THE OMAHA BEE MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher N. B. UPDIKE, President D DUNN, JOY M. HACKLER, BALLARD DUNN. Editor in Chief Business Manager

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

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Omaha-Where the West is at its Best

SETTLE THE FRANCHISE FIRST.

Representatives of the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge company, accompanied by certain city officials, assured the senate committee at Lincoln that a pending bill is essential to the proper adjustment of relations between the city and the company. This is a broad position to take. Let's look at some of the factors.

Section 3719, Chapter 40, Article VII, Revised Statutes of Nebraska for 1922, sets out how franchises may be granted by cities of the metropolitan class. This is Omaha alone in Nebraska. The section complete reads:

"Any ordinance or resolution granting, extending, changing or modifying the terms and conditions of a franchise shall not be passed until at least four weeks shall have elapsed after its introduction or proposal, nor until such resolution or ordinance has been published daily for at least two weeks in the official paper of the city, nor shall such become effective or binding until submitted to the electors and approved by a majority vote thereof. The submission to be made as in this act provided. A new franchise shall not hereafter be granted or any modification or extension of an existing franchise made unless an annuity or royalty be provided and reserved to the city to be based either upon a fixed reasonable amount per year or a fixed percentage of the earnings under the operation of the franchise so granted, and not then until the same has been submitted to a vote by the electors at a general city election or special election called for that purpose."

. . .

There is the clearly defined road to take in dealing with franchises. It is drawn specifically to protect public rights. However, it will permit the tramway company to apply for a new franchise, or for the extension of the one under which it operates. It needs no new legislation to make it operative. Although it was asserted at Lincoln that the pending measure is "necessary for the well being of Omaha."

What it will do is to permit the city council to

experience of the World War. Then the air service of the American army was a sorry joke. Simply because the extravagant promises made on behalf of our government turned out to be simply flapdoodle. Propaganda to keep up the sprit of Americans, who trusted in leaders who did not expect to do what had been pledged. We got the men for the air work, but no machines.

We do not believe that either the army or navy deliberately seeks to restrict the air service. Reasons for wanting to keep conditions of control as they are are clear and strong. Yet equally good reasons are advanced for the unification of the service. Until this point is definitely settled, there will be argument about it. That is what the house military committee is now finding out officially.

AMERICA'S WONDER-WOMAN.

America is yet a land of wonders. From Niagara's misty majesty to Mount McKinley's virgin summit, there stretches an unbroken line of marvels to amaze man. Yet the great marvel of them all is not a mountain peak, a great cataract, nor anything of the sort. It is a woman.

Helen Keller was born a normal child. Early in her life she was over taken by a great calamity. As a result of a fever attack she was left blind, deaf, and without the power of speech. She was growing up in total ignorance, her mind in darkness equal to the physical gloom that surrounded her. Today she notices things that escapes the sharp eyes of the normal. She hears sounds that are beyond the ordinary ear. And she speaks to multitudes and delights them with her language as much as with her thoughts. She has taken college degrees, winning them brilliantly by her intellect. A miracle was wrought to bring Helen Keller to the height she has reached.

It was a miracle of love. Of patience unsurpassed. Of a peculiar sympathy between the souls of a woman and a little girl. Anne Sullivan Macy found the way to reach the mind of the child who could neither see, hear nor speak. Slowly she built up the communication between her own mind and the child's. An imprisoned soul was released. Through the patience of one and the industry of the other, the acute mentality of the afflicted girl was brought to aplendid development.

Now Helen Keller is giving her life to smoothing the way for the other unfortunates whose eyes are sightless, or whose ears do not respond to external sounds. She will lecture in Omaha soon, and we hope that the message that she brings here will be overtopped by the cheer she will carry away, in knowing Omaha is with her.

WORLD COURT A LIVE ISSUE.

Senator Swanson, democrat, of Virginia, announces that there is no hope of consideration of the World Court plan at this session of congress. This is merely the hope of the opponents of the plan. Senator Borah, chairman of the senate foreign af-fairs committee, stands an implacable foe of the plan. He is supported by a sufficient number of members to make progress very difficult. An here is one of the wonders of the present day

situation. The Permanent Court of International As long ago as when Grover Cleveland first was president, the matter came forward for discussion. A succession of presidents have given their approval. Wilson, Harding and Coolidge have recommended adherence to the court. Thousands of the leading men and women have urged the senate to adopt the Harding-Hughes plan for adherence. Mass meetings, such as was held in Omaha, have expressed a desire that the senate act favorably on the measure.

