# THE OMAHA BEE

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THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY
B. BREWER, General Manager
ELMER S. ROOD, Circulation Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of April, 1922
(Seal) W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

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## Our Own United States.

One of the stock arguments against the pending tariff bill is that the United States needs a wider market. Equally trite is the favorite argument of the League of Nations advocates that we should be concerned in world affairs. Such as profess to regret the absence of the United States from Genoa insist that we are forefeiting a right to share in the reconstruction of Russia.

When Russia gets ready to come back, its chief need will be capital. Lenin, Tchitcherin, and others have told the world Russia will have naught to do with capital as the term is commonly understood. However, they will not be able to restore Russian industry and commerce to healthy activity, unless they do employ capital, no matter how they disguise the truth. In order to get the capital needed, they must afford it profitable employment. Many other regions are also seeking capital for development purposes, and Russia under its present control is not so attractive as to lead to the abandonment of others.

The United States is taking its full share in the work of the world, without, however, abandoning its independence of policy and action. The result of the Washington conference is the best possible proof of this.

No limitation is placed on the market for American goods by the pending tariff. On the contrary, it will preserve the greatest market in the world for home-made goods. Free trade will only open the door to foreign-made goods, and either close the home factories or reduce them to the level of European conditions.

Employment for capital never was so plenty in America as at this time. It is closely estimated that since 1917, $31,000,000,000 have been invested in tax-free securities in the United States. Eighteen billions was in federal issues, leaving $13,000,000,000 for private employment. As much other capital has been drawn into enterprises, old and new, or something like $26,000,000,000 in the last five years, or more than $5,000,000,000 a year, going into home undertakings. And this without satisfying the request. Local concerns today are seeking new capital, offering shares at attractive prices; railroads are after billions, and opportunity is open on every hand.

For the last 30 years or longer the average annual increase in population in the United States has been around 1,400,000, or a city equal to St. Louis and Boston combined. Between 1910 and 1920 the population increased by almost 15,000,000 or the equivalent of Bohemia, Holland and Ireland combined. This steady growth demands the investment of many millions of dollars in productive undertakings, for the wants of these newcomers must be satisfied. A little study will show that the possibilities of the United States are not exhausted, nor likely to be soon, and that a little attention to home affairs is not selfishness, but common sense.

## Bitulithic Paving.

If bitulithic pavement has as great endurance as its promoters, it is a good pavement. But has it? That is the question which causes Douglas county taxpayers to stir themselves whenever the county commissioners undertake—as they do at periodic intervals—to let a contract for this patented monopoly-controlled road surface.

Two years ago The Bee supported a vigorous and successful campaign against the use of bitulithic on the Lincoln and O-L-D highways. It advocated brick as the only hard surface thoroughly tested and proved satisfactory on a main-traveled thoroughfare. It still believes that brick should be given the preference until some other material has been tested sufficiently to prove, beyong any question, that it will outlast brick and will cost less for maintenance. That has not yet been done.

It may be wisdom to lay a test piece of bitulithic pavement in Douglas county at this time, as the county board proposes. It certainly will not be wisdom to use this surface on the Lincoln highway or the O-L-D. These jobs should be continued as brick paved roads. The cost is too great and the damage resulting from a wrecked pavement in the course of a few years is too much to take a chance.

## "Broken the Back of Famine."

A message that must give some satisfaction to all Americans comes from the head of the American relief work in Russia. It is that food from this country has broken the back of the worst famine in the world's history. Contributions of cash and kind have provided the means to save lives to a number no one will ever know, but running into the millions. Walter Lyman Brown, European director of the American relief for Russia, says we are now feeding four times as many people as the American forces in Europe at their peak. This means practically 10,000,000 daily get food from the store provided by our generosity.

Until another crop can be harvested this will have to be kept up. Seed has been provided, and tools and horses for working the ground will be furnished, to the end that dire distress caused by hunger will be banished again from one of the most fertile regions in all the world. No more damning indictment of bolshevism could be drawn than is afforded by the experience of the last year. It is true that the soviets can not be held responsible for the drouth, but they are responsible for the fact that there was no reserve of foodstuff in Russia, in spite of the reports that were sent out of the immense stores of wheat, oats and other eatables.

