

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher
N. B. UPDIKE, President
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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Omaha Bee is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the recognized authority on circulation audits, and The Omaha Bee's circulation is regularly audited by their organization.

Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1908, at Omaha postoffice, under act of March 3, 1879.

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drawn against the New York theater of the day that there is small wonder it feels something should be done.

We have often expressed mildly enough a view that the rapacity of the managers, their unwillingness to cater to any but the casual, and the forcing of "stars" were bringing the theater to a low state. It is for the managers to reform the stage, but it will be a long time before it will be restored to that place in public esteem and confidence in which it was established by the line of producers and directors from Augustin Daly to Charles Frohman.

OMAHA AND KANSAS CITY.

From what can be learned of the negotiations of Sears-Roebuck & Co., Omaha business leaders really didn't have a chance to submit the advantages of this city as a site for their new branch plant. Representatives of the big firm came to Omaha some weeks ago it seems, conferred with railroad officials and then went to Kansas City, where negotiations were continued, largely with the same railroad officials. Result, the branch plant with its investment in ground and buildings of some \$4,000,000 and a pay roll of 3,000 employees, goes to that city.

There is one outstanding difference between the two cities. In Kansas City the business men are in the habit of going after the big propositions. They are lined up with facts and figures, trade surveys, industrial surveys, buying possibilities. In Omaha we have either lost the habit of going after the big things in a big way, or we have not yet developed it.

The success of the American Legion convention shows that it can be done. We will get into our stride some day. The opportunity before the Greater Omaha Committee is a splendid opportunity.

Omaha Where the West is at its Best

CRIME: CAREER OR DISEASE?

Presence of Clarence S. Darrow in Omaha last week excited renewed interest in the crime wave. This is not merely because Mr. Darrow has been identified with so many notable criminal trials as to make his name suggestive of sensational proceedings in and out of court. It is largely because he came as an exponent of a popular theory. It is that tendency to crime is transmitted from sire to son, as naturally as other characteristics pass from parents to progeny. In other words, crime is a congenital disease.

Supporting his argument, Mr. Darrow cites biology as a witness. He calls on the Mendelian law. Stated more simply, the blood stream is individual, as the germ of life is individual. Carried down in succession are the traits of character that will control. Appearing and disappearing, diminishing or swelling, but ever present, these inherited traits will govern. A strong and a weak alternate, as the black and the white chicks recur in the broods. This is the discovery of Mendel, now accepted as law by many biologists.

Building on this, Mr. Darrow erects a rather imposing superstructure, composed principally of sentiment. Consideration for the natural bent of the individual who is inevitably dedicated and inexorably driven to crime by reason of his birthright, rather than his environment. The law has no right to pursue such a victim of inherited impulses and propensities. Sympathy should be expressed, and assistance be given to the criminal whose wrongdoing arises in response to a law that controls the human race and which proceeds from the source that gave all law to the physical world.

Let us contrast against Mr. Darrow's narrow blood stream the all-inclusive one envisioned by Mr. H. G. Wells. According to Wells, instead of man's ancestry being exclusive, it is the most widely scattered that could be imagined. He points out that each individual has two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, and proceeded by arithmetical progression, he discovers that forty generations back, the man living today has had more than 1,400,000,000 ancestors. Or, as he expresses it more graphically, the individual today has all the people who lived in the world a thousand years ago, for ancestors.

Individual though we may be, and endowed with the free will that is the heritage of all men, to which Mr. Wells adheres emphatically, we are all kin. Racial divisions, whether of language, color, geography, all dissolve in this common blood stream. Accept that, and the Darrow thought of transmission of criminal tendency is either immeasurably heightened, or it vanishes entirely.

Ethologists smile at Mr. Wells' rather naive demonstration of commonality of origin, just as biologists are not quite ready to accept Mr. Darrow's dogma, however he may impress it on judge or jury. In the Gospel of St. Luke we find seventy-five ancestors named from Adam to Joseph to indicate the descent of Jesus Christ from the first man. If forty generations imply almost a billion and a half of progenitors, the continuity of descent through seventy-five necessitates an exclusiveness the other implicitly denies.

