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## Omaha Where the West is at its Best

### CHARLEY, HOW COULD YOU?

Governor Bryan varied his part of the program at the Yankton bridge celebration by indulging in a political harangue. This would be bad enough, but the governor took his favorite topic, deflation of the farmer, and rode it without mercy. According to veracious democratic report, the governor said that Wall Street has taken over the Federal Reserve bank, and that "deflation was the result of that partisan, political and government influence in the rehabilitation administration." Whatever that means. It is clear that Governor Bryan has been reading that plank of the democratic platform Brother Will helped write last summer, which says:

"We denounce the recent cruel and unjust contraction of legitimate and necessary credit and currency, which was directly due to the so-called deflation policy of the republican party as declared in its national platform of June, 1920, and the speech of acceptance of its candidate for the presidency."

A beautiful bit of fancy. What are the facts? As early as August 8, 1919, President Wilson, in a message referring to the cost of living said to congress:

"What we can do we should do at once, and there is a great deal we can do, provisional though it be. Wheat shipments and credits to facilitate the purchase of our wheat can and will be limited and controlled in such a way as not to raise but rather to lower the price of wheat. The government has power within certain limits to regulate them."

There was the first official step taken to deflate the farmer, to let down the price of wheat. It was the democratic president of the United States telling the farmer that dealings in wheat would be limited and regulated so as to lower the price of flour. This was more than ten months before the republican convention met in Chicago.

Next in succession comes the action of the Federal Reserve board. In July, 1919, an advance in rediscount rates had been contemplated, but it was not made effective until December, 1919. On January 16, 1920, the Federal Reserve board notified all member banks that their loans from central institutions must be reduced. On January 23, 1920, a week later, the rediscount rate was again raised, this time to 6 per cent. Furthermore, the Federal Reserve board insisted that member banks dispose of their holdings of Liberty bonds at prevailing market rates, an action that forced the market further down. Senator Owen of Oklahoma, a democrat, chairman of the banking and currency committee, denounced this on the floor of the senate, saying the course had cost holders of Liberty bonds \$3,000,000,000.

The farmer was already feeling the pressure, and on February 9, 1920, Senator Gronna of North Dakota, a republican and chairman of the committee on agriculture, introduced this resolution:

"Resolved, That the senate instruct the committee on banking and currency to investigate and report to the senate the amount of loans made up and to investigate the alleged causes of the withdrawal of funds to provide for loans, extension or renewal upon wheat and other cereals."

This was four months before the republicans adopted the platform at Chicago. Yet the democrats would have the world think the deflation of the farmer followed that platform.

In May, 1920, at a meeting of the Federal Reserve board, attended by representatives of all the member banks, it was resolved to still further advance discount rates. When the meeting was breaking up, the governor of the board, W. P. G. Harding, a democrat from Alabama, cautioned all hands to be careful not to divulge what was intended, "because it disturbs everybody, and if people think rates are going to be advanced there will be an immediate rush to get into the banks before the rates are put up, and the policy of the reserve board is that that is one thing we never discuss with a newspaper man."

Secrecy was not maintained, though. It could not be. John Nance Garner, democratic representative from Texas, wrote to the board, protesting its policy was ruining the cotton planters of the state. All these things took place before the republican convention met at Chicago in June, 1920, and prove one thing conclusively. That the policy of deflation had been determined upon by the democrats in the Treasury department, following the lead of the president, and was being carried into effect before it was possible for the republican convention to have adopted a plank of any sort.

Every member of the Federal Reserve board was a democrat. Two of them, John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, and Henry A. Mohlenpohl of Wisconsin, voted against the action of the board, but were voted down by their fellow democrats. Governor Bryan overlooks the fact that a "dirt farmer" was made a member of the board by President Harding. Surely that is not Wall Street's doing.