Agriculture, like mining, transportation and all other industry save speech-making, broke down under the ministrations of the bolshevists. They could get along without coal, without the railroads, and without a lot of other things, but they could not do without food. It is lively the lesson of the last year has taught even the most devoted of communists that someone must work, or all will go hungry.

## Human Nature and Progress.

Enter right, the social engineer. Center stage; statesmen in earnest conversation with a gentleman who is explaining that human nature can not be changed. Lord Morley has characterized him thus:

> With his inexhaustible patience of abuses that only torment others; his apologetic words for beliefs that may not be so precisely true as one might wish, and institutions that are not altogether so youthful as some might think possible; his cordiality toward progress and improvement in a general way, and his coldness or antipathy to each progressive proposal in particular; his pigmy hope that life will one day become somewhat better, punily shivering by the side of his gigantic conviction that it might well be infinitely worse.

For whatever wrongs exist he offers the excuse of "human nature." The social engineer grapples with this venerable theory at once. To him human nature seems still as plastic to the skilled touch as in the earliest days of man. John Dewey, author of "Human Nature in Conduct," expresses the newer and more hopeful view of an advancing civilization thus:

> The wholesale human sacrifices at Peru and the tenderness of St. Francis, the cruelties of pirates and the philanthropies of Howard, the practice of Suttee and the cult of the Virgin, the war and peace dances of the Comanches, and the parliamentary institutions of the British, the communism of the South Sea Islanders and the proprietary thrift of the Yankee, the magic of the medicine man and the experiments of a chemist in his laboratory, the non-resistence of Chinese and the aggressive militarism of an imperial Prussia, monarchy by divine right and government by the people; the countless diversity of habits suggested by such a rambling list springs from practically the same capital stock of native instincts.

The social engineer holds that these are truly the products of human nature, but that the underlying impulses and instincts which represent human nature are things quite apart. The very diversity of human behavior is taken to indicate the possibility of molding it into more beautiful and worthy forms. This is the scientific view today. The burden of disproving it rests heavily on the timorous ones who are assuring our statesmen that nothing can be altered.

## Ban on Immigration.

By adopting the house resolution which extends the operation of the present immigration law, the senate has assumed the position that more time is needed to study the situation. The resolution was amended to set the date forward two years instead of one as provided by the house. A sentiment in favor of restricting immigration has gathered force since 1914, and is now general throughout the country. It does not rest on the old "know nothing" prejudice against foreigners, but on an awakened appreciation of certain domestic problems that must be given due attention. One of these is to determine to what extent the melting-pot has done its work; another is to readjust the regulations surrounding naturalization, to give to American citizenship a higher value.

These purposes will not be settled off-hand. Until conditions are tranquilized in Europe the United States is threatened by a flood of undesirables. Existing laws permit the entrance of a specified number of aliens each month, so that the door is not entirely closed. Closer watch here and abroad will keep out many who are not wanted, and the limit on the number admitted will give a chance to adjust relations with the 11,000,000 odd aliens who are now in the country.

The Bee does not believe it fair or just to shut the gates entirely; this country owes too much of its greatness to the sturdy men and women who came here from Europe, bringing their energy and thrifty habits, and by their industry made an empire out of a wilderness.

We still have room in America, but we should not invite the unfit. Outside of Russia, Europe is as free today as is the United States, and needs the labor of every efficient man and woman. But this does not mean that our land should be made the dumping ground for the ineffectuals who are not wanted at home. How to effectively and justly deal with this problem is before congress and the answer is not an easy one.

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Can anyone explain why in this enlightened day and age the people should put new limits on their own powers? Consider the action of congress in providing that government radio plants will be permitted to handle press and commercial messages only up to 1925.