This is not to decide that mooted point. Merely to exhibit the wide difference between the thoughts of men. Following either far enough, the simple mind becomes confused, and is ready to take refuge in the old dogma, that "man is conceived in sin and born in iniquity." Until more definite and conclusive knowledge is attained, it will serve to deal with the criminal possessed of free will, and responsible for his acts. If all men be kin, the fact is not fully admitted, save as descent may be traced back to a single or to the myriads of ancestors, whichever route is followed. And the sentimental sympathy lavished upon offenders against society might without harm be shared with society, as being the party most harmed by the crime, whatever it be.

"THE PLAY'S THE THING."

A few days ago two of America's greatest imported songbirds broadcasted a concert. Whereupon William A. Brady, most vocal if not most important of the New York managers, expostulated. Such proceedings would be the death of the theater. Folks will not pay to hear performers in a hall when they can get such artists out of the air by the simple process of tuning in.

Mr. Brady's protests have focussed attention a little more narrowly on the theater. Mr. Percy Hammond, who serves The Omaha Bee so entertainingly with news and gossip of the stage in New York, tells us today that Mr. Brady admits he might have been just a little narrow. It seems that quite a few other reasons have been cited for the decay of the popularity of the theater in New York.

One is that \$5.50 is charged for a single seat at a comedy that is merely good and not remarkable, either for its literary quality or the capacity of the company that performs in it. Another is that the theaters are uncomfortable, crowded and poorly ventilated. A more potent reason is that plays generally are bad, and frequently of a sort that should not be permitted. In general, such an indictment is

FIRST STEPS IN CITIZENSHIP.

A little study of the demand of the municipal judges for dignity in the police court will disclose many reasons why the judges should be supported. Frequently the police magistrate is the only judge with whom an alien ever comes into contact. Generally he is the first. This fact arises from a very simple condition. The alien is unaccustomed to American ways, knows little if anything of the laws or city regulations, and is quite liable to be guilty of some minor infraction of one or the other.

A deplorable fact now comes in. Following the arrest the culprit is visited by a "wise" member of his race, who dilates to him on the enormity of the offense committed. It may be trivial, and in the Old Country one that would not be noticed. But the victim is reminded that he is in a new land, and its laws are not those of the old home. However, there is a way out. Money always talks big in America, in fact its voice is nearly the only one ever heard. If the culprit will supply the needful, say \$100, or \$300, or some other such sum, the "wise" man can fix everything. He will employ a lawyer, will fee the judge, pay the policeman, and an enormous offense will be blinked at in the court.

When the all-but innocent alien comes into court, he sees his able friend who introduces him to an attorney. Presently the attorney, who has been employed by the "fixer," and who probably knows nothing of the bargain, goes to the judge and may whisper something to him. The fixer gives the policeman a cigar, and the hearing is had in due time. The lawyer explains the matter to the judge, who generally dismisses the culprit with an admonition.

The latter leaves the court, satisfied of the corruption that prevails, for has he not just bought his way out of a serious plight? It is to break down such practices that the judges are trying to make rules that will impress the visitor, foreign born or native, to understand the sanctity of justice. Dignity is always expected in the atmosphere of a court, and no magistrate should possess more of it than he who is most in contact with the people who need the lesson it will impart.

HE COULDN'T STAND PROSPERITY.

We have the case of a young man who won \$20,000 in a prize contest. Conservatively invested, that amount of money would have brought him \$1,000 a year. To one who has worked hard, and who was just getting established, such a sum would be a welcome addition to his income. This young man had other ideas, though. He broke up his home in the little town where he lived and moved to a city. His first purchase was a big car. He went on from one thing to another, until finally his wife brought suit. Reconciliation followed, but in the meantime the prize money was spent.

