

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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WHAT ABOUT NEBRASKA'S SCHOOLS?

If one were looking for information in a general or particular way about Nebraska's schools, the first application would be to the teachers.

When this information has been gathered, classified, analyzed and digested, then it will be possible to approach the general problem of what may be done to improve the public school system of Nebraska.

One of the outstanding inequalities of the system is the relation between the rural and city schools. Opportunity for education is not the same in the country school as in the city.

Having this and other features of the school system in mind, the teachers adopted a resolution, asking for a thorough survey of the state.

Such legislation was proposed two years ago, and was defeated only because of a parliamentary jam in the senate during the closing moments of the session.

When we know exactly what the schools have, and what is needed, we will be in better position than now to set about providing for those needs.

IN THE SCRAMBLING OF EGGS.

Carl Gray, president of the Union Pacific, is quoted by the Railway Age-Gazette as favoring railroad consolidation. However, Mr. Gray does not believe in the process provided for in the Esch-Cummings act.

Two eminent examples of what may be accomplished under the theory are afforded by the life work of E. H. Harriman and J. J. Hill. These men had vision. Dealing with problems of empire, they projected their plans on the imperial basis.

Each was hampered by the great American dread of monopoly. In what they were permitted to do, they served their country much better than it served them. Never in the whole story of the romance of transportation is there a chapter equal to that which tells of how Harriman rebuilt the Union Pacific, and breathed a new breath of life into the business of transcontinental transportation.

DO AWAY WITH JAIL CRAFT.

One bill that is ready to go into the hopper at Lincoln, and will go very soon after the signal is given, deserves the support of every member of the legislature. It is intended to do away with any possibility of graft in the feeding of prisoners in the Douglas county jail.

At present the sheriff runs a boarding house, at which the guests will nifty put up with what is served at a profit to the server. It is possibly true that the sheriff does the best he can within the limits fixed as to price per meal.

Such a state of affairs should be no longer permitted to stain the county's record. Prisoners for any cause are human beings, and deserve to be treated as such.

When this measure is introduced in the legislature, it ought to have consideration on its merits. If given that, we have no doubt that it will become a law. Once it is on the books and given reasonable enforcement, the source of continued scandal will vanish.

THEY SURELY DO LIKE RABBIT.

"An," said Uncle Remus, "ole Bre'r Rabbit, he jes lie low and say nuffin." In a measure that tells the story of 50,000 rabbits. Not exactly, though, for they are gracing or about to grace the table in many an Omaha home.

A rabbit drive was organized on a gigantic scale, several thousand men and boys taking part. Shotguns blazed and scattered death and destruction among the scampering bunnies and high-jumping jacks.

What to do next? Rabbit meat is good to eat, and it would be sinful waste to allow all this to go for nothing. The Denver Post had aided in the drive, but there were too many for Denver.

Arrangements were already made to distribute these rabbits free of all cost to those who got them. According to the stories brought back by the reporters, three car loads of rabbits lasted about as long as it takes to say they vanished, borne away to be cooked and eaten by folks, many of whom have not tasted game in years, and some never.

Bre'r Rabbit may have had nothing to say that day he was held up by Bre'r Fox, but he made an eloquent speech by his silence in Omaha, when The Omaha Bee put on a real rabbit party.

Eva Bacon met Ray Bacon in a movie show at Denver two weeks ago and three days later they were wed. Now Eva asks the court to require that Ray bring home the bacon, for she is hungry. Maybe the judge can see the joke in this, but the young bride can not.

An eastern professor discovers that journalism began about 400 B. C. He thinks Thucydides was the earliest reporter. Seems to us Moses had a pretty fair press agent.

Snowfall on the first of the year ought to remind you that a good way to start is to give something to the Free Shoe Fund. Forty "kids" without shoes are on the waiting list.

New Year's Eve is getting to be nearly as dangerous as Sunday or the Fourth of July. Some way to dehorn or disarm the revelers will have to be discovered.

Jack Dempsey or Firpo might get along in the French chamber of deputies, where fistcuffs are now taking a regular place on the parliamentary schedule.

One motor vehicle for each 6.42 persons in the United States is another reason why this country is not going bolshevik.

In 40,000 years man will be as bald as an egg, and have no toes. This should interest hair dressers and shoemakers.

Governor Bryan held a "house-warming" party at the new state house. Doesn't say who provided the fuel.

France will extinguish all titles of nobility, and what will America's heiresses do then—poor things?

A little rabbit now and then is relished by the most of men.

Another suggested resolution for 1925: Watch your step.

Now, make good on your promises!

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie
A QUESTION.
Despairingly,
Bewildered too—
I strive to see—
As many do—
What Poetry
Has come to be:

U. S.—Wonder If He's Trying to Avoid Me?



"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

A Dying Cult.

From the New York Sun.
Fashions in dress and decorations have long been subject to waves of foreign influence. Students of manners profess to give reasons for the ebb and flow.

Helium Gets Cheaper.

From the New Orleans Times-Picayune.
There is more hope for helium. S. C. Lind, chief chemist of the United States Bureau of mines, shows that the production or extraction cost of the nonflammable "sun gas" has been reduced from \$2,500 a cubic foot in 1917 to from 6 to 7 cents a cubic foot at the present time.

His Master's Voice.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.
Newspapers published recently notices of the death of a man who, while not the world's most widely known painter, may be said to have painted one of the world's most widely known pictures.