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Among the democrats who are not in full accord with James M. Cox is Senator Atlee Pomerene. This other Ohioan is supporting the four-power treaties, and incidentally has his eye on the presidential nomination.

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Should it be necessary for Will Hays, as emperor of filmdom, to bar Fatty? If the movie goers so desire, they can speedily put the buckle on Arbuckle.

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The Lincoln student who stole the state sheriff's automobile seems to have lacked common sense, no matter how well educated he was.

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Speaking of appropriate gifts, what could the blind woman who received the gift of a diamond bracelet from the queen of Italy say?

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When everybody in the United States is well fed, clothed and housed, will be time enough to get worked up about world markets.

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Putting pants on the Filipinos may interest some folks, but we can think of a lot of other things that might be done first.

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Semenoff's chief defender admits that he is a brute, but a typical one, if you know what that is.

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Lloyd George's choice of similes is good.

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"Jimmy" Reed's wit limps now and then.

## *Inquiries on Third Party*

### State Editors Do Not Much Mourn Its Sudden Demise.

**Falls City Journal.**

Aaron Davidson—We regard the third party the same as other political creeds and movements that spring up in time of hysteria. The progressives have little following in Richardson county, as was proven by a recent mass meeting. Railroad men are chief adherents here, with very few farmers included. They should have little influence at the coming elections except in a close race, and then in favor of the republicans.

**Scottsbluff Daily News.**

George Grimes—Nebraska does not need a third party. It does need a vigilant membership of the republican and democratic parties to insure the selection of good candidates and the formulation of honest policies. Then a clear division gives the best opportunity for a majority rule, but a third party only befogs the issues and gives selfish politicians a chance to secure a hold on the government.

**Seward Blade.**

E. E. Betzer—There are but few third party men in Seward county, and the recent switching of Wray for governor to senator has not strengthened the third party. On account of better prices for farm products and the general upward trend of the business situation voters will not be led astray by the impossible promises of third party leaders who are now manipulating things to boost themselves into office.

**Grand Island Independent.**

A. F. Buechler—The progressive party has failed to draw materially from the major parties because of the fear of radical action, but it would be a hazard to estimate which plan will, under the circumstances, most effectively advance safely progressive ideas, the balance of power or the strictly separate party plan.

**The Hastings Tribune.**

Adam Breede—The demand for a third political party in Nebraska had no trouble in crystalizing and producing the real goods, but now that it is here nobody seems to know just what to do with it. In truth, there appears to be a general desire to do it good and hard. The Bee's recent editorial on this subject brought out many points of general interest, all of which are important, if true.

**Beatrice Express.**

Clark Perkins—The fate of the new party indicates clearly conditions do not yet justify departure from the ancient line of cleavage between republicanism and democracy. All such movements during the past half century have been camouflaged to help the democrats, who are the natural beneficiaries of radicalism. The republican party, standing for conservative, honest government, with full measure of individual freedom and responsibility, remains the sheet anchor of the nation.

**Bloomington Advocate.**

H. M. Crane—Progressive party, like all other new parties, will be short lived. Its leaders will swamp it by double dealing to benefit politicians of old parties, as has already been attempted. As conditions improve the unrest of the people will be removed and draw away interest from the new party movement. Its leaders do not inspire confidence.

**Blair Pilot.**

Don C. VanDeusen—My opinion of the third party is that if the progressives and democrats can unite on such a high-class man as Judge Wray for senator and a real dirt farmer like J. N. Norton for governor the republicans will have to go some to defeat them and possibly the balance of the fusion ticket provided the same high-class men are named thereon.

**Crete Vidette.**

The entry of the third party into the political field this year cannot be viewed with alarm by any except the democrat party. While the country is in a turmoil after the great world war, the present republican administration is turning chaos into systematic organization and doing more for the people than could have been anticipated by the most sanguine republicans. The national republican efficiency must naturally reflect itself down through the state government. This is an opportune time for new parties to arise, but the third party in Nebraska assures the republican nominees at the primaries, election at the polls in November. The new party is not going to raise the price of the farmer's produce, nor is the new party going to lower taxes with any great swoop.