Now, he curses the money, and expresses the wish he had never seen it. Both times he is wrong, and has no one to blame but himself. He merely let the possession of a considerable sum of cash turn his head. Forgetting the use of money, he turned to its abuse. Instead of applying it to the purchase of comfort, he went in for luxuries.

This youth is not the first of his kind, nor will he be the last. Sudden possession of riches, or what looks like riches, has been the destruction of many a mortal. Some folks can not stand prosperity, and fail to realize the meaning of what Solomon said, "Wealth gotten by vanity shall diminish; but he that gathereth by labor shall increase." Wealth is a blessing or a curse, just as it is used. And the man who is foolish should not blame the money that he has wasted in folly, and in this connection it might be well to consider the communists who want to "divide up."

LOOKING AHEAD.

Charles W. Bryan will seek the democratic nomination for governor in 1926. He has so announced by indirection. His budget message declares it in unmistakable terms, and his retiring message emphasizes the declaration.

He recommends that the McMullen administration be limited to an expenditure of \$17,000,000, while his own administration asked for upwards of \$22,000,000. Two years from now he will start out campaigning and point with holy horror to "republican extravagance," proving it by showing that he could have run things for \$17,000,000, as he recommended. The fact that he could do nothing of the kind, and knows he could do nothing of the kind, will not limit him in his declarations.

Mussolini's forty-eight-hour pacification period did not get results, but the "black shirts" still hold the top hand. "Sunny Italy" is having a high grade political campaign.

Something wrong when a criminal case can be postponed two years by transferring it from the state to the federal courts. No sign of speedy justice there.

France and England are said to have agreed on the debt situation. Uncle Sam is also agreed. He would like to have some of them to pay.

Maybe Henry Beal was not joking after all, even if the men he has accused persist in trying to think so.

"There stands Massachusetts," a little bit shaken, but still at attention.

Light on Omaha's Soot Cloud

Engineer Discusses Some of the Factors That Enter Into the Smoke Problem and Suggests Some Things That May Be Done to Mitigate What Now Is Fast Becoming an Intolerable Nuisance as Well as a Costly Waste.

By GEORGE H. ALWINE, C. E.

Permit us to say a few words relative to an article appearing in The Omaha Bee a few days ago under the caption of "Coal Smoke Big Evil in Omaha."

That is rather an amusing statement to emanate from the editor's office of a daily paper—for truly we never saw a newspaper office of this size daily that was not a veritable Pittsburgh from tobacco smoke, and smoke is smoke, though perhaps we are unwilling to admit it. Doubtless therein is the "Lyons" of the statement, "soot always annoys," is timely and true. But even this annoyance one to it in time can become accustomed, for in many cases they are taking care to keep their clothes and don't see the dirt. This is not true of New York, where they burn hard coal.

Of personal cases, we know of hundreds of "soot" nothing of the thousands, who waxed and grew fat and lived into the years of 80, that, so to speak, slept on top of the old health-giving smoke. They were not so much the harm it does the health as the harm it works on the pocketbook.

It must be admitted that every pound of coal that is consumed, does so at a great expense to the consumer, expensive handling charges; so, depending on kind, each pound of coal has just so many heat units called Btu. We already have in our hands a grain of corn on the cob. Every time we lose a grain it's just that much less corn, so every time you see black smoke coming out of a stack, you are losing heat. Both spell dollars in waste due to indifference.

It is appalling, when one realizes how rapidly our natural resources are being diminished, to observe the general mind only concerned in "what they pay for fuel." Little interested or realizing about wastefulness. Such a public opinion can only exist through ignorance, carelessness, egotism, or shiftlessness. We who indulge probably will say it's—expensive. It may be "expensive," to install a heating or power plant with

out the combustion chamber or fire-box being considered relative to fuel, other than the place in which to build it. Simply because a representative expert says "We can put this in at so much"—which sum is within our financial stipulation. Yes, that may be expedient, but it's more often a fallacy. The original extensive coal developments in the states was in Pennsylvania anthracite and bituminous fuels, consequently much American data on combustion is about from tests made from these fuels in combustion chambers. Foreign tests are on yet a different coal, with the result that standard fire-box construction other than high power high efficiency boilers is based pretty much on the high grade coal tests, whereas we are trying to burn in these chambers having little or no change a radically different fuel. With the result that Omaha looks like Pittsburgh and many of its citizens cannot understand why it costs so much for fuel.