Now the democrats try to shift the blame onto the republicans with the weak claim that the disaster they set in motion in 1919 was brought about by the action of a convention that met ten months later. Truth is that was not until March, 1921, when the

republicans came into power, that any step was taken to check the downward slide of business started by the democrats themselves. Records open to the public show how preposterous this assertion made by Governor Bryan and the democratic platform is in the light of facts. It is in harmony, however, with the whole democratic campaign, which rests on either distortion of truth or fiction pure and simple.

### WAITING FOR STARTER'S WORD.

Three weeks from Tuesday the jury will bring in the verdict, and we will know what to look for during the coming four years. Folks are really waiting for this verdict. In the Omaha banks today deposits amount to more than \$125,000,000. Loans and discounts are less than \$74,000,000. Fifty-one million dollars ready and eager for employment. Just waiting until the election tells what to look out for. Whether it is to be Coolidge or chaos. Whether it is to be a continuation of the safe and sane policies of the republican party, the protective tariff and America first. Or whether it is to be the undoing of these policies and the substitution of the other ideas, with Europe above all, and home folks second. Happiness to be secured by attending to our own business or risked in running after that of others.

Some evidence of how the outcome is regarded may be obtained from the action of steel. That is a pretty good barometer for business at any time. Steel enters into so much of the fabric of industry and to such an extent that it affords about the best gauge known. So, when we are told that unfilled orders for steel at the close of September totaled 3,473,780 tons, an increase of 184,203 tons over August, we know that business is getting better. Increase in orders for steel is a sure sign of increase in industrial activity.

September reports also showed an improvement in the matter of employment and pay rolls. These are signs of confidence, justified by political signs. Idle millions in the banks will soon see their vacation ended. Real business is just waiting the signal from the starter. The signal will be given on Tuesday, November 4.

### VOTE FOR SOMEBODY.

A New York firm has set an example that should be noted by all employers. Its head has sent a letter to each of its several thousand employees, setting out that the supreme duty of the voter this year is to vote. Each recipient is informed that he or she will be given ample time on election day to attend to the business of voting. No one will be docked for time lost in attendance at the polls. No advice is given as to choice of candidates or parties, but all are urged to vote.

That is good stuff. Too many employers have just the opposite notion, holding that their private business is above the great public concern of election. In the end every private business of whatever kind or nature will be affected by the outcome of the election. Therefore it is highly desirable that a fullpoll be taken, that everyone express an opinion, one way or the other.

And, be not misled by the specious argument that one has a right not to vote. So also does one have a right not to assist in putting out a fire, or in pulling on an oar in the lifeboat, or doing a lot of the other things in life's emergencies when prompt and concerted action is good for all, including one's own being. One may not feel exactly satisfied with any or all of the candidates, yet one knows that some of them will be elected, and one will have to put up with them as public officers. Is one, then, justified in saying, "Let the house burn, I did not set the fire?"

The privileges of citizenship carry with them the duties also, and among the latter is the intelligent exercise of choice between parties, between issues, between candidates. Vote for somebody.

### ONE THING THE REPUBLICANS DID DO.

A former United States senator from Nebraska, stumping in Maryland for Davis, says the republican administration has increased the cost of living by \$4,000,000,000. Perhaps. The statement is open to question. A lot of things are cheaper than they were when the republicans went into office. That much is certain.

Here is something the republicans did do. When Wilson and his party went out and Harding went in, 4,000,000 workers in the United States were without jobs. Within a year there was complaint of a labor shortage. If those 4,000,000 got the average pay of \$1,000 a year, their earnings more than account for the increase cost complained of by the senator.

For the workers themselves, the big thing is that they have a chance to earn a living, something they did not have four years ago. Nobody is trying to laugh that off.

And two years ago the highly moral and wholly patriotic Mr. Butler was striving earnestly to get the gubernatorial nomination from the party he now so emphatically denounces. Evidently Mr. Butler Has Seen a Great Light.

Two very popular candidates for public favor in Nebraska at this time are Bossy Cow and Biddy Hen. The feminine movement is going permanently forward.