**McCook Gazette.**

H. D. Strunk—The third party movement in Nebraska is not considered seriously in Red Willow county. In my opinion this is no time for experimenting, either in politics or business, but rather a period when every citizen should sit quietly in the boat and lend every assistance to our executives at the helm that they may steer the good old ship of state safely over the rocks.

**Gering Courier.**

A. B. Wood—Third party movement has gone the way of its predecessors. Sincere members will now realize the real purpose of its self-constituted leaders to conduct a fusion sideshow for the democrats. Exit Judge Wray, who was never more than a false alarm, exalted by his sob ability to preach calamity.

**The Leigh World.**

Charles R. Kuble—The third party situation has reached a point where the small coterie of politicians, to which the party is practically confined, are committing political suicide.

## *Hardly a Crime*

According to a dispatch from Manila, some Americans are very much wrought up over a cartoon printed in the organ of the Philippine national party. As described, the picture shows a big bully labelled "Wood," stabbing a female Filipino figure labelled "P. I. Autonomy," through the heart with a big dagger labelled "Veto Power." The cartoon bears no caption, and the artist's name is not signed. The picture is considered libelous by American legal authorities, says the dispatch, by some is considered even seditious, and "adequate corrective action," whatever that may be, is suggested.

At this distance it would seem as though those Americans in the Philippines are taking themselves too seriously. Are they so far from home that they have forgotten the American method of lampooning by cartoon persons who figure in our official life? Does it not appeal to them that the Filipinos have merely imitated, in their way, methods which Americans at home have found so amusing—and at times so effective. —Buffalo Express.

**Two of Life's Fatalities.**

A total outsider wonders which is more fatal to a promising career of common usefulness—for a girl to win a beauty contest, or for a man to win a prize for the best short story of the year.—Kansas City Star.

**The One Fruit of Failure.**

The war, I think, was a flat failure, Uncle Sam didn't get anything out of it, and the wrist watch is with us to stay.—Atchison County Mail.

**Must the Donk Go, Too?**

Pretty soon Bill Bryan will be denying that the ancestor of the democratic party was the old familiar donkey.—Springfield Union.

## How to Keep Well

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally subject to proper limitation, where a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

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### CONSUMPTIVES AT HOME.

No community has enough beds to take care of all of its consumptives. The Framingham experiment established a standard number of beds per thousand inhabitants, but even that standard is a compromise.

Even the compromise standard is far beyond that at present attainable anywhere. If the present rate of decrease of consumption continues for another quarter of a century, our sanitarium facilities may be equal to a bed for each consumptive, and in 50 years we may be converting some of our sanitaria to other uses, as Chicago, Detroit and other places have already done with their large smallpox hospitals built 30 years ago, and Norway has done with its leprosy hospital built 20 years ago.

In the meanwhile, a large proportion of our consumptives must be cared for at home.

Fortunately for them, the facilities for home care are becoming good. Many of them can go to sanitaria for a short period of education and training. They return to their homes to carry out there what they learned in the sanitarium.

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There are excellent books to help them out, such as Minor's Rules, and the publications of the National Tuberculosis society, and of the national, state and municipal health services.

Larger books written in plain language are those of Lawrason Brown, Hawes, Atkinson, Knopf, Budge and many others.

There are excellent books written by expatients such as Macks' "Outwitting the T. B. Bugs."

A recent Canadian report recommended a service which should speedily become available anywhere. It is a home visiting service under which nurses and inspectors call on the patient at home, discuss his problems with him and with his family, see that he is living properly and obeying directions, and visit his work place if he is employed.

In addition, a physician examines the paient periodically, advises with him, lays down rules of living and pays home visits when they are required for emergencies.

The expatients of certain sanitaria now get this service free. A similar service for those able to buy a reasonable monthly fee should be organized.

Physicians have become so accustomed to passing these consumptives on to sanitaria in recent years that there is danger that the home medical treatment of consumption may become a lost art.