A fact probably admitted by many is that a properly designed combustion chamber carefully fired with good fuel will, comparatively, make a poor showing alongside a combustion chamber of poor design skillfully fired with poor fuel. But because of wage or other reasons, skillful firemen are not produced in quantity.

The writer believes that the smoke nuisance of Omaha should be reduced to a minimum, but by education and not by legislation. Our reason for this obviously is that Statutes are not flexible enough for so intricate a problem; whereas education creates a desire for efficiency—hence flexibility.

Doubtless in Omaha, as other cities, there are many stacks belching forth soot and smoke, which nuisance could be abated by skillful firing with financial saving to owner. Other cases requiring smoke consumers or mechanical stokers, others the resetting of boilers. These are not problems to be guessed at by semi-professional experts—they require knowledge of combustion. So endeavoring to force changes through legislated ordinances would work on owner's hardship. In some cases owners of power plants have made competent ability when they installed their plants, which

they now find almost impossible to change. Building design will not permit, though gladly would they do so if they could because of the money they would save in operating cost.

In the process of combustion with fuel commonly used, requires that a given quantity of oxygen should be introduced into the furnace or fire-box per pound of combustible. In solid fuel the ingredients can be thusly classified. First, fixed or free carbon, recognized as charcoal or coke; second, hydrocarbons, such as olefiant gas, pitch, tar, naphtha, etc.; third, oxygen or hydrogen or in combination, fourth, nitrogen, either free or in combination; fifth, sulphur of iron, a detrimental ingredient, asistant to spontaneous combustion; sixth, other mineral compounds of various kinds.

Fixed or free carbon burn either wholly in the solid state or part in the solid state and part in the gaseous state, when with proper supply of air to fire produces carbonic acid gas through chemical reaction. But before we can have coke or charcoal, we must distill off the volatile carbonaceous liquid hydrocarbon which will become or change to inflammable gases—and here's the trick in combustion, if we are to avoid smoke and soot and be saving of fuel. Hydrocarbons will not combust if chilled, but pass off unburned. Excess quantity of cold air in fire-box and reaching the heating surface too soon chills these combustible gases with the result of soot and smoke, which is B. T. U.'s, up the stack, or lost from the wagon on road to market.

Nitrogen is simply inert, other minerals are inert and form clinkers, ash and other materials which tend to choke the grate. Oxygen or hydrogen in combination or actually forming water are in this instance negligible quantities.

It does not require much visualization to comprehend that a coal low in fixed carbon and high in volatile hydrocarbon could not to our advantage be used in the same furnace as a coal high in fixed carbon and low in volatile hydrocarbon. Yet engineers have made mistakes about some are still making it not only in Omaha, but in other places.

Higher Education

Omaha. To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: There is no question as to the fact that the President of Colgate is right in his contention that there should be an aristocracy of learning. The Greeks and Romans had it in their minds, and we have it in our schools—West Point and Annapolis. "All over the land schools are crowded, class and lecture rooms are inadequate, all because so many young men and women are seeking to know the beauties of higher education."

Not so long ago a high school authority in Washington, D. C., said that education cannot be anything but an elemental groundwork for an education.

A seed bed to receive the seed and develop the plants therein sprouted at one and the same time is impractical. The plants must be developed outside of the plant bed (the college) by practical usage—transplanted as it were into the soil of life. We then that a lot of the higher education theories are not as represented. One can get an elementary training in a college, but a four-year college course, which may only lead to a "higher education." We usually spend four years learning one trade; it is obvious then that we could not learn a number of "trades" in four years at college. The best we can do is to get a general idea of how to start in to get an education. The college university have to have those students who passed a certain mark. It should not be difficult to sift out the ones who would provide the best material for the higher education. The student who is not a high school student will show signs of what he is best adapted for in the scheme of life.

