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MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

COOLIDGE CALMS A STORM.

Just when the big navy and the little navy groups in congress had the decks all cleared for a glorious rumpus, the president steps in and stops the fuss. The United States, he says, will maintain an adequate sea force, well equipped and manned, and always ready for its proper service. But any race for extension of armament will be carried on by the participants with Uncle Sam on the sidelines as a spectator. Whether or not this involves the reported split between the president and secretary of the navy is not of present importance. If Secretary Wilbur finds his views running counter to those of his superior, his recourse is always at hand.

When the naval appropriation bill passed the house, it carried \$8,000,000 more than was allotted for the current year, and still was \$1,000,000 under the budget estimate. This seems to be in line with the president's policy. Provision is made for certain new construction, but not enough to carry out in full the plans of the big navy men. Repairs and alterations on existing ships are provided for, and when the work is done, twelve vessels will be added to the first line. That is sufficient for the present, according to the president's ideas.

Calvin Coolidge is not a pacifist, in the ordinary acceptance of the term. Nor is he moved by the pictures thrown on the screen by the jingoes. Steering a straight course, he is keeping clear of danger on either side. Under his care both the army and navy will be kept in good condition, ready for the duties required of them, but never a menace to the world nor a burden to the nation. Jingoes will not like this, but the people trust Coolidge, and congress is inclined to go along with his views on these matters.

UNCLE SAM IN THE AIR.

General William B. Mitchell, chief of the air service of the United States army, gave a committee of congress some fundamental facts in regard to military aviation. General Mitchell is not an alarmist, nor a jingo. He is a sincere officer of the army, anxious to acquaint congress with the situation as it exists. His statement that in an emergency only about 450 fighting fliers could be assembled indicates the lack of trained men available.

We have no doubt that General Mitchell also apprised the committee that if the emergency was at hand and the 450 pilots assembled, more than half of them would have to stay below, because the army has not enough fighting planes to send them all up at once. Also, he must have told them that the great army training fields, Brooks Field and Kelly Field, are so poorly equipped that students and instructors alike are hampered for the want of common conveniences. Temporary buildings, hastily erected during the war, designed to last no longer than three years, still are being used. Even of these there are not enough. Officers and men are housed in quarters that remind the visitors of what mining camps looked like in boom days. At Brooks Field a class of 250 student fliers is getting along with equipment that might serve 100. If a fire were to get under headway at one end of either Brooks or Kelly, the entire field would be swept, and the army would be left practically without any flying machines, for most of them are there, stored or housed in buildings of pine board construction, which would burn like haystacks.

The consideration of this phase of the question by congress should come first. Even if the force of trained fliers is to be increased, some provision must be made for giving them training. Our air service deserves better treatment than it has had.

JONAH'S GOURD NOT IN IT.

There may have been a time when Jonah's gourd held the record for rapid growth. But along came the automobile, and the growth of the automobile industry made Jonah's gourd vine look like a turtle's race for a speed prize.

But the growth of the automobile industry is not the speed record now. Along came the radio, and all previous records were shattered to smithereens. Ten years ago the radio was not. Five years ago it was an experiment. Today it is as common as an old shoe. In 1920 the total gross sales of radio products amounted to \$2,000,000. In 1921 the sales more than doubled, reaching \$5,000,000. By that time the radio industry was just beginning to speed up. In 1922 the sales amounted to \$60,000,000, an increase of 1,100 per cent over 1921. That was going some. In 1923 the sales amounted to \$120,000,000, and then radio was hitting in high. The 1924 sales will approximate \$375,000,000. Five or six years ago none at all; today a tube-receiving set in every eighth home. Six years ago nothing at all; today \$3 invested in tube-receiving sets for each man, woman and child in the United States. It does not seem possible, but there are the facts and the figures.

