

# THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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moved into a home of her own. Also resolved to have nothing more to do with lawyers. One inference is that Charlie won. At that he may have lost. But he has found out that in-laws sometimes are expensive and bothersome things to have around.

### THREE CREIGHTONS AND OMAHA.

The Civil War made necessary means for speedy communication between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Pony express riders had notably shortened the time between the Missouri river and the Golden Gate, but still days were required for a message to cover the distance. A telegraph line was decided upon, as well as a railroad. The wire line was built first. To build it a contractor was needed, and this brought Edward Creighton to Omaha. With him came his wife, Lucretia, and his brother, John A.

Many thousands of people live here now, enjoying the fruits of the harvest the Creightons sowed, and knowing little of them. Out of the generosity of Mrs. Creighton's heart came the big St. Joseph's hospital, familiarly called by old-timers, "Creighton Memorial." The next benefice was Creighton University. Neither of the founders lived long enough to see this become what it now is. Their vision, maybe, saw its colleges grow in stature. At any rate, their dreams are partially realized. A great nonsectarian school is carrying on well the mission of education. Like the hospital, it has grown far beyond the first beginnings. Just because the city has grown, and the liberal endowment made by the founders has enhanced in wealth until bigger things can be done in a better way.

"Founders' Day" was observed by religious ceremony, and many citizens took part in the proceedings. On other institutions than the school and the hospital the name of Creighton rests, a memorial to the husband, the wife and the brother, who deserve so well to be recalled with gratitude by Omahans.

### MAKING THE LAW RIDICULOUS.

Nebraska was hounded dry before the Eighteenth amendment was passed. Our statute to enforce prohibition, enacted by the legislature in the winter of 1917 and enforced since May 1 of that year, is more drastic in some of its provisions than the Volstead act. Why, then, is it necessary to add more teeth to the double and triple rows that already give terror to the law?

The passage by the house of a bill designed to give further power to the law seems an entirely useless gesture. If prohibition were to be made effective by enactment of laws, the country would have been drier than Sahara long ago. Will not the "pint" measure have directly the opposite effect to that which is intended?

The great difficulty so far encountered by the enforcement officers has been the lack of healthy public sentiment in their support. A vast majority of the American people are apathetic on the question of prohibition. They are not inclined to ascribe to it the importance given the policy by the extremists on either side. So long as this state of mind exists, that long the law will lack the regard it should have.

Efforts of the dregs to add further terror by grafting new penalties on the law will avail but little. Bootleggers and their patrons will not be frightened by more law on the question. If steps were taken to make the law more effective by its reasonable enforcement, without the sometimes sensational and sometimes silly proceedings that mark the record now being made, much of the difficulty would disappear. Enough of the law already exists to govern the situation. If it is not effective, the remedy should be sought somewhere else, and not in the enactment of still more law that will be flouted just as are those that now exist.

### DRYING OUT THE LOW GROUND.

Nebraska presents some interesting physical problems. One has to do with drainage, or rather, distribution of water supply. From the Missouri river the state gradually rises over 4,000 feet to its west end. This steady uplift is scarcely perceptible to one who just crosses the state on a train. It is noticeable, though, in the swift current of the running streams. One of the effects it produces is that out west the farmers are looking for more water for their acres while along the river they have to scheme how to get rid of some of the surplus.

While Phelps, Kearney and Adams counties are planning for the tricounty supplementary irrigation ditch, farmers in Burt county have just let a contract for a drainage ditch that will cost \$200,000. It will take care of the outfall of five little creek systems. Water that now runs down the hillsides and sours the ground along the creeks will be given a straight and narrow course to the Missouri. By this means a great many acres that now languish because they are water-soaked will be made the more productive.

This drainage method has nothing to do with the harmful and often wasteful methods of reclamation, such as were practiced in northern Minnesota, where peat bogs were drained and fire traps instead of good farming land were established. Man is learning a great many lessons from nature, and one is that disturbing the balance frequently does a lot of damage.

"The wealth of the country is gradually flowing into fewer and fewer hands," says the Grand Island Independent. Is this a covert way of saying that the bootlegging business is growing greater?

