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Prosperous Nebraska

Things are sitting pretty out in Nebraska, notwithstanding certain awful predictions should the late campaign wind up as it did. More than one-half of the farm land, 52 per cent to be exact, is unencumbered by mortgage or debt of any sort, while on the remainder the burden is so slight as to average less than half the value of the property.

The combined value of wheat and corn crops alone will be approximately \$275,000,000, or an average of \$2,000 for every farm in the state. Add to this the other crops, oats, rye, barley, sugar beets, hay, potatoes, fruit and vegetables, with their combined value of about \$200,000,000. Then add \$250,000,000 more for cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and dairy products.

Thus the value of all the agricultural products for Nebraska this year will be nearly \$750,000,000, or an average of over \$5,700 per farm, which is an impressive indication of a solid prosperity on which we hasten to offer congratulations.

or settle a claim for damages in any event for a less sum than \$5,000, and attorney's fees to be fixed by the court.

Note the words, "It shall not be necessary to allege or prove damages." There is the dynamite bomb that is liable at any moment to blow up the innocent.

The law as it now stands is an ample safeguard. It makes possible the settlement of damage claims without injustice to either party. If amended as proposed it opens up too many avenues of extortion. Bear in mind that it does not affect the public service corporations alone; it affects every citizen of Nebraska. The universal application of the amended law would cause more damage than it would cure. It fixes an arbitrary minimum without fixing a maximum. However good the intent behind the proposed amendment, it will work more injustice than it can cure. Senate File No. 112 should meet with a speedy and painless death.

NO ROMAN HOLIDAY FOR COOLIDGE.

Conforming to his announced policy, the president has set his face sternly against display in connection with the approaching inaugural ceremonies. Sadly the chairman of the local committee has put away all plans for making a Roman holiday out of a democratic function. No court of honor will adorn Pennsylvania avenue. No exorbitant prices will be exacted from visitors for the privilege of looking through a window at the passing pageant. No heart will flutter with pleasure or ache from disappointment at an inaugural ball.

All pomp and ceremony will be done away with. A few thousand dollars will be expended in erecting a platform in front of the Capitol building, on which the crowd may assemble to hear an address from the president, who succeeds himself. That will be all. Simply and without fuss and feathers, Mr. Coolidge will again take the oath of office. Itself so simple that it should be both majestic and inspiring. His inaugural speech will probably be short and snappy, as all his public utterances are.

Amplifiers will make it audible to the throngs around the platform. Radio will carry his words to millions who will tune in at the hour to listen. The ceremony as planned now will represent the strength, the dignity, the majesty of a great nation, devoted to high ideals but humble under God. A citizen will pledge his life and all his faculties to carrying on as chief magistrate of that nation. Filling the responsible office with which he has been charged by his fellow citizens. Typical of the man who actually has the courage to show his country the way back to a solid foundation for its social life.

Somehow or other we fail to arouse any sympathy for the New York actor who was wounded by a real bullet. Many a time and oft have we mourned our inability to plant a bullet at the proper time and in the proper place.

It is interesting to note the report of a returned missionary to China that General Fung is an exemplary Christian, and that 30,000 of his 40,000 soldiers are also baptized Christians.

Thomas A. Edison at 78 says that "girls are a mystery." To be sure they are. That's what makes 'em so attractive. Wouldn't have 'em any other way for all the world.

One of the strangest of President Coolidge's characteristics is that he insists upon actually carrying out his ideas about rigid economy in public affairs.

A scientist says that radio will play an important part in the next war. Get to the radio enlistment station early and avoid the rush.

One of the world's greatest needs right now is more men who will grab a job and fewer men who are willing to accept one.

The newest antiseptic is called hexylresorcinol. But isn't a man likely to die of blood poisoning before he can call for it?

France is cautiously admitting new words into its dictionary. Students of the language might like to see some cut out.

Judge Munger evidently does not think much of the "bust 'em in the snoot" methods of enforcing the law.

And of course Mr. Longworth of Ohio and Washington is feeling as if he was full of the old Nick.

Nicholas Longworth is another convert to the belief that it is better late than never.

Nebraska jewelers are with us again. They are shining lights in business.