A quarter of a century ago an automobile on the street instantly attracted a crowd of curiosity seekers. Today there is an automobile for each two families in this country. A dozen years ago some folk believed that the automobile industry had reached its peak. It hadn't gotten away to a good start. A year or two ago the radio was a fad. Today it is as firmly established as the automobile,

the combined harvester, canned goods and ready-to-wear garments. It has broken all records of development and is today the fastest growing industry in the world.

To say it "grows like Jonah's gourd" no longer conveys the idea of speed. It only serves to remind one of the slow flow of molasses in January. The radio's the thing.

WORLD NOT YET IN A GROOVE.

Adjournment of the narcotic conference to a date in January, when the American proposal will be considered, suggests that an effort to reach a satisfactory adjustment is seriously being made. Certain of the great powers are not quite ready to accept the original plan from this country. We have urged that the production of opium and other narcotic drugs be restricted to the needs for medicinal use. England, Japan, Persia and China have chiefly objected to adopting regulations so strict.

For this measure there has been substituted a plan to set up a government monopoly in those countries where opium smoking is chiefly indulged. A modification proposed by the Americans at the conference is that this monopoly reduce by 10 per cent each year the amount of drug produced. In this way by the end of ten years the traffic will be wiped out. It is on the latter proposal discussion will turn when the conference resumes its sittings on January 10, next. The vote taken on the original proposal for prohibiting the traffic probably indicates that the amendment is foredoomed to rejection.

Nations that object to prohibition of narcotic drug traffic are those whose citizens are most addicted to the use of the drugs.

It is a social and religious question, rather than one of politics. The political aspect is incidental and not fundamental. Efforts to suppress the drug traffic in the United States may suggest something of the immensity of the problem in lands where such self-discipline as we know is entirely wanting, and where self-indulgence is a rule and not an exception.

Human nature in its elemental manifestations continues to provide the most obstinate material reformers have to deal with. Nowhere is it less obdurate or responsive than in those lands where drugs are habitually used by the masses. Out of the conference may come some good, and Americans should not be disappointed if the desired restrictions are not immediately applied.

HIS PRAYER WAS ANSWERED.

"Here with my battle before me;
God of the fighting clan,
Grant that the woman who bore me
Suffered to suckle a man."

This closing stanza of one of John G. Neihardt's poems was a favorite of Samuel Gompers. He had one other prayer. "If God will preserve me from poverty, I will see to it that I escape wealth," he said to his life-long friend, George W. Perkins, president of the Cigar Makers International union.

There is a creed that may well be adopted by men. Gompers did not disdain wealth. He knew the value, the power, of money as well as anybody. All he asked, though, was sufficient to keep him from want. His mission was service—to do the work of a man.

How well he served may be noted in the presence of powerful unions of workmen and women. These were built up from struggling bands of helpless and despairing, sometimes desperate, workers. Industry has been changed, text books on political economy altered, social life ameliorated, not by revolution but through evolution, of which process Samuel Gompers was but an instrument.

"Grant that the woman who bore me suffered to suckle a man!" The sorrowing throngs that have gathered along the route to pay tribute to the dead man passing to his long home give the best proof as to whether his prayer was answered. History will deal with him, and whatever the verdict, it must rest on the fact that Samuel Gompers strove to serve mankind. If this is a fair standard for judging, his mother indeed gave suckle to a man.

YULETIDE AND THE FADING FOREST.

Argument arises about this time each year as to the cutting of young evergreens to be used as Christmas trees. Whether the practice is justified or not, it is true that each of the pine or cedar saplings represents a potential sawlog. Also, it is just as true that few of these ever would come to the sawlog stage of development. Therefore, if the sapling is to serve any good purpose at all, it might as well be used as a decoration for the delight of little children.

If the cutting of evergreens for Christmas use is properly carried out, the loss to our forests will be slight. Charles Lothrop Pack puts the proposition fairly when he says that conservation really is proper use of a resource. In this case, the young tree that may never grow up is actually put to use. Unless the cutting leads to the denudation of tracts where new forest growth is springing up, or is destructive in other ways, good will probably come from it. Nature thins out forest growth in her own way, and will not take it ill of man if he give some assistance.

