

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher
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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1908, at Omaha postoffice under act of March 3, 1879.
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NO INCREASE IN CAR FARES

Whatever may be found necessary in the solution of the traction problem in Omaha there must be no increase in street car fares.

The company faces a real problem. It is the city's problem as well as a company problem. It is a problem for all the citizens of Omaha. The situation calls for a business-like settlement.

Boiled down, the street car situation in Omaha just now is this: The general manager of the concern notifies the city council, that revenue has fallen off, until the earnings are not sufficient to pay returns at the rate permitted by the State Railway commission. He asks that the company be relieved from the occupation tax, amounting to something like \$200,000 a year. Also that the city bear the expense of paving between the rails, now charged to the company.

As an alternative to these concessions, Mr. Luessler proposes an increase in fare.

Patronage of the company has fallen greatly during the present year. Most of the loss is ascribed to the extended use of the automobile. The plant of the company is capable of taking care of much greater business than it now handles. As the investment in tracks, rolling stocks, power generating plant and other equipment is fixed, the company naturally asks that it be permitted to earn on its full value, and not merely on that portion which is daily used to meet the reduced requirements. In other words, readiness to serve applies here in its fullest sense.

A tramway of some sort is as necessary to a city's life as is water, gas or telephone service. It is a common public need, and the agency that meets it has a right to expect compensation. This is elemental.

Certain other elemental factors deserve consideration. In his letter to the council, Mr. Luessler refers to the fact that the present rate of fare was adopted as a temporary expedient. That is true, but it is also true that in the public mind there was an expectancy that the fare would be restored to the 5-cent basis. This was just as reasonable as that of the company, which looked in the other direction.

Agreeing that the company should have sufficient revenue to make its operations profitable, and facing the fact that patronage has been far from sufficient to supply this revenue, the question of remedy comes to the front. Which of the two proposals made by the company for relief, if either, is to be accepted?

An increase in fare will throw the entire cost of the relief on the patrons of the street cars. Those who ride in their own conveyances are not concerned in this, but the folks who use the trolley cars would feel the effect immediately. Such a step would mean that the shop girls, the clerks, the workmen, and such others as customarily ride on the street cars would be required to make up the total loss.

On the other hand, to relieve the company of a portion of the taxes it now pays would mean that much added to the general tax roll. In the matter of the paving charges, this appears fair and just. No good reason exists for carrying on that relic of the horse car period. The occupation tax is more of a debatable subject, yet if the company is to be relieved at all, argument in favor of requiring everybody to contribute to that end outweighs that which would place the entire burden on those who ride on the cars. They already pay what they consider a reasonable charge for the service.

While these points are being considered, another and a greater one is looming right ahead of us. The city contends that the franchise under which the tramway company is operating expires in 1928. That is just three years off. Between now and then decision must be reached as to the terms under which a new franchise will be granted. Until it is settled, the company will very properly refrain from any extension expenditures for betterments. New lines will not be built, old equipment will be made to serve, and the physical status quo of the concern will remain just what it is, subject to the wear and tear of the service. Sections of the city that await street car service will have to continue to wait. General inconvenience will be endured until these matters are settled.

The citizens of Omaha can not longer blink at the tramway situation. It has reached an acute stage, and must be met one way or the other.

A PLEASING PROSPECT.

Much has been said in praise of the bumper wheat crop and its effects upon our social and economic life. Much has been said, and is being said, about the corn crop and its prospective benefits. Comes now the time when this Great Family Newspaper shall insist that due and proper attention be given to another factor which should play a more prominent part in the social structure.

We refer, and with all possible admiration, to the golden pie pumpkin now approaching its rich perfection. The cow pumpkin has its place in Mother Nature's scheme of things, but it is unworthy of being given a place alongside the pie

pumpkin of blessed memory and anticipatory delight. No reference is here made, nor will be made, to the canned pumpkin of commerce. What we would dwell upon is the pie pumpkin as it is sliced for the stew kettle, or dried in long strings under the rafters, preparatory to being manufactured into the sweet, aromatic, spiced and golden-hued pie of old-fashioned home manufacture.

As viewed from the roadside these crisp September days, the pie pumpkin brings visions of family reunions around the Thanksgiving table, of roast turkey flanked by mountains of creamy mashed potatoes, and oodles of savory gravy. It brings memories of happy laughter, of fatherly and motherly greetings, and of sweet communion of kindred souls.