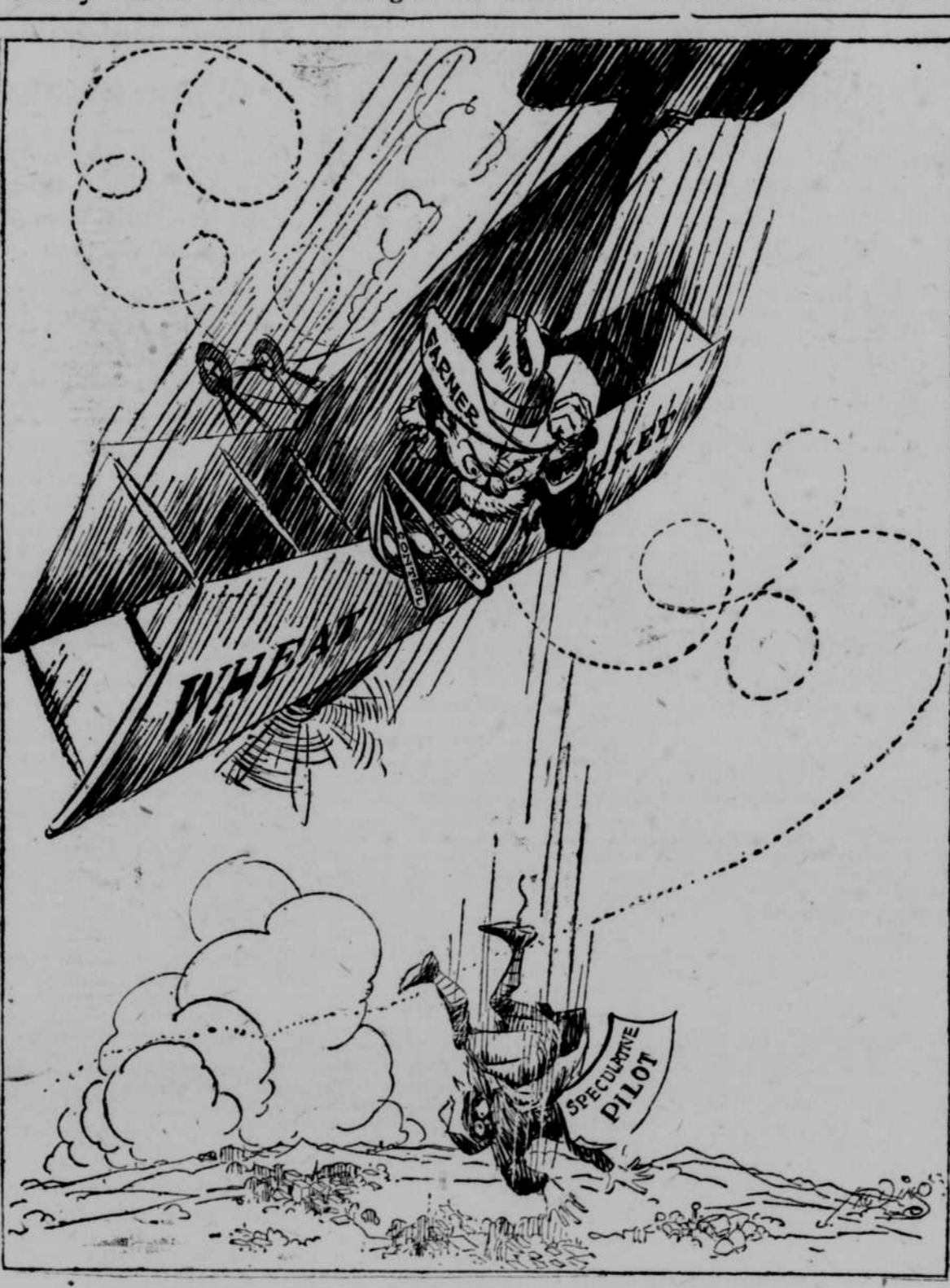
Blue sky law or not, suckers will always bite.

Homespun Verse

By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

MY BOY.
My boy is nearly three—
A great big man is he,
According to the way
He struts about all day.
I'm quite surprised to know
That he so soon should grow
To be a man, but 'tis
Just what he says he is.
Of course, I wouldn't doubt
His own belief about
Himself, nor tell him he
Has not as yet reached three.
Nor would I let him know
That while I watch him grow
With happiness, I sigh
Because the days speed by.
I smile at times of course
When joy is half remorse
He climbs upon my knee
And then, so suddenly
He tumbles down and goes
To whence his mother sews.
And like a flash says to:
"My mamma's lap is best for me."

Really About Time He Began to Learn to Handle Those Levers



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.

Pleas for Married Men.
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I was reading about Dr. Pinto and Robert E. Hines in the Omaha Bee, and their idea sounds practical, but they have given the married folks no inducements. Now, for instance, Robert E. Hines is a bachelor. Why is he one? Isn't he fit to get married or just can't afford it? It looks like he is holding down a pretty good job. There are lots of young ladies in this country who would be willing to marry a bachelor with a job like his. If Mr. Hines wants to offer a real bill in the lower house, why doesn't he put in a bill that will tax all bachelors that are eligible to get married so heavy that it will decrease the taxes of the married man and give him a chance to get started. Dr. Pinto, seeing you are so strong for family ties, maybe you could get all the best doctors in the state to cut their fees for childbirth. That would give a married man some inducements.