"The woman tempted me and I fell" is the excuse offered by men who are always looking for something to stumble over.

James B. Duke has given forty millions to education and social uplift. That is a fine Duke's Mixture of philanthropic effort.

Samuel Gompers, foreign-born, set a good example of Americanism and patriotism to many native-born sons.

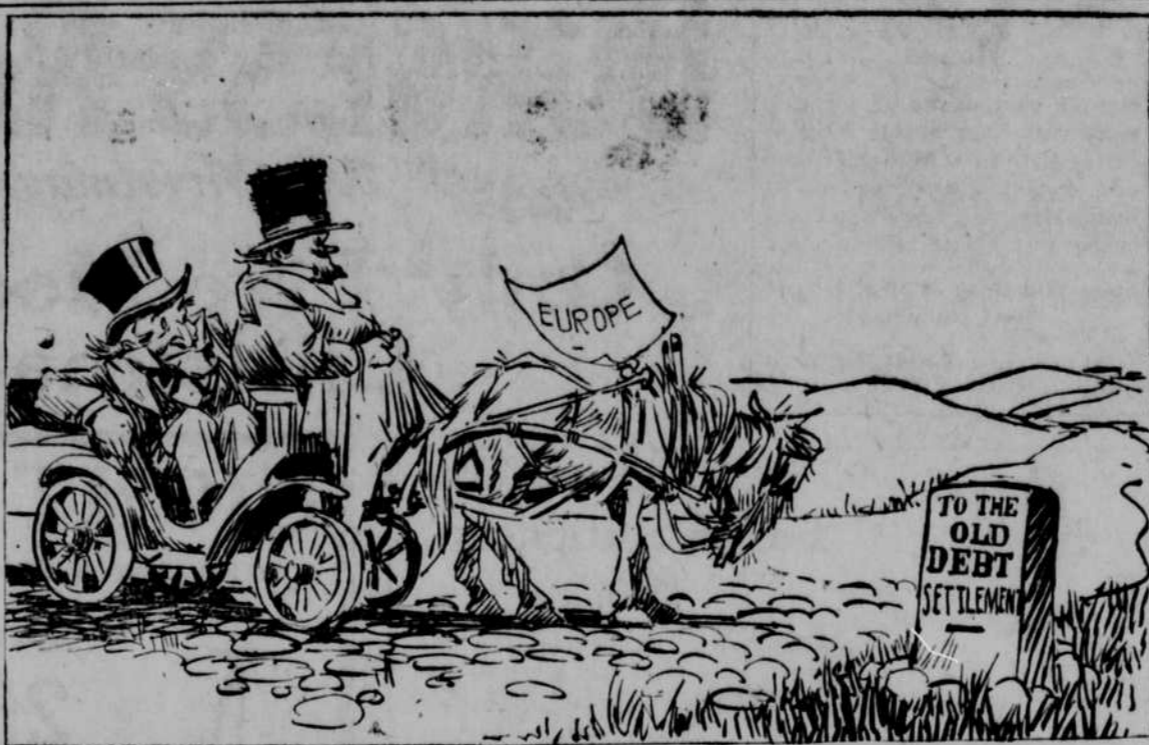
Suggestion for sub-zero weather: Contribute something to The Omaha Bee Free Shoe Fund.