February 7 was a great disappointment to those who were hopeful that the midnight before would obviate the necessity of filling out their income tax returns.

The Stone that some of the senators would have rejected has become the head of the corner.

The prince danced with a blind girl, but the item doesn't say if he opened her eyes.

Those Collins cave promoters got the publicity, if that is what they were after.

## Homespun Verse

By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davis

### DIVORCE.

Divorce is the worst of all evils!  
We'd better be childless, I say,  
Than bound by the law of mere mortals  
To travel a separate way.

Love can not endure if it's shackled,  
And driven by legalized force;  
There's cheapness enough without adding  
A law that will nourish remorse.

The orphan is rich in life's goodness  
Compared with the unwelcome one  
Who comes to the house that deplores him,  
And wishes him henceward anon.

The babes in the cradles need mothers  
Whose love is a yellow brocade,—  
Whose courage and conscience is sacred—  
And mothers are born and not made.

## One Lesson We Can't Seem to Learn



LET ONE MAN EAT AN OYSTER AND GET TYPHOID FEVER AND WERE OFF OYSTERS FOR LIFE



AND ONE ACCIDENT IN TWO MILLION MILES TRAVEL MAKES PEOPLE PUT OFF FLYING FOR ANOTHER GENERATION.



AND THE MERE RUMOR OF ONE SHARK WILL DEPOPULATE THE BATHING BEACHES FOR A WHOLE SEASON.



BUT THE MORE FAKE INVESTMENTS THERE ARE EXPOSED THE MORE PEOPLE SEEM TO FLOCK TO THEM.

## 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.

### Enforcing the Law.

Boston, Mass.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Although I am not a subscriber to The Omaha Bee, I have read many articles and editorials from your paper and have always understood that The Omaha Bee was one of the representative western newspapers.

In last Saturday's Boston Transcript there appeared a reprint from The Omaha Bee, entitled, "Challenge to Civilization" which referred particularly to Bloody Williamson county. In the last paragraph of the editorial you ask several questions, I. e.:

1. "Does Illinois have no citizen with sufficient 'political influence' to arouse the authorities to action?"  
2. "Can murderous gangs run wild in Herrin or Chicago, settling affairs according to their own code of murder and rapine? The biggest funeral parade that ever passed in Chicago was that which followed Dion O'Bannon, dead gangster, to the grave. But no report is made of any arrest for his killing."  
3. "How long can civilization endure if these crimes go unpunished?"

It is surprising to me that there can be any question formulated, especially by a representative newspaper. It seems to me that the answer to all these questions should be obvious, not only to the man in the street, but to newspapers who should have the very best source of information on political and public questions.

With the state of politics in Illinois, such as it is when people will elect a man like Len Small for governor, the citizens who would have any political influence in the state of Illinois would be people like Umbrella Mike Boyle and others of his benchmen, whom Mr. Small pardoned from jail sentences.

No. 2 says: "Can murderous gangs run wild in Herrin or Chicago, settling affairs according to their own code of murder?"  
The Terrin shooting and the O'Bannon killing was the result of nothing more or less than bootleggers' war. The whole thing can be cleaned up by the newspapers of this country will support law and order and hold up a high standard.

The answer to your third question is civilization cannot endure very long

if such crimes go unpunished, but the reason underlying the state of such matters in Chicago, Herrin and other places in the United States is a contempt for the law, which starts at the top and goes right down to those poor, ignorant immigrants who comprise the rank and file of the political organizations in most big cities and such communities as Herrin. The so-called good citizens are afraid to make any move because they will be exposed for their connection with bootlegging. I do not mean that they have any real connection financially with bootlegging, but they buy their liquor from bootleggers, and this is a club that is held over their heads.

This letter is not intended to be a temperance advocate. I am in no way interested in the prohibition amendment except as it is a law, because I do not see how we can legislate people's tastes and desires except the fundamental code of decency which is necessary to uphold law, order and propriety, but until there is a concerted effort to clean up the situation such as exists in Herrin and Chicago, there will still be such questions asked as those contained in your editorial. R. G. WATSON, 41 North Market Street.

