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WHEN THE HALF-GODS GO.

American industry and commerce are coming out from the "twilight of the gods." Emerging into an era of wonderful accomplishments. Doing big things in a big way. Opening the path that will lead even to far greater triumphs. Men with vision see this. Other men must be convinced of them by the evidence of their own senses.

A dozen years ago the great Keokuk hydro-electric power plant began its work of making electricity to be sold for power. It was the wonder of the world. Ten units of 10,000 kilowatt capacity each, a total of 100,000 kilowatts, the biggest thing man had done. Just now the Westinghouse engineers have installed at Niagara a single generator of 100,-000 kilowatt capacity, or equivalent to the entire plant at Keokuk. Only one machine. That is growth.

A few years ago a freight train of 600 tons was a huge "drag," but one of 6,000 tons excites no comment now. Harbors have been deepened and widened to accommodate vessels regarded as dreams when the century was new. Steel rails of 80 pounds were huge not so long ago; now 120 pounds is the standard. In every other way growth is shown. Development is steady and rapid. The engineer who designed the thrust bearing for the giant rotor of the 100,000-kilowatt generator feels confident he can design one that will permit construction of a 400,000-kilowatt machine.

What does this mean? All the half-gods have vanished but one. He lingers in the form of reluctance to allow industry to follow a natural law. Dread of big things still casts a shadow over the mind of some of our law-makers. They seek to meet the situation by a continuance of "thou shalt not." What really is needed is a policy of "thou mayest." Let the proposed inquiries into the mergers, the combinations, be carried on to the fullest extent. Discover all the facts, bring out all the purposes and possibilities. But do it in a constructive way, with a view to helping in the solution of problems that are pressing in their domestic application, and are also tremendous in their world bearings.

Let us supplant the Sherman anti-trust law, with its inhibitions, by another law that will grant permission where the existing statute forbids. Specify what may be done, rather than what may not. Consider the needs of the community, of the nation, of the wood, rather than the possibility, or even probability of some enterprise assuming huge proportions. Protect the individual, but do not hamper the general growth by provisions that restrict expansion.

"When the half-gods go the real gods come." Senators and congressmen should open their eyes to what is going on around them. The man who can present to the next congress a well-reasoned measure to take the place of the Sherman anti-trust law will do for industry what the transportation act has done for transportation, and what the banking act has done for finance. Liberate industry from the bonds that now restrain it. No need to fear the effect. Unless it be done there is danger, for the nation can not go ahead into full stature bound by restraints that suited a bygone time.

CAN IT BE POSSIBLE

"That the Philadelphia alcohol trade," tearfully exclaims the Philadelphia Bulletin, "has slipped, broken or been released, out of bounds, and is Hagrantly defying the law, is notorious; it has become a noisome scandal."

It is almost unbelievable. According to all reports, General Butler had cleaned Philadelphia, cleaned, scoured and polished it, until it was a model of law observance and civic decency. Were we given to understand that "Ol' Gimlet-Eye" was to be given a free hand to use regular United States marine tactics; the sort of tactics, you know, that we have come to look upon as being all to the good when we got the reports: "The marines have landed and are in control?"

We are loath to believe that General Butler has fallen down on the job. It is not characteristic of the "leathernecks." We will not believe it. It must be just another bit of insidious propaganda intended to convey the idea that prohibition is not enforceable. Or, mayhap, the Bulletin is trying to insert a petard under the chair occupied by "Ol' Gimlet-Eye." Whatever it is, we simply will not believe that the alcohol trade of Philadelphia is out of bounds. The old city has not exhibited any signs of undue hilarity for many years.

LOOK OUT FOR DYNAMITE!

Senate File No. 112, introduced by Senator Scott of Red Willow, should be carefully studied, not only by the legislators but by every citizen of Nebraska.

This bill proposes to amend Section 1383 of the Compiled Statutes relating to the death of a person by wrongful act, neglect, or default of any person, company or corporation; to repeal said original sec-

tion, and to declare an emergency. This bill fixes the minimum for death at \$5,000. On first thought this might seem to be just and proper. But it is also provided that when an action is brought "it shall not be necessary to allege or prove damages by reason of such death." Unless so alleged, however, no recovery shall be had in excess

Nor is the representative allowed to compromise

Prosperous Nebraska

Things are sitting pretty out in Nebraska, not-withstanding 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 \$206,000,000. Then add \$250,000,000 more for cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and dairy prod-

Thus the value of all the agricultural products for Nebraska this year will be nearly \$750,000,000, or an overage 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

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 dimity, 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 af-

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

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

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 Davie

MY BOY.

My boy is nearly three-A great big man is he, According to the way He struts about all day.