Homespun Verse

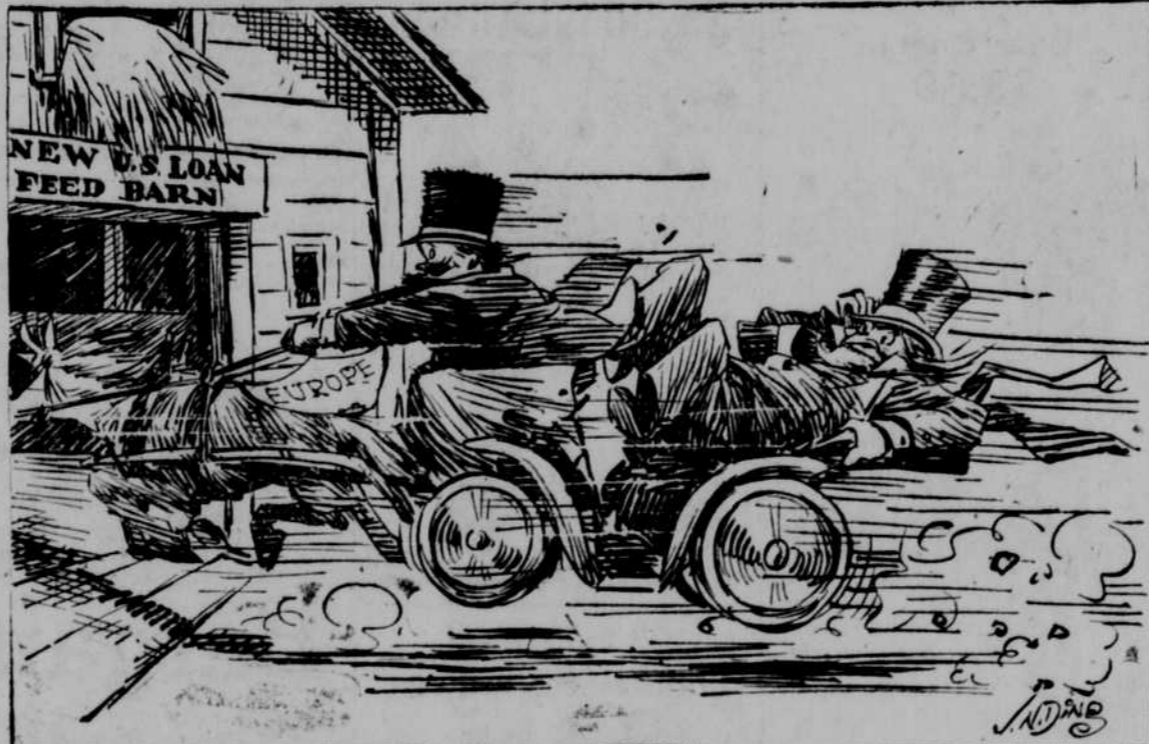
—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

THE "POOR" MAN.
The poor man paused a moment ere
To work his steps must lead;
He stammered fearfully, "Is there
A dime you do not need?"
She answered, "No!"—His wife was who
Who once had studied law.
And practiced it at home because
Because, Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!
The poor man went his weary way,
To earn the beans and beef
To journey home at close of day,
And find (Ha! Ha!) relief
Of money burdens, as it were,
Such woes he had not one
Because he gave the cash to her
As soon as day was done,
Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! The moral goes
With neither drum nor fife
That every man the woman knows
Before she is his wife

"There's Life in the Old Girl Yet"



YOU MIGHT NOT THINK IT WHEN SHE'S GOING TOWARDS TOWN



BUT JUST TURN HER HEAD TOWARDS THE OLD FEED BIN!

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.

50-50 On Pinto.
Shelton, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Would you value the comment of a small-town wife and mother on the opinions of the esteemed Dr. Pinto of your city.

I most heartily agree with Dr. Pinto in regard to medical examination prior to marriage. It would certainly insure a better birth-right for our children and a better and stronger race of men for our future nation. I think it would eventually eradicate all venereal diseases, which would be blotting out our greatest social evil.

But I do not approve of Dr. Pinto's ideas on automatic separation of childless couples. He must be having his ideas on present day opinion, that the modern woman objects to the rearing of children. Since there is so much illegal prevention of child birth by unscrupulous doctors, the popular belief seems to be that any woman who remains childless is patronizing such a doctor. Little any of us know the tragedy that may underlie such a marriage.