At sight of the golden, globular pumpkin one seems to catch the odor of sugar and cinnamon and myrrh, the aromatic incense of frankincense and myrrh. Come visions of delightful days long dead, and of other delightful days yet awaiting their dawn.

The plain and unassuming pie pumpkin is deserving of more attention, of more praise and adulation, than it has yet received. No fruit richer in gustatory potentialities grows on vine or limb. It is one of the crowning glories of the waning year.

SOUNDING THE SURTAX DEPTHS.

One of the seeming mysteries brought out when the Mellon plan was under fire in congress was the disappearance of considerable revenue as a result of the high surtaxes. None of the explanations offered to congress was entirely satisfactory. Least of all that which suggested that great wealth was hiding to escape the law. A billion and a half going into tax-free securities did not account for all congress wanted to know. Therefore an inquiry into the operations of the internal revenue bureau was ordered.

About the time this committee was getting ready to function, its chairman, Senator Couzens of Michigan, was taken sick. He has now so far recovered as to be able to resume his duties. Instead, however, of there being an explosion at the White House and the Treasury building, Senator Couzens finds the mat with "Welcome" on it at both doors. He has just concluded an arrangement with Secretary Mellon whereby all the records since 1916, affecting incomes of \$100,000 or over, are placed at his disposal. Three investigators named by the committee have been authorized by the secretary to receive, examine and copy whatever they wish from the archives of the Internal Revenue bureau. President Coolidge approves this.

Just what will be disclosed may not be ventured in anticipation of the committee's report. The public, however, may rightly look for some important disclosures. No one thinks that any extensive frauds will be discovered, or any frauds, but if there has been wholesale shirking of taxes, as insinuated, the inquiry should disclose the fact. Information may be gained which will lead to the further and better revision of the tax law, and if this does happen, it will be one investigation that has accomplished some good.

HIGHER PRICE FOR WHEAT NATURAL.

Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, sinks a harpoon deep into one of the favorite stories of the opponents of Coolidge and Dawes. It is a frequently repeated sneer that the price of wheat was artificially boosted, in order that a fictitious prosperity could be created for the delusion of the farmers of the country. As soon as election is over, the props will be knocked from under, and down will come wheat.

Even were it true as the calamity howlers allege, the farmer is getting a rather beneficial reaction from the experience. However, it is not true, for the good reason, as the secretary of commerce sets forth, that the world situation justifies the higher price of wheat and other farm commodities. A shortage of 300,000,000 bushels is noted in the world crop. This is something. Foreigners are buying American wheat, despite the assertion of John W. Davis and the democratic platform, that America is shut out of the world market by republican policies. Within the last six weeks, 35,000,000 bushels of wheat has been sold out of this country, a much greater amount than was exported in the same time last year. At this rate, it means that America will sell for foreign consumption almost 300,000,000 bushels of this year's wheat crop, or considerably more than is available for exportation, making allowance for the normal home consumption.

The only danger that really menaces the American farmer is the return to power of the free trade group, who want to take the tariff off everything. They would open the American market to the competition of the world. With American workmen competing with the underpaid toilers of Europe, the American standard of living correspondingly lowered, the American farmer would have the pleasure of selling in the "competitive" market. He would be on a level with the Russian moujik, the French peasant, the Indian pariah, and have every blessing they enjoy. Free trade, you know, means free trade. Over in England it also means breadlines.

"Battling Bob" is having quite a time to suppress his followers in Washington, where a lot of reformers are determined to put a state ticket in the field labeling it "La Follette." So nonplussed is the senator that he has actually invoked the aid of the courts. Fancy that!

The prince of Wales has joined the pressmen's union. This will now make it a triangle. The printers had Harding and the firemen Roosevelt. La Follette ought to qualify as a hoodlarrer now and square the table.

Henry Beal has a duty to perform in connection with the reckless drivers.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet— Robert Worthington Davis

ONE PATH ALWAYS

Forsoke not Service, son of mine, whatever the task may be! The same old ship's at sea, my boy, upon the selfsame sea.

The same old faith fuveterate to every summit leads; The same old world it is, my boy, asking the same old deeds.

Forsoke not the old-fashioned things though they discarded be; Begin today's endeavor with the zest of days gone by. And with the same persistence which Time's mirrors now disclose, And to which Progress for its flight the debt of being owes.

Go forth to sail the deep, my boy. It's mysteries are no more. But it is just as far across unto the farther shore. The path is not another one though now the compass guides; It is the same old journey, son, against uncanny tides.