THE OMAHA BEE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1925.



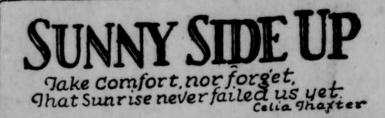
Letters From Our Readers All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less, will be given preference.

Crime in Other Days. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Eee: I was mighty well pleased to see the straight from the shoulder Description of the straight from the shoulder is the common diet of the straight from the should be should

day, in the public library the writer decided to look up some of the Omaha Justice was provided for at the instance of Ameri-cans. In The Hague Tribunal was found its germ. When Woodrow Wilson was drafting the Covenant The there was prohibition to see if there were any crimes committed and the nature of them. We picked out the first ive week of May 1912 12 years When Woodrow Wilson was drafting the Covenant of the League of Nations, he was advised by Elihu Root to incorporate the World Court. The advice was followed. When the Treaty of Versailles was rejected by the senate, because of the League of Nations, the court idea survived. Early action, in which America participated, was taken to set up the

ies revere and are proud of. Here they have become accustomed to act as though it was something to be ashamed of, so they must sneak about with it lest some one find out their intentions and make them the butt of ridicule.

They tell us that the number of W. T. LAWRENCE. I'led on the impulse of the moment. We have even heard of a couple that



Our old friend, Wilson Trout, who edits the North Platte Tribune, makes a semi-apology for announcing in his columns that his daughter, Rebecca, is a member of a Colorado Springs orchestra that recently broadcasted a fine program. But why any sort of apology? Miss Rebecca is a fine musician and her Dad has reason to be proud of h er. Then why not say so? We don't hesitate to tell the world that we are mighty proud of the youngsters who have blessed our home, and we wouldn't trade 'em for anybody else's children, with Hank Ford's money thrown in for boot. We know some fathers who are forever boasting about their automobiles and never a word about their Well, they probably know their automobiles, and children. not their children.

Far be it from us to make fun of the deluded individuals Far be it from us to make the end of the world on February who prepared themselves for the end of the world on February 6. Most of us entertain delusions of one kind or another. Political delusions, f'rinstance. And that peculiar delusion to which so many are subject, that everything can be cured by Passing a Law. And that other delusion that you are fooling everybody. Those who prepared for the world cataclysm on February 6 may be foolish, but are you superstitious about walking under a ladder? Do you believe that breaking a mirror means seven years of had luck? If you spill the salt do you throw a pinch of it over your left shoulder? By the way, how would you feel right now if the world had come to an end, an prophesied

Like of John Sweet of the Nebraska City Tribune, we are perfectly willing to assist in building a home for disabled saxo-phone players, providing we are licensed to put 'em in shape to accept the benefits of the home.

We'll bet a cookie that Eugene Schreiter of Otoe county will never be caught in a position where he'll whine about "never had a chance." Eugene is 12 years old and a pupil in School District No. 17. At his last quarterly examination he stood 100 per cent in his seven studies, spelling, history, grammar, geography, arithmetic, civics and agriculture. Boys who make a record like that in school may be depended upon to make good in adult life.

Sauntering about town recently we saw something, in a candy store window that brought back youthful memories. Nothing more nor less than a pile of those little candy heart mottoes that were in such high favor with us boys and girls. If you have considerable gray in your hair and a rheumatic twinge now and then, you'll remember them. White, made of peppermint, with the mottoes in red. Remember how you slyly and surreptitiously slipped 'em across the aisle to HER? Now and then we'd find one that was particularly devilish, and then we'd treasure it until it was solled beyond possibility of de-ciphering. Then, igorant of all rules of sanitation and hy-giene, we'd eat it. The girls in our youthful days were made happy by the receipt of a little bag of carefully chosen motto Now it's expensive chololates by the pound that inhearts.

