

# THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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N. B. UPDIKE, President  
BALLARD DUNN, Editor in Chief  
JOY M. HACKLER, Business Manager

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## Omaha Where the West is at its Best

### HOLDING ONTO POWER.

A few more returns like those recorded from Wyoming, Kansas, and the Dakotas, and the proposed Twentieth amendment to the Constitution of the United States will be definitely laid away.

This does not mean that the people of the United States are not thoroughly aware of the evils of child labor. Nor that they are not willing that the law shall throw what protection it can around the little ones of the land. Our people are not so calloused as to see with indifference the exploitation of immature children by greedy industrialists. Happy homes all over the land, troops of children thronging the school houses, or playing in the parks, indicate the attitude of the American citizen toward his offspring.

A lesson that may be drawn from the rejection of the amendment is an obvious one. Americans are undergoing an experience that is not altogether happy, growing out of a mistaken experiment. Prohibition in its actual application has shown the wisdom of writing police regulations into the fundamental law that should contain only principles. With the example of the Eighteenth amendment before them, Americans are loath to release any further power of such character to congress.

Workers for the child labor amendment have tried to answer this objection. They have clearly stated that the power of congress comes from the people. Congress represents the people. Very well, say the people, we will not give congress the further power that would go with the Twentieth amendment.

And there you have the real reason. Other arguments for or against may be laid aside. Americans are not in a mood to relinquish any more of their own power to their representatives in congress than now lies there.

### POOR FOOLS.

An Omaha boy is dangerously ill at a hospital. Two others are in jail. Three mothers moan for their sons.

It is the finale of a wild orgy of dances and crime. "We had to have the money to step," explains one of the lads in custody. So they set about to get it by robbing. Several times they succeeded in holding up men. Finally one intended victim resisted. One of the lads was seriously if not fatally wounded.

Again and again is this sordid story repeated. These lads were not moved by hunger, nor any material need. They wanted to "step." To pose. To wear good clothes. To dance and to impress the girls they met. That called for money. Either work or steal, and they preferred to steal.

Certainly this should teach something. Something is radically wrong with a civilization under which such affairs are possible. If this were an isolated case, not so much could be argued from it. But it is just one of many, occurring daily all over the United States. Only one conclusion is possible, and that is the looseness of present day discipline.

Government has loosened its discipline. The law is laughed at. Courts wobble and their hands are palsied. The church has loosened its discipline. The Ten Commandments are all right—if we confine ourselves to preaching about them. The discipline of the marriage vows breaks to nothing if it interferes with the personal pleasures of husband or wife. Home discipline is getting to be but a memory. Individual discipline—it is being swallowed up in the vicious philosophy, "I'm going to get mine." Civilization without discipline dies. The story of the poor fools—Parker and Gillespie, is the story of what happens to the weaklings when discipline is loosened. It is time the law tightened on these weaklings if there is to be any law.

### BUDDY, HOW ABOUT IT?

Omaha post, American Legion, is the largest in the country. Also one of the most enthusiastic. It will be host next October to all the other posts in the world. This is only part of its mission, though. Legionnaires carry on throughout the year, helping where others can not get in to help. A needy veteran will appeal to his "buddy" when he will not let the world know his condition. So the good work that is based on the rock of comradeship goes on.

Just now the members of Omaha post are preparing for a drive. It is over the top for them, just as it was seven years ago in France. Not to follow a barrage across No Man's Land. Not to uproot a machine gun nest, or to demolish a "pill box." No crash and rattle and thunder of guns and "H. E." shells, nor miasma of poison gas in the way. The boys are going out to get the ex-service men of Omaha who are not but should be members to sign on the dotted line, put a button on the coat and a card in the pocket. To become members of the Legion in fact as well as in spirit.

Not easy to think that any who followed the colors through training camp to fields "where poppies blow" but is a Legionnaire in spirit. All have not taken out membership, for one reason or another. Some day all will be members. The bronze button of the Legion has a significance as high and as fine as that of the G. A. R.

How about it, buddy? Are you ready to get in line with the comrade who was alongside of you through so many weary trying days when you both

wore khaki and carried a heavy pack? That is one part of the Legion's creed—to carry a buddy's pack. All right, let's go.

### WHINERS AND WAR DEBTS.

The low point to which the moral courage of certain British and French leaders has fallen is illustrated in the whining which we continue to hear concerning the war debts of those countries to the United States. A Frenchman, one Louis Marin, member of the chamber of deputies, declared it would be a "moral iniquity if France is compelled to pay its war debts to America."

An Englishman, Ernest Remnant, writing in the English Review, says:

"The odd belief that she won the great war is still unaccountably prevalent in America. It would seem, however, that America is determined not to rob her allies of the honor of paying for it."