I have before me an excellent new book on Domiciliary Treatment of Tuberculosis, written by Walters, and intended especially for them.

However, there are chapters such as those on home conditions, rest treatment, ventilation and health, open air treatment, cleanliness, precautions against infection and food and dietetics which patients should read with advantage.

The medical treatment of consumption in the home will never be a success on the basis of "call on summons." In addition to examining and prescribing for his patient, the doctor must know how he lives, how he is surrounded, what he eats, how he rests, what exercises he takes. He must know that his directions as to habits are carried out. To give tuberculin or iodine periodically is not enough.

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The physician must learn to give detailed directions as to rest, work, fresh air, food. Glittering generalities do not get anywhere in the treatment of consumption. As the Boston M. & S. Journal says: A five-minute walk on a slippery day in winter is more taxing than a 15-minute walk in the late spring, and over-exposure to cold may harm.

As Dr. Stewart says, the man who knows just how to prescribe work is the one who knows best how to treat consumption.

If his patient will not buy one or two manuals on the subject of consumption, he will do well to lend such books to him, and to insist upon their being studied.

I am not advising the home treatment of consumption if it can be avoided.

Perhaps some day we will come to this plan: Every consumptive will be required to spend a short time in a sanitarium soon after diagnosis is made, but after a brief spell he will be required to vacate the bed for another case.

If he runs fever while at home and rest treatment does not bring it down, he may return to the sanitarium for absolute rest. Dr. Gerald Webb showed that absolute rest to an affected lung brought about by sand bags and nitrogen injection, as J. B. Murphy and Norman Bridge advocated, cured where partial rest failed.

The emergency of whatever kind having been met, the patient returns home for further home treatment.

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**Say 'Em and Get 'Em.**

A. L. B. writes: "Kindly advise the meaning of tachycardia and psychasthenia."

REPLY.

Tachycardia means fast pulse.

Psychasthenia means profound mental exhaustation.

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**Why, Miss K.! The Idea!**

Miss K. writes: "1. Does the human body contain worms?

"2. Can people live without worms?"

REPLY.

1. No.
2. Yes.

They are a luxury and not a necessity.

### CENTER SHOTS.

Some women, if they were feeding the famined Russians, would give 'em popovers and lettuce sandwiches a quarter of an inch thick with the crusts cut off.—Tacoma Ledger.

We have just noticed that a popular brand of soap is made in Milwaukee. Maybe suds will make that town famous again.—Arkansas Gazette.

We expect to see prohibition enforced when each would-be drinker in the land has a dry enforcer detailed to watch him.—Columbia Record.

Some homes have so much jazz the baby cries like a saxophone.—Harrisburg Patriot.

A friend is a fellow who says he has stopped smoking cigarets, but only stops buying them.—Syracuse (N. Y.) Herald.

Many men who were born goats blame the appearance on harmless circumstances.—Jacksonville (Fla.) Metropolis.

We can't overcome the feeling that some day the girl with the X-ray eyes will run up against the man who looks daggers. — Milwaukee Journal.

## The Bee's Letter Box

(The Bee offers its columns freely to its readers who care to discuss any public question. It requests that letters be reasonably brief, not over 300 words. It also insists that the name of the writer accompany each letter, not necessarily for publication, but that the editor may know with whom he is dealing. The Bee does not pretend to endorse or accept views or opinions expressed by correspondents in the Letter Box.)

**How to Correct Misinformation.**

York, Neb., April 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: I am glad to read in The Bee where you have called the attention of your readers to certain articles in the World-Herald, that are blacklisting our fair state in the matter of taxation, by giving the relative total of taxes of several other states in this section in contrast with the amount paid in Nebraska, or pretend to do it. Yet he does not know enough about the subject to speak or write in an informative way. We must make this charge against him or a worse one. He gives the total taxes for the state government, but fails to tell his readers that this state, having the budget system, the tax for the state includes not only the salaries of the state officers and their aids, but includes the expenses of all state institutions, while in the others it just covers the cost of the ruling machine or staff of state officers.