The Ananias Club.  
"John" said his wife, "tell the guests those old stories of yours. I always get a kick out of hearing you tell those jokes and I know they'll enjoy them."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Art Exhibit.  
"Have you seen the Hungarian prints?"  
"No; where is he? I didn't know there was to be any royalty at this affair."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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## SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget,  
That Sunrise never failed us yet.  
Celia Baxter

The lower branch of the legislature has passed a bill making the possession of a pint or more of liquor prima facie evidence that the owner of the liquor is a bootlegger. The bill now goes to the senate, where we shall use our personal influence to secure an amendment. The bill as it stands is not broad enough. We shall move to amend to make the possession of a deck of cards prima facie evidence that the owner is of a gambling house. Also that the ownership of a knife with a blade more than two inches long, or a revolver, shotgun or rifle prima facie evidence that the owner is meditating murder in the first degree. When we Pass a Law let us make it horse-hill, bull-strong and pig-tight.

Some bills introduced in legislatures—not in Nebraska, of course—are prima facie evidence that the introducers couldn't come within seven miles of passing a Binet test.

We commend the placing of a guard about the home of Senator Norris. If another southern miss should decide that life is not worth living without a kiss from the senior senator from Washington, and hiked to Washington to get it, a world cataclysm would result if she managed to catch the senator unawares. The sanctity of the senatorial lips must be preserved at any cost.

Our own opinion of the prohibitory law may not be of general interest, but we make bold to express it. Prohibition is the law of the land and should be enforced. The purchaser or consumer of illicit liquor is as guilty, morally, as the vendor. But there is nothing sacred about the prohibition amendment, or laws. One may oppose without being guilty of a mortal sin. One may not violate, however, and escape guilt. If prohibition has any reason for being, that reason is economic. We have never been convinced that the drinking of liquor is immoral. And we have yet to be shown that there is any scriptural warrant for prohibition.

Governor "Ma" Ferguson, proposing a tax on cigars and other forms of tobacco, says, "Men who smoke are usually the most liberal men in the community." Wise and clever politician is "Ma." Most men smoke, and all men are susceptible to flattery. Were we a voter in Texas we'd vote for "Ma" spite'n inferno and the increased volume of water in the river.

Before we forget it, the room we are preparing for our private use in our new home will have a rag carpet on the floor. Not one of those fancy factory-made rag carpets, but a genuine hit-and-miss Missouri product, woven on a hand-and-foot loom by an ancient female who smokes natural leaf in a stone pipe.

Our apologies to J. Hyde Sweet of the Nebraska City Press. We never wrote it. The room we are preparing for our private use in our new home will have a rag carpet on the floor. Not one of those fancy factory-made rag carpets, but a genuine hit-and-miss Missouri product, woven on a hand-and-foot loom by an ancient female who smokes natural leaf in a stone pipe.

Again we have been overruled. The interstate commerce commission rules that the surcharge on Pullman tickets, which we have condemned bitterly, is justifiable. The commission holds that when it is possible to reduce the cost of travel the consequent saving should be to the benefit of those who can not afford luxuries, but must "count the pennies." That may look reasonable at first glance, but the second time it fades a bit. We don't have to count our pennies—we have to ask for them. Riding in a Pullman is not necessarily a luxury; it is often a penalty. However, our opposition to the surcharge has been somewhat lessened by the fact that very frequently of late we've been a guest.

Now we are informed that the bill proposing the closing of all movie and theatrical attractions was prepared by some jokesters. Members of the legislature need not go far out of their ordinary way to make a joke of the whole session. WILL M. MAUPIN.

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Ar. Little Rock	2:50 p.m., Tues.
Ar. Alexandria	12:10 a.m., Wed.
Ar. Lk. Charles	11:00 a.m., Wed.
Ar. New Orleans	6:30 a.m., Wed.

SPECIAL REDUCED ROUND TRIP FARES FOR MARDI GRAS

## Abe Martin



"He ought t' be back now, he just stepped out a moment 'g git a character witness," said Bootlegger Ike Lark's wife t' a caller this mornin'. Movie censorin' should begin at home.

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