"We Ought to Pass a Law" was the subject of Merle Thorpe's address before the Chamber of Commerce Friday noon. We welcome Mr. Thorpe to membership in our Uplift Club. The salvation of the country is rapidly approaching. Al! we need is to pass a few more laws.

A welcome letter from T. K. Sudborough, one-time resident of Omaha, now recuperating in the government hospital at Hot Springs, Ark. Tom recalls some old-time incidents to which we purpose referring in the not distant future.

Much as we deplore the fact, we will be unable to adopt the college youth style of investiture proclaimed by the Nebraska Clothiers. Owing to our equatorial expansion we can not follow the waist lines decreed. Nor can we adopt the vest of many buttons, it being already rather difficult for us to re-member to button all the buttons now on our vests. Much as would like to indulge in the sartorial splendors decreed, we are compelled to cling to the old styles, owing largely to the fact that our physical contour prevents, but more largely to the fact that our financial condition operates as a complete bar.

Talk about the world growing worse-'tain't so. That it has grown better is evidenced by the fact that the atopcious comic valentine of other days has just about disappeared. WILL M. MAUPIN.

grant the tramway company exclusive rights to operate omnibusses over the city streets in connection with tram cars. Probably no reasonable objection can be brought against this. Certainly, large areas of the city are in need of service that is not now provided. The company is wisely averse to making any considerably extensions of track or addition to its operating equipment until the franchise question is definitely settled.

We believe that the best interests of the city will be served by not disturbing the conditions as estalished by the law herewith quoted. The tramway company deserves just and liberal treatment at the hands of the citizens. We have advocated relieving it from occupation tax and the cost of paving now borne by it. But we can not consent to any law that will even inferentially affect the relations now governed by the franchise until the main question is definitely settled.

The tramway question is now being considered piecemeal. The bill offered at Lincoln deals with busses. The hearing soon to be had in Omaha will take up the question of fares. Eventually the main issue will come on-that is the general franchise for the operation of the tramway lines over the city streets and alleys. This should not be vexed by bits of law-making that may call for extensive litigation before the rights of either party are settled.

A clear way is open to approach the subject of a new franchise. This should not be blockaded or obstructed by a new law that does not make its meaning clear. Let us have no by-passes in our blind alleys. It is either private operation or municipal ownership, for Omaha must have a tramway. Further, it will be a privately-owned tramway. The city is neither ready nor inclined to go any deeper into municipal ownership.

AIRMEN AND THE ARMY.

A little flurry has blown up over the air service at Washington. Folks should not be confused as to its merits. It has nothing to do with the matter of mishandling funds, or any scandalous proceedings. Airmen are of the opinion that the two branches of the service should be unified, and made a separate department of the national defense organization. Independent of army or navy control, yet co-operating with them at all times.

Brigadier General William Mitchell has been the champion of this idea, which is pretty general among the airmen. Secretary Weeks of the War department and Secretary Wilbur of the Navy are opposed to the unification plan. In this they are supported by the general staff and to a great extent by the line officers of both army and navy.

Debate as to the efficacy of air attack for either offense or defense has reached no conclusion. Experiments have produced results permitting different deductions. There the matter rests. General Mitchell has, it is said, alleged that certain officers are afraid to speak because they dread what may happen. On this point, too, there is some uncertainty. Secretary Wilbur says any officer of the navy may express his opinion freely at any proper time or place. Secretary Weeks says he will make a statement when the Mitchell letter is placed before him.

All of which is very interesting in peace time. What Americans want to be assured is that the air service is not neglected, but that it will be kept to a point where it can meet any demand. We do not want to be exposed to a repetition of the humiliating

Against this pressure, which would seem sufficient to prevail, the chairman of the senate committee on foreign affairs resolutely sets himself. He holds that the plan is not good for Americans, and for the time his will prevails. But the issue is alive, and will remain to some day confound the man who has apparently failed to sense aright public sentiment on the question.

The Minneapolis minister who has just contracted sleeping sickness should have avoided coming n such close contact with the pew-holders.

We kind of approve the judgment of the pilot who would rather fly the air mail nights out of Omaha than days out of San Francisco.

"Mike" Endres bids fair to go out of office with one record. He will be sheriff when the legislature cuts off the prisoner feeding profit.