And then he has been running a series of pictures in his paper, giving the taxes paid five years ago and last year, and seems to be trying to leave the impression that the state administration was to blame for all the increase, and yet when this administration was first elected the World-Herald came out with a program showing some of the things that ought to be done, and some changes should be made that had not been made, even when admitted they were needed, but there had been such a clamor for strict economy in the state that every administration had dodged or sidestepped it for fear of the effect it would have on the next election. And he said then if the new administration would pick up courage to fearlessly do the job then needed to be done he would do the state a service. But like all other good things, it would cost some money.

Now he comes out with a lion's voice nearly drowned in crocodile tears to tell the poor robbed taxpayer that big increase in state expense should not have come. Does he want us to believe that if he or his party had been running the state these late years when coal, food and clothing for several thousand state wards had to be bought at 200 or 300 per cent above former prices that they could have bought it for the same they did in his cheap year of 1914, to which he compares the taxes of the last year, or whatever they had to pay, that they could have kept taxes the same as then. No reader ,they know better.

But thirst for office and plans to gain it and facts get so mussed up with them that nothing counts, only such as will help county votes. Now the next big increase of the taxes comes from this big 50-50 road contract, and, by the way, who was in control of state affairs when that deal was made? Then the pictures referred to in this article are as misleading as the state contracts, for some are given in small cities that have gone almost their limit in bonding themselves for paving and fine school buildings, and costly courthouses and community buildings, which they alone have done, and now for the senator or anyone else to try and blame that on the state is just common Third ward heelers' tactics.

But the first and biggest asset they have are those who know better, but like one of their editors 30 years ago said when taken to task for misquotations of the Congressional Record, after having been corrected once he said: "You fellows don't understand getting the uncertain vote, and I know that not 1 in 500 of my readers will ever see the Congressional Record." Now, Mr. Editor, here is your tip, not many of them will see your show up. So there you are.

But if such stuff could be put in show windows of empty buildings where they could be read but not disturbed, and then the facts, when it is anything that is of record, and is copyrighted so it could not be gainsaid, it might enlighten some, but some —— —— Well finish that to suit yourself. But with all due regards for the rights and feelings of their many, many fine and learned followers, they have so many of those other elements that make that sort of campaigning profitable. That is not partisan bias, it is cold fact.

FRANKLIN POPE.

**John Henry Wants to Know.**

Omaha, April 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: Your editorial on "Party Desertion" is to the point ,and how truly this illustrates the old saying, that politics makes strange bedfellows, for if this Mullen, Bryan and Edmisten combination is not a whole circuit itself, then we will have to go into the jungle of South Africa to find one. The elephant, the donkey and the hermaphrodite ought to satisfy the curiosity and lovers of the ancient kingdom.

I now take my hat off to the all-wise editor of the World-Herald, his comparing the third party to Doldrums, it was a master stroke. Perhaps he was wise to the deal, when he wrote the editorial. There is a question, however, that the Herald editor might be able to answer, how can Norton swallow all the progessive party, when he was in Grand Island, when the progressive convention was in session, and refused to attend that convention? Was he not afraid then that he might be contaminated with the bunch that he is now ready to swallow.

There is another nigger in the woodpile. How does Sorensen get remunerated for repairing democratic fences, unless if Howell is nominated on the republican ticket; Wray will capitulate to Howell as he did to Norton on the democratic ticket. Suppose Howell and Wray are both defeated at the primaries where will Sorensen put his eggs to hatch? Hitchcock might buy the eggs, hatch them in his own incubator, which would make them full-fledged democrats.

This is certainly a sweet bunch to tie too. Where will the honest reformers of Nebraska go to find what they want? If this bunch of Doldrums are on the trade now, what good would they be as progressives if elected? Was it not fortunate for all concerned that they showed their hands before election.

Are there no other men in Nebraska that are honest to God reformers? When we thought Wray was with us, we cast 90,000 votes for him, without a party; and we can double that vote this year, for a man that has just a little backbone.