I think his medical examination prior to marriage would virtually destroy most childless marriages of that sort, since people unable to rear children are usually unfit for marriage. Again, you take two people who have lived together two years childless, their affections are undoubtedly more closely tied to one another than if there were children. Such a thing as personal right must be considered, of course, and even in instances of any kind we need quality instead of quantity in our children and automatic separation of two devoted people would be a sin against the laws of God and man. I believe if more marriages were made to stay and divorces were not so easy to get we would all be richer and happier.

A DEVOTED WIFE AND MOTHER.

Reds Are Not Discouraged.
Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: During A. Mitchell Palmer's reign of terror, the United States did its best to crush radicalism, but failed. Under the dictatorship of Mussolini, Italy is making the same attempt and without success. Now comes France with an identical mandate against inevitable movements in the minds of men.

France will fall, as the United States failed, and as Italy is falling. Look at history. As long as pagans predominated, Christians were persecuted, but Christianity lived on. Where Catholics were in power Protestants were persecuted, but Protestantism thrived. When Protestants could do so, they persecuted Catholics, but the Vatican and all it stood

for remained a power in the world. In our own "land of liberty" abolitionists were denounced and mobbed and killed, but a few years later a president of the United States emancipated the slaves, and a monument now stands at Harper's Ferry to John Brown, who died in a vain attempt to stir up a slave rebellion.

Even liberal conservatives, who eschew the methods of violent intolerance, will not obtain peace and quietude. Progress will not permit success. To fall back on history again, the Emperor Constantine, disturbed by the disputes of contending Christians, expressed himself thus: "These are silly actions worthy of inexperienced children and not of priests or reasonable men. Restore to me, I pray you, my quiet days and my nights without anxiety so that I may for the future know the charm of the pure joy of life." What good purpose those early disputes served, even many of the faithful have failed to discover, but it happens that Constantine was disappointed. No more attention was paid to him than if he had been the humblest slave in a world of slaves instead of the head of a mighty empire.

Read history and reflect that history repeats itself. If radicalism, as expressed by the communist movement, is by any other movement, is going to succeed, it will be because of inherent, constructive elements that force it forward; persecution or soft persuasion will be weak before it. To the extent that radicalism is successful, it will be because it cannot succeed permanently, and no movement, though powerful, can change this fact.

If only governments and ruling classes would give us a rest! Up to the present time they have been the most stupid things in creation.

EDMUND R. BRIMBAUGH.

Just Another Chip.

Tschitchebin, foreign minister of soviet Russia, has sent a peppery note to governments at large that the Arctic islands north of Siberia belong to Russia, must be recognized as Russian and suffer no more of trespass than any other bit of Russian territory. There may be some question about the claims since all the was czarist is not Russian under the bolsheviks. Yet it is unlikely that any government will be foolish enough to raise an argument over the point. The soviet regime is forever placing a chip on its shoulder and daring out-

sliders to knock it off. This is considered good internal politics. It keeps the mass of Russians feeling that they have to stick together and maintain a belligerent front toward the world lest that same world come in and gobble them up.—Toledo Blade.

SUNNY SIDE UP

Take comfort, nor forget,
That sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thaxter

We strive always to be fair-minded, and make earnest effort to be of even temper. Prejudice is foreign to our soul, and temperamentally we are loath to resort to indifference and neglect. But now and then we do lose our temper and allow the flame of prejudice to flare up, while we indulge in vitriolic language. To stand shivering on a corner, waiting for a tram car that is sorely belated, our face puckering up in the freezing wind and our feet becoming like unto blocks of marble—and then have the first ding-blasted car that comes along sail quickly by without hesitating—well, you know how it is yourself. Right then and there you make up your mind that the tramway company can go hang; that you'll fight anything it asks for; that it is a grasping, soulless corporation, indifferent to the public, and you'll be everlastingly goggled if it will be accorded anything if you can help it. And there isn't anything the tramway company can do or say that will make you forget those freezing moments, either.

Every now and then the newspaper writer's foot slips and he makes a wrong quotation or a statement that does not square with the facts. Then he gets called down numerous, artistically and emphatically. Editor Ryckman of the Fremont Tribune is now recovering from the effects of letting his foot slip. The other day, referring to the election of a couple of women to the office of governor, he incidentally remarked that "the next objective for the female of the species is to get a woman's face on a postage stamp."