A Fine Opportunity for Some Candidate to Win the Farmer Vote.



Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less will be given preference.

Action on the Language Law.

Omaha.—To the Editor of the Omaha Bee—My attention was called to a letter from W. H. Green in the Omaha Bee of September 17.

The letter purports to show that Mr. Norton is opposed to the teaching of foreign languages. I have no quarrel with that part of his letter, setting out the House Journal; but it is apparent that the manifest object of the article is to prejudice some voters against Norton and make his opponent, Mr. McMullen, the beneficiary. That being the case, the voters should know the entire story.

Having been one of the attorneys in most of the foreign language litigation, trying to set aside those unconstitutional laws, naturally I kept myself informed on the record of the legislators. I have also examined the House and Senate Journal for accuracy and the following are the facts:

On March 26, 1918, the governor called the legislature into a special "war" session. Mr. Norton was a member of the house and his opponent, Mr. McMullen, was a member of the senate. The session was called only a few days after the start of the famous attack in France. The fate of the allies hung in the balance. The legislature was called to enact certain specific measures deemed necessary as war measures. The governor and the council of defense recommended the repeal of the Mockett law and other similar measures. It was understood that the legislature was merely to ratify the measures recommended and popular temper was such as to expect it. The Mockett law was repealed by a practically unanimous vote. Both Norton and McMullen voted for the repeal. Another of the recommendations of the administration was the discouragement of teaching foreign languages, not so much because inherently bad, but because it was causing commotion in certain localities. As the leading member of the session, Mr. Norton was asked to offer the reso-

Resolution mentioned in Mr. Green's letter and without being discussed, as a matter of routine, the resolution was unanimously adopted. (House Journal, page 130.)

At about the same time a similar resolution was offered in the senate by Mr. Oberlies. (Sen. J., page 52.) It was adopted by the senate by a vote of 18 to 14, Mr. McMullen being one of the 18. In the senate it was not treated as routine, but an issue was made of it and on the test Mr. McMullen voted for the resolution. After its adoption Senator Moriarty tried to palliate its force with an amendment advising against prejudice toward those of foreign birth or descent. Mr. McMullen raised a point of order and the amendment on his objection was ruled out (Sen. J., pages 91 and 92). The senate resolution, and for which Mr. McMullen voted, reads as follows:

Resolved, That we approve the request of the state council of defense that public and private authorities in Nebraska discontinue using foreign language as a medium of instruction for secular or religious subjects to pupils of grade school age.

You will note that the resolution adopted is very similar to the resolution adopted in the house. However it will be noted that in the resolution adopted in the house, the same is made to apply "during the war." These words are not found in the senate resolution.

So much for the record of the two candidates. I present it here to keep the record straight. As a matter of fact the action of either one can hardly be criticized. To each one may properly apply the explanation offered by Senator Mattes when voting for the repeal of the Mockett law. He said:

"In the fulness of his consideration and decision, the governor in his message, found warrant to say, 'The enactment of laws upon the subjects will materially strengthen the effectiveness of Nebraska's cooperation with the federal government.' I believe the governor wrote this sentence after due deliberation. I believe it to be his honest opinion based upon a thorough investigation. This sentence alone governs my present action, therefore I vote 'aye' (Sen. J., pages 85 and 70)." The above explanation is given so that the voters may know the entire

history. My own views are that if the voters base their choice on these matters and not on such substantial issues as taxation, economy in government and the like, they should not later complain if the administration that they do get is found to rest on mere prejudice and nothing more.

Yours very truly, JOSEPH T. VOTAVA.

Civic Pride.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: As I study those two words, I wonder how many really stop to think wherein his duty lies? He thinks it means voting right, supporting public enterprises, establishing schools and churches and promoting public welfare and, so far as it goes, he is right. But look at our commercial life in this city alone. Is it consistent with civic pride that there should fall in our midst busy bees, houses the closing of which shocks the public, when if every housewife, every man, every boy and girl would stop to think as he goes out to buy "What store or shop, or auto concern needs my money most to tide over a hard time, be he Jew or Gentile?"

Is it to the credit of a public-spirited man that he goes to a cheap concern and usually buys cheap goods where his brother is on the verge of ruin and a concerted effort would save him?

I am daily in fear that our beautiful commercial houses may cease to exist. Let each put in his mite to turn the tide. HOUSEWIFE.

Fundamentals.

"Reginald," said the Sunday school teacher, during a lesson on the baptismal covenant, "can you tell me the two things necessary to baptism?"