Now that we have the perspective of history through which to study the great war, its causes and its treaty of peace, we realize that that catalysis came as the ripe fruition of the stupid diplomacy of all the nations involved.

One thing is certain, has always been certain—the war was not America's war until we were forced to make it our war—by that same stupid diplomacy. America won the war? What a useless debate. Whether America won it, or didn't win it considering the fighting before America got in, if we hadn't got in the Central Powers would have won either a victory or an easier peace.

The issue now is the war debts to America. Who grabbed the loot of the war? Chiefly England and France. Now their leaders whine about paying their debts.

Here is another excerpt from the Englishman's whine:

"The vast majority of Americans are purely paternal in their outlook. They have no knowledge of, or sympathy with, European or world politics. They are in the grip of a huge political machine, which, although its operators may play upon the sentimental weaknesses so prevalent amongst the American people, is provincial and purely materialistic in character. Revenue surpluses, dependent upon the payment of war debts by impoverished debtors, are more easily transmuted into votes by the promise of electoral bribes than by appeals to abstract justice or Christian charity. Charity begins at home, especially in the middlewest and far west."

England and France, the chief beneficiaries of the war, with all their loot about them, are in danger of losing that thing which makes great nations—virility, courage. The world will think better of them if they put a stop to the whining.

### OPENING OF THE OYSTER.

Samuel M. Vauclain, head of the Baldwin Locomotive works, is another who does not believe that opportunity no longer awaits the boy or girl starting on life's journey. He says:

"The greatest opportunities of all ages are facing the young man and the young woman of today. With modern inventions, nothing should hinder the young man from success. But he will have to work and stay on the job."

"Why, then," says Ancient Pistol, "the world's mine oyster." He proposed to open it with his sword, and devour its lusciousness. Any youth has the same chance. His sword, though, should be industry, not an attempt to get by easily. Success begins in effort, generally hard work. Sometimes drudgery. Even the humblest of toil has its lesson, and these are capable of leading to the higher things. Many a man in a big job looks back to the day when he was occupied with little things, over which he was faithful but not satisfied.

A story is told of Lord Northcliffe, owner of the London Times. He met an employe one day and inquired how he was getting along. The young man replied, and was asked if he were satisfied with his work and pay. On being told yes, Lord Northcliffe immediately dismissed him, saying he wanted no man in his service who was satisfied with what he was getting.

Work will not lead to jazz palaces, to jail, but it will lead to decent living, to competency, and to success in life. Not from the material standpoint merely, but a well-rounded success in which all the worth while elements of human achievement are present. The world is the oyster of every boy or girl. Its opening is not an easy matter, but when the shell is opened the reward is ample. Work, and stay on the job. That is the oyster opener.

### MISSIONERS OF MERCY.

"I was sick and ye visited me."

A brief statement, followed by the explanation: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

And it is again a pleasure to testify to the work of the Visiting Nurse association during the last year in Omaha. Reports just made show that 8,173 patients were looked after by the association during the twelve months of 1924. Care of these necessitated 63,239 visits. Other work included the maintenance of six infant welfare stations, at which there were 7,796 attendances during the months they were open.

It was in connection with this work that the money raised by The Omaha Bee Free Ice and Milk Fund was expended.

Other facts are given in the reports, which will interest those who are concerned with figures. The greater thing is not capable of being set down in formal statements. Who can measure the benefits to suffering mortals that flow from the existence of this association? How express the pain that has been assuaged, the fear turned to hope and confidence? Lives saved because the "V. N. A." was on the job?

Its members and its nurses are missionaries of mercy in the truest sense. They go to those who otherwise would be helpless. Carry comfort and healing into places where misery and suffering and sorrow otherwise would prevail. No other charity organized in Omaha measures higher in real service than this. It is called blessed by those who receive its ministrations. It should be revered by all, because of its devotion.

## Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davie

FIVE YEARS AGO  
Five years ago her parents cried—  
Five years ago today!  
But she was then a blissful bride,  
And thus she went away  
To build a home where Love defied  
The Fates to make her gray.  
Five years have been a fleeting while—  
So swift life's currents flow!  
She wears the same delightful smile,  
Her eyes still sparkle so—  
As when her loved ones watched the dial  
Just five short years ago.  
Five years away the day has flown—  
How brief the distance seems  
To one who constantly has known  
The time that faith redeems,  
And weaves unaided and alone  
Broadside from living dreams!