Old Bill Maupin will have to admit that not all the correspondents are wrong. Where so many guesses are made one is apt to hit the mark.

"No party can be built around a man," said "Battling Bob" when he was tearing into "T. R." back in 1912. Now he is proving his assertion.

The Great Triumvirate that will spell prosperity for Nebraska farmers: The Cow, the Sow and the Hen.

Mr. Davis finds the Fordney-McCumber act is unconstitutional. What do you know about that?

The greatest American claimant is either Clem Shaver or John Nelson.

**Homespun Verse**  
—By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davis

**RETROSPECTIVE.**  
On Saturday night when the milking is done,  
And the chickens are shut in the pen,  
I sit in my chair till a quarter of one  
And travel the old paths again.  
I wonder where Thomas and Isaac have gone,  
Where Mary and Marjorie dwell,  
And what has become of old Major McNawn  
Who lived all alone in the dell.  
I wonder if Parson McDougal still holds  
That grudge of the far away days,  
I wonder if dear Auntie Susan still scolds,  
And oft for my benefit prays.  
I wonder of much that is vain and uncouth  
To us when we've grown to be wise,  
But here in the mirror of changeable youth  
The gem of my history lies.

## Well, a "Mess." Yes—Just Exactly That



## Letters From Our Readers

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

**Shall the Will of the People Prevail?**  
Kenesaw, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee:—In view of the speculation as to the outcome of the election, the question asked of Senator Norris as to whom he would support for vice president if the election went to congress seems to me to be timely and proper. If the question were intended to embarrass Senator Norris, it seems to have completely missed its mark.

With that frankness that has characterized his utterances in this campaign, Senator Norris made the logical and rational reply that he would carry out the will of the people as expressed at the polls. The candidate getting the highest vote in Nebraska would get his vote.

Could anything be simpler? That is what the presidential electors do. That is the usual result following any election. That is the fundamental concept of our form of government.

The writer, a republican, signed Statement No. 1 in 1919 agreeing, if elected a member of the legislature, to vote for that candidate for United States senator who carried the popular vote at the election. Most of the candidates at that time did the same thing. I was elected and voted for Gilbert M. Hitchcock for United States senator, because that was the mandate of the people at the polls.

Since that time the constitution has been amended so that senators are elected by the direct vote of the people instead of by this roundabout way, which at that time was the only way to effect the same result.

This question and Senator Norris' reply suggest a further comment and inquiry.

When there is a failure to elect a president as a result of the general election, that duty devolves upon the house of representatives. It is the house and not the senate whose shoulders are burdened with that responsibility. Each state has one vote as determined by the majority of the members from that state. To the house members then should the question be first addressed. Nebraska is one of five states whose delegation in congress is equally divided as to their political affiliation. Is the presumption well founded that Nebraska will, in that event, have no voice in the election of the president? This would be the result if each member stood by his party guns, regardless of which candidate carried the election.

But why should a representative do one thing after being instructed by voters to do another and different thing? Can such action be justified on the part of anyone elected to represent the will of the people? I should dislike to believe that the six representatives from Nebraska, or any one of them would fly in the face of the people.

**Abe Martin**  
No mystery about it. One has to work in order to pay taxes. The savages don't work, so have an abundance of time to cultivate savagery.

Ordinary campaign mud washes off quite easily, but more or less of it seems to stick when mixed with oil. —Columbia Record.

What kind of oil? Tongue? Or the sort that is still in the ground and over which all of the "scandal" has been hatched? —Columbia Record.

Up in New York they are having literacy tests for voters. Advanced literacy tests for the candidates would help the general situation some. —Columbia Record.

Yeah, and for some editors, too. "If a husband has the last word, it is something like this: 'All right; buy the darned thing.'" —Vallejo (Cal.) Chronicle.

Which simply shows that he has money and that times are good, and that he will likely vote for Coolidge. "Shall autos stop at grade crossings?" —Literary Digest.