Certainly a college course would not be amiss for many, but it is practical or worth while to spend four years at something that will perhaps of little value in after life? Leaving out the aesthetic side of the question, which some editors claim one must have in order to learn how to "live," we find that a large number of college graduates go into ordinary business channels, and the "finer things" made of the finer things. There isn't much poetry or art in every-day commercial pursuits. We have heard a good deal of late of the "art" of selling themselves into round holes, and a lot of this can be laid to education, or rather wrong kind of education, which that many college graduates turn to and make special courses in one or another of many pursuits, become specialists. They don't teach this in colleges of the classical sort.

It is not so long ago, and it appears that all colleges these days are turning more and more to the teaching of vocational pursuits.

Comparing French universities with our universities, it is a very beautiful thing, exists in so much feeble degree in French universities that it draws nobody to them that alone, the curse of our American institutions, is the number of students entering them who have no desire in regard to learning except to avoid as much labor as possible in order to leave as much time as possible to what they believe to be "college life." Their inexperience hides from them that college draws all its most subtle charms from the fact that it is the life of students; it is the life of degenerates and becomes a habit of the life of a gang or set of people anywhere. The necessity of converting the incorrigible, or eliminating the incorrigible, is the chief reason why the first two years of most of our colleges and universities do not count for more than they do toward the task of training good citizens with cultivated minds.

This sort of knocks the glamor off the values of a college education, and it is to be believed that the first two years are mostly wasted in the attempt to make young fools into sensible citizens. The best school in existence to knock the "fool" spots out of the young fellow is the school of life. It seems to be the opinion of a later late in coming—that the function of the university is to train only the genius and talent in the higher education, and that is right.

C. S. FREDERICK

It Depended.

Dr. Bigbee—Have the Jones paid their bill yet?

His Secretary—They have.

Dr. Bigbee—Mrs. Jones is in the office—don't know whether to order her to Florida or order her out—Boston Transcript.

"There stands Massachusetts," a little bit shaken, but still at attention.

The Grasshopper a Burden?

From the New York Times.

If readers of the report of the meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science think that the cricket or the grasshopper is a trivial subject, they have but to recall the words of the poet: "The grasshopper, once said the poet: 'Human knowledge will be erased from the world before we possess the last word which the grasshopper has to say to us.'"

The particular concern of the entomologist who discussed these creatures in Washington was the significance of the "squawks, buzzes, hums or clicks" which these creatures make and have made at least since the days of the Trojan war, when Homer likened him on the walls to grasshoppers that in the forest sit and utter their delicate voices. There is also preserved from that remote age an epitaph "on a grasshopper."

On Democritus would I, the grasshopper, draw deep sleep when I let loose shrill music from my wings; and Democritus was I, when I was dead reared this fitting tomb.

And there is another member of the species who complains across 30 centuries that he, the roadside nightingale of the nymphs, who talked shrilly in the hills and shady dells at midday, should be torn away by the shepherds in their merciless chase; and Democritus was still, in the hills and shady dells, fully, with a threatening swallow, that it is not right that singers should perish by singers' mouths.

It has been supposed that the grasshoppers' singing was a purposeful serenading of the lady by her lover. But this romantic assumption is now discredited by the cricket-like of the nymphs, who talked shrilly in the hills and shady dells at midday, should be torn away by the shepherds in their merciless chase; and Democritus was still, in the hills and shady dells, fully, with a threatening swallow, that it is not right that singers should perish by singers' mouths.

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HARMLESS LAXATIVE

All Children Love Its Pleasant Taste

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, not forget,
That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thaxter

Speaking personally, and voicing nobody's opinion but my own, we opine that banquets these days are usually very dry and tame affairs. Not even when we are listed among the speakers do we differ from the opinion here expressed. In the first place, banquet orators are no longer put into the proper frame of mind to sit and listen to addresses. The "we have with us" wheeze is more or less tiresome, and comparatively few speakers are adequately equipped with terminal facilities. Hence we sit at a banquet table and pick up the toast list to discover that there are seven or eleven speakers, we feel sad and depressed, and no longer is it possible to obtain the reviving essence.