## What a Lot of Difference a Little Knowledge of Astronomy Has Made in the Way We'll Feel Today



## 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.

### Liberty, Not Personal Liberty.

Guide Rock, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I note with interest opinions given concerning the success or failure of our prohibitory law, and it leads me to venture my opinion, based upon my observations as a traveling salesman. In the last five years I have heard a great many very interesting arguments pro and con on this question. I have always tried to ascertain, if possible, the characters of the persons producing arguments which I have kept diary of, and I find a great majority of persons maintaining that the law has been a success are either Christian people or at least have a great reverence for the laws of our God, our country and our state, and a desire to make this country of ours a better place in which to live. Also a willingness to stand and abide by the law that the people have seen fit to enact. On the other hand, those I have tabulated who argue that the law is unsuccessful have most generally shown themselves in the past, as well as the present, to be very much in sympathy with the lawless element, and even showing no willingness to stand and abide by law themselves, thus encouraging crime in all phases, for all crime has broken either the law of God or man.

We note that many things may be practiced for years that ought not to be, but as soon as a law prohibiting same is passed and arrangements made to enforce same, the offender is brought into the limelight and it becomes general gossip. Have we not seen in our school days a timid little girl slip up and whisper, saying: "Teacher, Johnny is chewing gum again," but it didn't happen till the gum law was in effect. Could we live without law? Of course not, and every law is more or less a prohibitory law. The first law that our Creator ever gave to humanity was a prohibitory law, and yet that law was broken by a woman before it ever got on the statutes. She, of course, thought it infringed on her personal liberty. What a selfishness these two words portray. We want liberty, but not personal liberty. We, the people of these good United States of America, with our prohibition, enjoying the greatest liberty of any nation in the world—not personal liberty—but a liberty we divide with our fellowmen. If by repealing this law because it has not been obeyed to the letter, and licensing breweries to make liquor and dispense liquor, we whip the lawless element out and bring about better conditions, why not try the same on some of our other prohibitory laws, as "Thou shalt not steal."

### Returning to Nebraska.

Oceola, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I have been a constant reader of W. M. Maupin's corner of The Omaha Bee. In Sunday's issue he speaks of the Weary Miller's return to Nebraska after once having lived here. That is true, as I have noticed about seven out of ten invidiously return. The other three I figure as being dead. About the first thing those returners do is to go and take a look at their first and general by their only pioneer efforts and perhaps shed a tear over what they think might have been. No marks of the old soddy remain. Perhaps a few cottonwood trees that stand high in the air, and the big ones they stuck into the breaking ground, the old sods remain to remind them that they had ever been there before. A high improved and well cultivated farm tells the rest.

### Abe Martin



Less Monts an' his wife have split up. He took his radio set an' went home, an' she took 't' baby an' went 't' work. We used 't' resent it if somebody'd told us how 't' run our business, but 't'day we hire 'em 't' do it.

### While It is True that Polk County Today Has No Superior as to Beautiful Landscape and Progressive Agriculture, but It Was the Pioneer Settler that Paid the Price After All is Said, We Come Here in '25, So Know of What We Speak. Reducing a desert to a semblance of civilization is no picnic. Fifty-seven years ago Polk county was spoken of as part of the American desert that was unfit for human habitation. Of course people smile when you remark thus today. Some ten or twelve families moved into the county in 1859. In 1869 some soldiers and others, all single men, came, but most of them stayed only one summer. In the springtime the landscape was something beautiful to look at—wild life on every hand. But what a changed condition when July entered in. The rains ceased, the grass dried up, and the blasted country, made so by the prairie fires that swept over the country; and as soon as the early day blizzards put in an appearance, everybody that had a little money hiked for God's country, and those that had no means to hike on, stayed it out.

There are perhaps some half-dozen of the older folks that moved here prior to 1870 still here. No, sir, nothing would induce me to be the first few to settle a new territory. I would rather let "George" wear off the rough edges; then I would move in some 25 years later and buy him out for a song.

### Hard to Conduct.

"Are you going to conduct any investigations?"

"Investigations are seldom conducted," answered Senator Sorghum. "You can give them a start, but after the first few days they almost invariably run away from you."

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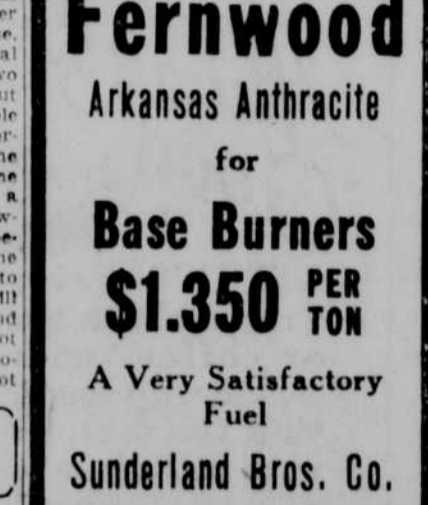
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