An Episcopalian bishop has declared in favor of evolution, but Mr. Bryan still has the support of the Tennessee legislature.

Co-eds may think they have started something in the way of socks, but bicycle riders wore 'em that way years ago.

Another eastern business man predicts an era of prosperity. The fact is becoming apparent to everybody.

For some time to come Gaston B. will not serve on the ways and Means committee of any Washington lobby. .

Homespun Verse By Omaha's Own Poet-**Robert Worthington Davie**

LONGING.

I do not crave the splendor Of a mansion for my own, Nor do I seek the hovel Where I may hide alone But give to me the cottage Where little folks can play, Where friends will come to visit At the close of busy day.

A cottage neat and cozy Whose interior appears Accordant with the rapture Of the rich, receded years:-Old portraits of the kind ones Whose familiar faces glow With the mellow sweetness Of the days of long ago.

A home in word not merely, But a home whose atmosphere Is genuine and common.

And by Time made true and dear Life may give both wealth and leisure But whenever it denies The comfort of the cottage All real enjoyment dies.

arrested for bootlegging; man tapped for his wallet; man dies from alcoholism; bicycles stolen; boy steals bug-gy; man robbed of all his money; two young girls sold into white slavery y young men they met in dance hall; roman sues officers because she is jailed with intoxicated women; man murdered and robbed in rooming ouse; husband jailed; man picked up a saloon dies from alcohol poisoning father illtreats and abandons his famly; women wield knives in fight; man ses knife on woman.

These are crimes chronicled in one of the Omaha dallies for the two They cannot be laid to proreeks. hibition. In fact, it would seem that many of them were due to the open

AN OMAHA WOMAN VOTER

Calls for More Cheese.

Omaha .- To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: With a cheese factory at each end of the state the cheese famine should be somewhat mitigated. There will be that much less to be brought from Wisconsin and New York. Before these days of nervous tension the women were wise in their generation and made cheese. The art of making cheese is just as simple as he art of making butter, and every farm in Nebraska could be a minia-fure cheese factory. Cheese should not be more than 5 or 10 cents a pound in price and should be en ery man's table, not as a luxury. but as a food. Forty-cent cheese prohibitive. If it should be said that the price of butter is prohibitive, it because the town people are fool ish enough to pay it. The farmer has all the butter he wants and pays no

Abe Martin



Nothin's ever said about th' lives h' average autoist saves durin' little spin around town. Prosperity an' economy are supposed t' work hand in glove th' comin' four years, but watch 'em split up when pros perity appears from around corner. (Copyright, 1925.)

ries to hold up street car; burglar held for robbing school teacher; man held for rob who were gunning. him for some wild animal and fired at nursing Luckily the boys were some distance attempts suicide; man is shot through held sacred and considered the most nine such wounds. Mr. Wallace had away when they fired and the wounds head and killed: man tries to kill him important step taken by a man or been to the barn of a neighbor for were not serious ones.—Lewiston self: two burglars loot homes; man a woman, and a head that both par some hay. He was returning across Journal.

When in Omaha They mistoo **Hotel Conant** Nine shots entered his back. 250 Rooms-250 Baths-Rates \$2 to \$3



"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, then am I in the midst of them.

THE CHURCH

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THE history of the church begins with the creation of man in the image, and for the glory of God, and comes down to the present as its relative goal, but will go on till the final settlement of all the affairs of men. It embraces within these limits all that belongs to the religious development of the race within the line of revelation --- the origin, progress, and fortunes of the Kingdom of God and its relations to this world.

The history of the church is the history of Christianity from the birth of Christ down to the present time. Church history verifies on every hand the promise of the Savior to be with His people always, and to build His church on the rock against which the "gates of hell cannot prevail." It exhibits the life and power of Christ in all its forms and phases, and the triumph of His kingdom from land to land and generation to generation.

Select a Church and Then Support It by Your Attendance

"In a wider appeal to religion and to religious faith is to be found the answer to the growing tendency toward law violations which we see on every hand.

This is the judgment of a group of Omaha men and institutions, who have arranged for a program of appeals for church attendance. The appeal published herewith is first of the series.

⁻Matt. 18-20