Command us to the Ad-Sell League, where there is only one speaker, and he is notified that 8 o'clock must see him finished. Real toastmasters are even scarcer than banquet orators. Unless something is done to permit a revival, banquets will soon be listed among the things that were.

Mark Sullivan is one of the most noted newspaper men in America, and usually reliable. Recently he wrote an article about the states and their indebtedness, and therein he made a statement that in 1913 Vermont was the only state that had no bonded debt. Of course Mark was mistaken. We don't know a blooming thing about Vermont except that it is President Coolidge's native state, but we do know that Nebraska has not had a dollar of bonded state indebtedness since 1875.

We hung on the fringes of the crowds attending the reception to the new governor. Of late years we have grown somewhat obese and the "soup and fish" that once graced our symphonic form now fails to meet in some essential places. Hence we studiously remained in the background. But we noticed that the "Hersford suits," as our old friend, Colonel Coffey of Chadron calls them, were not as numerous as in the old days. We regret that this is so. If there is one thing we abhor more than another, speaking sartorially, it is the abominable known for ten minutes, their complaints would, if placed end to end, reach from here to there. Men and women are peculiar creatures.

When Governor McMullen is inaugurated we are going to attend the reception, clad in a dress suit. We shall do this regardless of whether our finances permit the purchase of a new outfit. In case of financial shortage, which is more than probable, we shall get into the old dress suit if we have to don a corset and then insert our portly form by means of a shoe-horn.

During the inaugural ceremonies men and women were packed into the lobby of the house of representatives like sardines in a can. They stood for two hours without a complaint. If they had to stand packed in a street car like that for ten minutes, their complaints would, if placed end to end, reach from here to there. Men and women are peculiar creatures.

Far be it from us to knock. We like Lincoln. It was our home for 15 years. But for a capital city, and one of the largest in the country, it has the poorest street illumination of any. There are more missing letters in the electric signs than there are lighted ones. Lincoln people have one glaring fault—they like to make stars or circles about Omaha. But Omaha wouldn't stand for the sloppy streets that Lincoln endures without seeming protest. Omaha may be somewhat lacking in street railway facilities, but Omaha has a service par excellence compared with that of the capital city.

A fine lot of people, these Lincolnites. Hospitable and courteous. But they take as a personal affront any criticism of any one of the state institutions located here. They are, in the opinion of the average Lincolnite, particularly Lincoln institutions in which the state has no other part than to pay the money. This may sound like a harsh criticism, but it is a fact, just the same. But that is the frame of mind of the people of most cities that are dependent very largely upon political favor.

WILL M. MACPAIN

Airship Hook-Up

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Reading of the successful experiments of hooking an airship to a dirigible while both were flying at 15 miles an hour at Scott field, one cannot help sharing the anxiety of the experimenters and onlookers who have felt, lest something should go wrong and injury or death ensue. We have seen what appeared to be more wonderful stunts with flying machines in the movies, but this was no movie scene, in which trickery might be used to simulate dangerous feats. This experiment meant that for the first time the possibility of real cooperation between the two different kinds of airships has been demonstrated.

Army aviators see great promise in the experiment's success. It will, they hope, stimulate improvements so that the huge dirigibles of the future will be able to act as "mother ships" to several swift airplanes, which will guard the dirigible, serve as messengers, and in other ways double the usefulness of both types. The lighter-than-air dirigible would no longer be an easy mark to enemy airplanes in war.

With a fleet of these balloon-filled dirigibles, each with its brood of swift planes well armed for attack or pursuit, a city could be more successfully guarded against enemy bombing attacks than was possible in the world war.

Has Another Meaning.

We used to feel sympathetic when we heard of a young girl who had to shift for herself, but now it might refer to her handling the levers of a handsome roadster—Boston Transcript.

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