"Yes, ma'am," said Reginald. "Water and a baby."—Everybody's Magazine.

Would Never Do.

"What are the excavations for?" "Gas mains." "Gas mains? We also install the water pipes while the street is still open?" "We could, but it wouldn't be ethical."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Abe Martin



Somebuddy got a hot dog sandwich, a cup of coffee an' a sand-coat for 10 cents at the Little Gem cafe 't' day. 'Squire Marsh Swallow is confined 't' his home from drinkin' evidence.

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NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION

for July, 1924, of

THE OMAHA BEE

Daily . . . . . 74,012

Sunday . . . . . 74,792

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and inclues no special sales or free circulation of any kind.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget, That Sunrise never failed us yet. Celia Thaxter

Nebraska's eugenic marriage law is all right as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough. With the purpose of the law we are in hearty sympathy, but it fails to work out that way. It merely sends most of our young people over into Iowa, Kansas, Wyoming and South Dakota to get married. That wouldn't be so bad if they took over their local pastors along with them to tie the knots. But they don't. Things being as they are we resent the discrimination against our own preachers. Besides we may have to dig a little deeper for our favorite pastor in order to make up the deficiency caused by the loss of marriage fees.

We have always taken an active interest in politics, but right now our attention is diverted therefrom. We are so intent on watching the race between King Corn and Col. Jack Frost that all else must take second place.

If a chigger were bigger, Say big as a cow, Say its digger had vigor, Like a sub-soil plow, Can you figure, picknicker, Where you would be, now? —Holdrege Citizen.

Let's banish the chigger, The bug that can figure, The way to molest one the most, His life is much bigger, Than the end of his digger, And this is not meant for a boast. —Orleans Chronicle.

As a digger the chigger, Cuts a wonderful figure, He bores with an infinite zeal, When his luncheon he snatches, He institutes scratches, That banish both comfort and rest.

This is the season of the year when we experience a great difficulty in keeping the collective mind of the feminine contingent of the family fixed upon the ultimate destination while walking past the display windows so gorgeous with fall and winter finery.

Later in the season the Ad-Sell Club is to be addressed by Strickland Gillilan, and we stop the press right here to insert this little notice that the club member who misses Strick's address will have left a large chunk of real pleasure out of his life. A poet who plays upon the heartstrings with master hand, a philosopher who looks out life cheerfully, and a humorist who scatters sunshine, Gillilan is one of the greatest platform attractions of this generation. We know, for we've heard him time and again. His new book, "Laugh It Off," is worth its weight in gold. Strick says he wanted to name it "To Hell With Gloom," but his publishers were too pernickety. But that's the message, and it succeeds in putting gloom just there. WILL M. MAUPIN.

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press.

The Cedarvale Blade tells of a quilt 25 years old that was exhibited at the county fair. We slept under one that old in a country hotel not long ago, and don't think it had been off the bed since it was first made.

The Wakefield Republican reports that Dixon county is likely to have a county farm agent. The only surprising thing about the statement is that Dixon county wasn't in line long ago.

The editor of the Emerson Enterprise took an airplane ride the other day and reports that the pilot didn't know his business. He couldn't make his machine stand still in the air.

Bob Rice is touring Canada and in addition to writing interesting letters for his Central City Republican he is sending picture post cards to thirty friends inscribed: "Having a good time, wish you were here."

Charley Bryan declined a speaking date in Wisconsin, but Charley Dawes didn't, whereupon Charley Kuhle of the Leigh World remarks that it shows the difference between

the courage and stamina of the two men.

Noting that Secretary Hughes returned from Europe with a shorter beard, Editor Cole of the Crofton Journal remarks that Hughes is not the first American to get trimmed ever there.

Noting that Phil La Follette, son of Bob, is called a "chip off the old block," the Tecumseh Chiefstain wants to know why they pick on the boy that way. "He may outgrow it," says the Chiefstain.

Ed Burr of the Central City Nonpareil is too young to be a cynic, but he's slipping. "If Loeb and Leopold," says Ed, "had selected a reporter who is writing the guff about the Prince of Wales, instead of the little Franks boy, they might have won public sympathy."

Instead of asking a candidate what he is going to do if elected, Don Van Dusen of the Blair Pilot thinks it would be more to the point to ask him what in the world he is going to do if he is not elected.

"Everybody knows how to raise children except those who have them," muses Editor Sutherland of the Tekamah Herald.

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