distant arch of glory seem different from that they have been, translating one to a new world, a world of beauty and poetry.

Let lovers rustle the leaves together, and the music becomes a tender love song. Let one slowly play with his feet the notes of this great outdoor organ, and all the longing of life sweeps upon him like a sea. If one remembers, the dead walk with him as his feet stir the crisp leaves, and he can hear their ghostly tread.

But if the leaves are wet after a rain, and the skies are overcast, he walks in a brook of invisible tears—the tears that have been shed by the people of a sad and weary world.

Leaves, leaves, rustling leaves! The world needs them once a year. It could not stand the sorrow of their music oftener than that.

Another Boy as Champion.

The youngsters seem to be winning at everything. Now it is 18-year-old Asa Long of Toledo, with wits as sharp as a Toledo blade, who has captured the American checkers championship. This event had an international flavor, too. Long's opponent in the final was Alfred Jordan, former champion of England, where the game flourishes, under the name of draughts.—New York Tribune.

"The People's Voice"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Timber on the Prairies.

Gibbon, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It is a regrettable fact that our trees are constantly growing fewer in number. And this is true of the middle west as well as of those sections of the country where lumbering is carried on as a commercial industry.

The early settlers, on the plains and hills of the middle west set out the quick growing varieties of trees that they might sooner enjoy their protection. As these are naturally shorter lived than the slower growing kinds, many have died out from this cause. Adverse weather conditions have also killed many of our finest trees. These causes, together with fungus diseases and insect pests, have taken heavy toll of the orchards that used to exist in our prairie states, also.

In those sections of the country that were once covered with a natural growth of timber, greed and waste have caused such great depletion in the original supply of this commodity so vital to our national welfare that, at the present rate of consumption, in the near future we will be faced with a lumber famine. Now, we of this generation, have no right to deplete the natural resources of our land, but we ought to feel it our solemn duty to replace as much as we take away. Most of us seem to be striving to make the world such that our descendents may have advantages that we, ourselves, do not possess; but this can never be done if we use more than our share of the vital natural resources of the earth, which are not really ours after all, but are only in our keeping while we are here. That part of our mineral wealth that has been wasted can never be replaced, but trees can be planted in sufficient numbers to fill our future requirements in all ways if we all, by word and by deed, do all within our power to bring it about.

Knowing this, let us urge conservation to the utmost, of our remaining timber supplies; let us urge the reforestation of cut-over lands, and the creation of new forest reserves, if necessary to insure our future lumber supply; let us plant trees upon the farms, that we may have windbreaks, fence posts and firewood, and let us not forget to plant fruit trees, that we may have more of this wholesome article of diet.

There is still another phase of the subject that does not generally receive the consideration that it should, and that is the influence that the trees exert upon the sentimental side of our lives. To most of us there is something inspiring in the sight of a noble tree, rearing its branches heavenward, offering us a protection from the burning heat of summer and from the chilling blasts of the winter time. For this reason let us plant beautiful shade trees, of a durable sort, about our homes, that young and old alike may benefit.

GEORGE LUKENBILL.

Thanks From the Veterans.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, I wish to thank you for the splendid articles appearing in your paper on our "Forget-Me-Not-Day" drive.

The publicity given us by your paper was a big asset in making the drive a sucess.

Again thanking you, we are,
Post No. 5, Disabled American Veterans of the World War,
O. O. COKER, Adjutant.

Confidence.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Life has been given to us by our Divine Creator for two things—to love and to be happy. He created this wonderful world for us to live in the midst of beautiful surroundings. He has left nothing unfinished. Nature, as God created it, is a complete panorama of all that is beautiful, and in the midst of this we are given the gift of life. Why, then, are we not all happy? And why do we try so hard to find love? It is because we lack confidence in our neighbor; our fellowman. We are afraid. We do not trust ourselves to do the things we should. So many of our present day struggles and difficulties; our strikes, our political differences, our international unsettled conditions might be avoided if the people had confidence in their leaders.

Some resent the idea of being governed or ruled by those in authority. They do not want to feel the restrictions of the law. These few spread their propaganda until a feeling of unrest exists, and that is from lack of confidence. If the employe would have trust and confidence in his employer, he would endeavor to give the best that is in him and he would be rewarded with a healthy atmosphere one not contaminated with the germ of envy or fear. He would be encouraged by his employer to do bigger things; but the fear of being imposed upon, the feeling of inferiority has hindered hundreds from developing into skilled men—leaders of industry. Business men and capitalists all over the country feel the great need of co-operation between employer and employe and strive unceasingly to bring about a spirit of contentment in order to make this a progressive period in history rather than one of depression. But until they can establish that feeling of confidence between men the world will go on endlessly facing its difficult problems.

D. T. Q.

Among the Folks in History