It might be a good idea, especially when there is a train on the crossing, or when one—train—is about to cross the crossing. Judging from past performance of trains when in argument with autos, we think it a rather helpful idea.

"Is the best speed limit merely 'good judgment'?" —Literary Digest.

"Not always. It is sometimes good sense. Especially when there is a cop after you. We hold that there are times when an autist may be excused for exceeding the 'limit.'" —BILL JONES.

**Plends for the Iceless.**  
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee:—I entreat your indulgence for a few remarks concerning the management of the munny ice stations. The people living adjacent to these stations are justified in their complaints against closing the stations so early in the season. They should be kept open to serve the convenience of the poor people who are unable to go to the ice plant.

**Dad Knew.**  
"Pa," said Clarence, "what do they mean by keeping cool under fire?" "They may not mean it that way, but what it really means is having cold chills chasing one another up and down your spinal column and your feet getting 20 degrees colder than a chunk of ice." replied his dad. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

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## SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, not forget, that Sunrise never failed us yet.  
Celia Baxter

On Board Pure-Bred Sire Special, at Minden.—In a sentiment mood this morning, Old home town, landed here in a blizzard in January, 1887. Intended to stay long enough to help set tax list for old Minden Gazette. Remained three years. Country comparatively new then. Met number of old-timers who were here then, and still stick to the old county. Few of the old landmarks remaining. Splendid brick and stone courthouse stands where old frame courthouse stood in those early days.

It was here that Richards, cattle rustler and murderer, was hanged. One of first legal hangings in western Nebraska. Most events here date from day of that hanging. Richards' skull was an inkstand in the old Gazette office for several years. Chasing jackrabbits was favorite sport when first landed in Minden. Still remember the wonderful greyhounds then owned by Charley Page and John Ferguson. Wonder where Charley and John are now?

Fine bunch of nieces and nephews round about here, growing up to splendid manhood and womanhood. No trees here 27 years ago. Early in our first spring we chartered a horse and buggy and drove over to old Fort Kearney, near Lowell, just to see the big cottonwoods. Minden is paving now. None of us dreamed in those old days that Minden ever would be paved. Striking thing about the old town. This is the first stop where the people lined up to go through the train, instead of standing in the entrance. Early influence of our example must still be working.

Went through blizzard of '88 in Minden. Sister-in-law teaching eight miles from town. She remained with her pupils all night in schoolhouse school. Party of men, one of them us, remained all night in place abolished by constitutional ukase a few years ago. Didn't dare trying to get home. And didn't want to, very badly.

Court in session here. Yes, several cases of violation of liquor laws. It was in Minden that we first saw Judge Gaslin in action. He was one of the unique characters of Nebraska's pioneer history. Never was but one Judge Gaslin.

This is the home of J. C. Canaday, to know whom is a pleasure and a privilege. The more men like him Nebraska has the better off Nebraska will be. He is hereby admitted to full citizenship in the We Knew Him When Club.

Good corn crop in this section, and fair wheat crop. Some difference in corn prices between today and 37 years ago. Remember when corn went begging at 10 cents a bushel in these parts. A pretty town, a fine people, and a rapidly developing dairy section. It was good to get back to the old home town for a few hours.

Most people get their idea of the popcorn business from watching the man with the wagon. But it is a big business in Valley county. There it is one of the principal crops, and hundreds of thousands of bushels are raised annually, carefully cured and then shipped all over the world. The bulk of the world's commercial popcorn supply is raised in Valley county. "Popcorn day" is the big day for North Loup, one of Valley county's good little towns. On that day popcorn is popped by the bushel and distributed free to all comers.

We know a lot of candidates who would be happy if they could talk to crowds one-tenth as big as those attracted by the bulls on our train.  
WILL M. MAUPIN.

**Advertising That Appealed.**  
"Why did you steal the pearl necklace from the jeweler's shop window?"  
"Because it had on it 'Aval your yourself of this splendid opportunity, and I couldn't resist it.'"—Buen Humor.

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