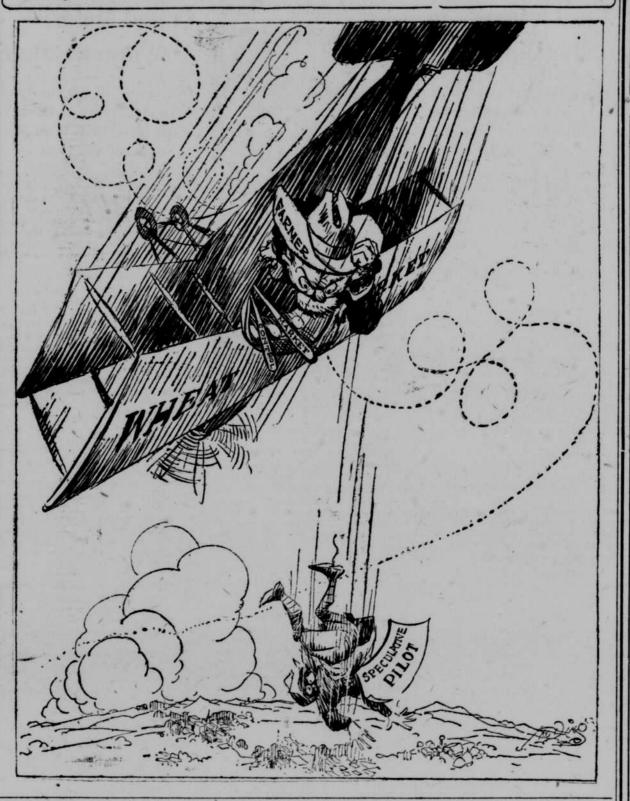
I'm quite surprised to know That he so soon should grow To be a man, but 'tis Just what he says he is.

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

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 he "My mamma's lap is best for me. Really About Time He Began to Learn to Handle Those Levers



Letters From Our Readers

third year and four months on each

Chairman of Legislative Committee of County Attorneys' Association.

Temperamental Relief.

"Are you going to see the new un erworld play?"

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum.

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od, attacks the seat of the tre

and destroys the germs that lead to

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bronchitis and other forms of throat and lung diseases, and is excellent for

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or cold, no matter of how long standing, is not relieved after taking accord

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EMAND

Pleads for Married Men.

Pleads 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 in the two classes of crimes of violence, murder and robbery. Murtiness the succeeding year.

The bill referred to by your editorial had no application whatsoever to the power of the pardon and parole board. However, there is another measure pending in the house, which proposes that in the cases of murder in any degree, or robbery, the board is succeeding year.

The bill referred to by your editorial had no application whatsoever to the power of the pardon and parole board. However, there is another measure pending in the house, which proposes that in the cases of murder in any degree, or robbery, the board is succeeding year. house, why doesn't he put in a bill violence, murder and robbery. Murthat will tax all bachelors that are der and robbery are increasing at 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 child-birth. That would give a married der and robbery are increasing at such a rapid rate throughout the entire nation that something must be done to protect the public, besides making heroes and heroines of criminals, and holding out the hope of early immunity for temporary good behavior when inside the prison walls, where temptation is reduced to the That would give a married where temptation is reduced to the minimum. man some inducements.

INTERESTED FOLLOWER. 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

'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

It was the conclusion of the county attorneys, whose duty it is to follow the course of those they have suc-cessfully 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 circum-stances surrounding the crime and the life of the criminal and impose

sentence accordingly.

No other method has been suggest ed whereby penalties may be made certain. Such a change would not take away the incentive of the prison-er for good behavior, because the law ow 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 ther's a lively demand for fancy (Copyright, 1928.)

o' like momentarily to get into the atmosphere of it."-Washington Star,

"Did your last employer give you a

"What did he say?"

When in Omaha

"My indignation has been consider ably aroused. My public position for-bids me to use profanity, but I'd kind

Best of the Ousted.

"Yes, but it doesn't seem to be any

"He said I was one of the best men his firm had ever turned out."-London Telegraph.

250 Rooms-250 Baths-Rates \$2 to \$3

Overcrowded Farham street car. Seats mostly fined by young fölks. 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 Bedslat clubs in Omaha.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

SUNNY SIDE UP

Jake Comfort nor forget, That Sunrise never failed us yet.

Cosmo Hamilton, whose real name is Gibbs, being impelled

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, deah boy, should get a new monocle. 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 Belascos 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

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

tional Education Forum, whatever that is, gives us a distinct pain. She ought to take something for what alls 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 kiddles, and are

now beginning on a procession of grandchildren. And, by the cow 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 grand-children listen. And Dr. Winifred Sackville Stoner can go hang

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 shat-

hor repined when our latth in Franklin and his kite was shat-tered. We shed not a tear when informed that William Tell never shot an apple from his son's head. But, by the great horn-spoon, 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 up-lifters and child protectors to patch Gehenna eight furlongs.

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 advis-

ability of organizing a company to prospect. Samuel Miles and

Matt LeBlanc, old residents, were among those who offered to subscribe. But the project died a-bornin'. John Gagnon of Falls City was a Rulo resident at that time, and doubtless he

Overcrowded Farnam street car. Seats mostly filled by

The news about the coal mine near Rulo intrigues us.

Dr. Winifred Sackville Stoner, vice president of the Na-

are doing the right thing with them.

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

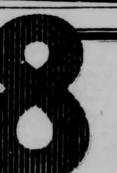
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The CONSERVATIVE (Gas)

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