Indeterminate Sentence Law.
Lincoln.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: An interesting editorial in your valuable paper appeared this morning, the first paragraph of which reads: "We congratulate the house at Lincoln for having laid to rest the measure designed to repeal the pardon and parole board."

This editorial is interesting, but is entirely inapplicable to the bill laid to rest by the house. The measure was one to abolish indeterminate sentences and not to repeal the pardon and parole law.

It was the conclusion of the county attorneys, whose duty it is to follow the course of those they have successfully prosecuted, that the trial judge is better able to determine the penalty that should be imposed than a political board sitting in some instances, hundreds of miles from the scene of the crime. If the trial judge was required to make the penalty definite, he would fully advise himself as to all the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime and the life of the criminal and impose sentence accordingly.

No other method has been suggested whereby penalties may be made certain. Such a change would not take away the incentive of the prisoner for good behavior, because the law now provides (Sec. 10260, 1922 Statutes) that each convict shall be entitled to the following credits on his sentence for good behavior: Two months on the first year, two months on the second year, three months on the

Abe Martin



Th' worst thing that's hit th' farmer is basket ball. Here's two things we ought 't know, even if we can't read—that we'll feel prosperity when it gits here an' that there's a lively demand for fancy hosiery.

"My indignation has been considerably aroused. My public position forbids me to use profanity, but I'd kind o' like momentarily to get into the atmosphere of it."—Washington Star.

Best of the Ousted.

"Did your last employer give you a reference?"
"Yes, but it doesn't seem to be any good."
"What did he say?"
"He said I was one of the best men his firm had ever turned out."—London Telegraph.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

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

Cosmo Hamilton, whose real name is Gibbs, being impelled to change it for a consideration, is a theatrical pessimist. He sees the death of the spoken drama. Cosmo, dear boy, should get a new monic. All he sees is the death of the neurotic, indecent, sensuous, vulgar drama. And heaven speed the day of its death. Contrary to the opinion held by the Helioses of today, a majority of the American people are decent and clean-minded. One of these days the theatrical managers and the dramatists will allow a germ of real thought to penetrate the ivory and then we will have clean dramas again. When that time comes the stage will not play second fiddle to the silver screen.

Thomas A. Edison is worrying about the young folks. He really ought to take something for it. Worrying about nothing is bad for the digestion. They are going a pretty fast pace, to be sure, but that's what our fathers and mothers thought about us. Doubtless their fathers and mothers thought the same thing about them. The future of our children depends very largely upon us. Instead of worrying about the young folks, we fathers and mothers ought to be worrying about whether we are doing the right thing with them.

Dr. Winifred Sackville Stoner, vice president of the National Education Forum, whatever that is, gives us a distinct pain. She ought to take something for what ails her. Prussic acid, or something quick. She is one of those high-brows who denounce Mother Goose as a moral menace and would have her nursery rhymes tabooed. We don't know her from Adam's off-ox, but we'll gamble that she is one of those expert child raisers who never had one of her own. We cheerfully admit that we are a low-brow and that we are no authority whatsoever on the rearing of children. But we've sung Mother Goose rhymes to a long procession of our own kiddies, and are now beginning on a procession of grandchildren. And, by the way that jumped over the moon, the little dog that laughed, the piper's son, old King Cole and the crooked man who lived in a crooked lane, we're going to keep right on singing 'em as long as our admittedly unmusical voice holds out and the grandchildren listen. And Dr. Winifred Sackville Stoner can go hang for all we care.

We made no particular complaint when they destroyed our trust in the hatchet and cherry tree story. We murmured not nor repined when our faith in Franklin and his kite was shattered. We shed not a tear when informed that William Tell never shot an apple from his son's head. But, by the great hornspoon, we rebel, we arise in wrath, we shriek wildly when they undertake to banish our childhood friend, Mother Goose. We wouldn't trade her for enough of the modern, up-to-date uplifters and child protectors to patch Gehenna eight furlongs.

The news about the coal mine near Rulo intrigues us. Nearly 40 years ago we piloted a weekly newspaper at Rulo, called The Bridgeman. Having been born and reared in a coal country—in fact, our first dollar was earned as a mule driver in a coal bank—we were certain coal might be found in those hills. We said so in The Bridgeman and suggested the advisability of organizing a company to prospect. Samuel Miles and Matt LeBlanc, old residents, were among those who offered to subscribe. But the project died aborning. John Gagnon of Falls City was a Rulo resident at that time, and doubtless he remembers all about it.

Overcrowded Farnam street car. Seats mostly filled by young folks. Aged little woman, walking with crutches, boards car. No one offers her a seat. Finally gray-haired old man, evidently near 80, sees her and gallantly offers her a seat. Several young folks giggle and whisper. Not enough Eeds' clubs in Omaha.
WILL M. MAUPIN.

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