Then came the deluge. Sarcasmic women wrote in and asked Editor Ryckman if he had ever seen a 4-cent stamp. Others sent him 4-cent stamps, all canceled, of course, and others advised him to go to kindergarten again. Still others, not so still, either, called over the telephone and chided him for his ignorance.

We've learned our lesson. Now and then, in the course of our work, we feel impelled to quote a little scripture. Although we lay claim to a bit more than a passing acquaintance with the Bible, we never undertake to quote it without getting the old book down and carefully copying the verse or verses we want. There is only one verse therein that we would undertake to quote from memory, and that one has only two words. Not long since we tried to quote a stanza from memory. It was an old limerick, too. And we got it wrong, whereupon the avalanche fell.

We may be wrong, and we usually are, but to our mind the solution of our university problem is easy. Let there be established a University of Athletics, where there will be no studies and only football, baseball, basket ball, sprinting, hammer-throwing, shot-putting and kindred sports taught. Then let the old university be dedicated to old-fashioned education calculated to give the students a better foundation upon which to build their after life.

Nebraska Limerick.

A thirsty young man in Superior
Consumed lots of liquor inferior.
And the illicit stuff
Cut up didos so rough
It might near wrecked his interior.

Yes, we have the eggs and sugar and nutmeg, and ample facilities for bringing the water to the proper temperature. Also spoons and mixing bowl, and experience in the mixing. Only one ingredient is lacking wherewith to make Christmas eve reminiscent of other Christmas eves of the past.

Much as we are opposed to the enactment of additional legislation, we are in favor of passing a Law making it a penal offense to write "Xmas."
WILL M. MAUPIN.

LEAVES FROM THE BOOK OF NEBRASKA



Before the Bridge was Built

YEARS after the rails had been pushed from the Missouri to the Pacific, there was no railroad bridge over the river at Plattsmouth. In summer this water gap was crossed by ferry. In winter a temporary bridge was built on piles driven through holes cut in the ice. During the cold weather the ice held the bridge firmly in place, but with the coming of spring, the bridge went out with the ice.

It is said that at one time tracks were laid directly on the ice for the passage of engines urgently needed west of the Missouri.

The early record of Nebraska is one of difficulties overcome. The unchronicled history of many a plain homesteader is a record of unflinching courage in the face of bitter disappointment. In spite of Indians and destroying insect pests, crop failures and blighted hopes, he refused to surrender and lies in an unmarked grave or under a crude headstone—a founder of Nebraska's greatness.

The same qualities explain Nebraska's achievements and progress. Where Nebraska produced 65,000 pounds of creamery butter 32 years ago, today she produces 65,000,000 pounds, and Omaha is the greatest butter-making city in the world. Nebraska's milk cows now number half a million. Within a year or two her dairy herd will be doubled. She can profitably keep millions—and she will.

Industrially, Nebraska gains steadily. One of her great smelting plants produces more pig lead than any other smelter in the world. Her sugar refineries produce 150,000,000 pounds of sugar annually from Nebraska-raised beets.

During her rapid growth Nebraska needed many things. Kerosene for light and cooking, gasoline for automobiles, trucks and tractors, were as necessary as feed for live-stock.

A pioneer in the field, developing a supply service that has kept step with Nebraska's requirements, the Standard Oil Company of Nebraska is the servant of all the people—in town and country. Chartered under Nebraska's laws, directed and operated by Nebraska residents, and doing business in practically no other state, this company is a home institution that shares Nebraska's ups and downs and sticks to its job.

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Abe Martin



Dr. Mopps wuz finally apprehended this mornin' an' hilly summoned t' th' home o' Ike Lark, as Mrs. Lark fergot an' left her gran' paw on th' porch over night. Joe Means is so poor an' trlfm that ther's another new baby at his home.

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