Crime and Its Cure.

From the Los Angeles Times.
We see how the English do it, but we do not do as they do. In one recent year the total number of murders in England was 59, and 90 per cent of the murderers were apprehended, brought to trial, convicted and executed within 60 days—and the majority got their punishment within 30 days.

Two Chairs on Saturday



to do what we see England doing. Theorists and moral suasionists may preach until they are blue in the face, but they will never convince the country that prompt and complete punishment for crime will not act as a preventive.

The oldest seagoing vessels of the world are the junks of Yellow sea of China. These junks are "highly decorated vessels with tall masts and round sides, reminiscent of the days of Drake and Columbus.

Referring to the sailing peculiarities of the junk, the writer says: "A junk will not heave to, and John Chinaman is full aware of this. He does not even try; his plan is far simpler. He lets his halyards go with a run, and the sail is off its vessel in a moment. The high poop acts as a riding mizzen and brings him head to wind; the low bow prevents him from falling off the wind. If the blow is likely to last any time, he lays out a sea anchor. His next procedure is to burn a joss stick and probably a few pieces of paper to his household god. After that, as there is nothing more to do except eat and sleep—he does so."—Yachting Monthly, London.

Francis Barrard made no pretense at eminence in the world of art. Son and nephew of two noted British artists, his work—"His Master's Voice"—the little dog sitting before the horn of a talking machine, quizzically cocking a puzzled ear—is instantly identified at all corners of the world. Probably no other picture has been copied and parodied so often. And it was the father of Francis Barrard who in 1840 published the most popular picture of that day—"We Praise Thee, O Lord."

Francis Barrard was a descendant of an old Normandy family that emigrated to England in 1650. He was born in London, and began to study art at 15 years old at Heatherly's school, and later at the Royal Academy schools, where he was awarded a silver medal for drawing from the life. Later on he worked at Antwerp academy. Aside from "His Master's Voice," his most noticeable canvas is "An Encore Too Many," which hangs in the Walker Art gallery, Liverpool. "His Master's Voice" was not executed as a commission from any commercial enterprise. By the merest accident it found its way to the attention of the corporation whose trade mark it became.

It is one thing to find and remove the cause of crime; but it is another and equally important thing to cure the case already at hand. Sentimentalists and prison reformers will say that hanging a murderer for a crime will not prevent others from committing murder. There is no doubt but that we in this country have seen how the English do it in the matter of preventing a high percentage of murder per population; but it is absolutely certain that we have so far refused or failed

to do what we see England doing. Theorists and moral suasionists may preach until they are blue in the face, but they will never convince the country that prompt and complete punishment for crime will not act as a preventive.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take comfort, not forget. That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thayer

Only those who are compelled to spend a goodly portion of their time away from home realize the need of hotel inspection. Now we happen to know something about this hotel inspection thing, because we were the first hotel inspector Nebraska ever had.

But there is a great laxity even yet. For instance, why is it that the hotel keys are always hard to work? We are naturally mild of disposition and not given to sudden eruptions of temper, but hotel keys that work hard and refuse to throw the tumbler have caused us to erupt more profanely than almost any other one thing we can recall. Now don't get funny. We never have any trouble finding the keyhole. Our trouble is in making the blooming key work after we have inserted it in the lock.

Did you ever hunt all over your room at a hotel to find something to which you could attach your razor strap? We have tied ours to the knob of the dresser a thousand times, but the blooming drawer that always sticks when you want to open it invariably works on roller bearings when you hitch the razor strap to it. We are going to insist upon passing a new law compelling all landlords to furnish a little hook in each room, the same being for razor strap attachment purposes.

Another law we are going to insist upon is one compelling all hotel managers to employ bellboys who have taken full and complete courses in education. Bellboys have a habit of paging guests by walking through the lobby and calling, "Facing Mr. Um-ab-uh-r-r-r-r." An hour or two later you approach the desk and the clerk says, "Did you get the long distance call?" Of course you didn't, for you couldn't understand bell-boy language. Then you worry whether it was the Missus or the house calling you. This is a big nuisance and it may be a mere law will not cure it. It may require a constitutional amendment.

It requires a mechanical genius to locate all the inaccessible places in which a room phone may be located. The idea of locating the room phone at the head of the bed, where the guest may reach it without fumbling around in the dark, seems never to have percolated through the heads of hotel managers. This matter is properly a subject for a Constitutional convention.

During our more or less eventful career we have been ushered into thousands of hotel rooms. To date we have never been ushered into one where the window curtains were in just the right position to suit the bellboy. At least one chair is always out of position, and in most cases the position of the water pitcher and the ash tray on the dresser is just a bit out of plumb. By the time the guest has been able to lay aside his coat and reach into his pocket for a bit of loose change, the bellboy has the window curtain properly adjusted, the misplaced chair located in the right spot and the dresser properly balanced.

If we can succeed in having these little matters remedied most of our Nebraska hotels will be in fine shape. It has been a long time since we collided with a discourteous clerk or met up with an impudent or careless bellhop. Managers as a rule put themselves out to make the guests feel perfectly at home. But these little things of which we complain have been too long overlooked. Now that we have called attention to them we expect them to be corrected. If they are not, and within a reasonable length of time, we shall proceed to shove a bill for a law into the slot and begin working the lever.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of October, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY,
Notary Public

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