JOHN HENRY.





## My Marriage Problems

Adele Garrison's New Phase of

### "Revelations of a Wife"

(Copyright 1922)

**The Way Madge Managed to Soothe Mother Graham.**

I did not wait for further argument from my irascible mother-in-law, but sped to the kitchen, bent on soothing Katie.

I guessed that the meekness the girl had displayed under Mother Graham's stinging and underserved rebuke had been artificial and maintained because of her sympathy for the older woman's broken arm and her very lively remembrance of the experience she had undergone during her absence from us. That my guess, founded upon long experience of my little maid's tempestuous moods, was a true one I saw when I entered the kitchen. For Katie stood with her arms flung out over the refrigerator, sobbing stormily, while the scent of scorching toast came to my nostrils.

I dashed to the stove, pulled the toaster away from the flame, hoping devoutly that Mother Graham's unusually keen olfactory nerves would be off duty for a few seconds. Then, without appearing to notice Katie, I hastily cut another slice of bread, toasted it in the fashion Mother Graham likes best, and spread it daintily with butter. I was starting for the diningroom with it when Katie flung herself upon me.

**Madge Contrives Well.**

"Oh!" she wailed. "I no vant you to do my vork. I—"

"Don't make me spill this toast," I said practically. "Bathe your face while I take this in, and then sit down and get calm. I want you to do something for me."

I did not wait for her obedience—it is generally wise, I have found, to give Katie time for a second thought—but hurried on to the diningroom and put the toast before my mother-in-law, who sniffed as she looked at the covered dish containing it.

"You needn't trouble yourself to bring me any toast that has been scraped off after burning," she said tartly, making no attempt to lift the cover of the dish.

"I haven't," I returned laconically. "This toast isn't burned."

"How dare you stand there and tell me anything like that!" she snapped. "I distinctly smelled it burning."

My sympathy with Katie had been steadily rising since I entered the room, and if my mother-in-law had been well I am afraid I should have answered her in distinctly irritated and disrespectful fashion. But the lines of pain etched in her face disarmed me, even as they had Katie, and I lifted the cover of the dish and waved my hand gayly over it.

**"Dot Very Nice—"**

"If you can see a speck of char on that piece of toast I'll give you a dollar," I said. "There was a piece of toast burning, but it was one Katie had put on. I threw that away and toasted this."

She put up her lorgnette and inspected the toast as if it were some new species of animal discovered by a scientist. I knew that the action was, in Dicky's parlance, "a stall," meant to give her time to change front on the toast question.

"I might have known better than to ask that ape of a girl to make a piece of toast," she said at last, keeping her voice discretly lowered, however. "This looks all right—might be a trifle browner—it will do, though. But I knew I wasn't mistaken about smelling that toast burning. I may be losing control of my mental faculties, but there's nothing the matter with my nose as yet."

I repressed with difficulty the retort that her tongue appeared also to be in splendid condition. Instead, I made a placating suggestion.

"Wouldn't you like another cup of coffee?" I asked ingratiatingly.

"Why! I believe I would," she answered, and I hastened to bring it. Then I slipped away again unobtrusively, fairly sure that she would summon me no more, and that I was free to turn my attention to Katie.

She was sitting in a chair near the sink, dabbing at her eyes with a wet towel, evidently determined to follow my instructions to the letter. I took the towel from her, gently, then turned her face toward me.

"You musn't mind Mother Graham, Katie," I said firmly. "You know she doesn't mean a word she says, and she likes you very much indeed."

Katie looked at me shrewdly, her eyes beginning to twinkle.

"Dot very nice," she said, "but I vonder me vot she do to me eef she hate me vunce. I no like to be Katie en dot day comes."

I laughed, for my little maid is irresistibly funny sometimes. But I sobered instantly, however, wondering how best to broach to Katie my belief as to the folly of her keeping the oath the strange foreigner had forced her to take.

**A Natural Conclusion.**

"My family is scattered all over the earth."

"My, my, aren't those automobiles terrible?"—Life.