

# THE OMAHA BEE

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## Omaha—Where the West is at its Best

### THE RESURRECTION MORN.

For nearly two thousand years the sweetest story that has rung in the years of mankind is that which is to be repeated this day wherever the Christian religion has penetrated. It is the story of the resurrection—ringing and ringing from generation to generation, inspiring the hearts of the faint, giving new courage to the hopeless and strengthening the feeble footsteps of age tottering on the brink of the grave.

"And if Christ be not asleep, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain," declared the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian brethren.

It is upon the faith that Jesus Christ arose from the dead that the Christian religion is founded. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable," again declared the great evangelist who picked up the fallen torch of Christianity and fanned it to a brighter and stronger flame that has since lighted the whole world. Try as they may to discount the fact of Christ, atheists and agnostics stand mute in the presence of the intrepid Paul.

It was faith in this risen Christ that served the primitive Christians to walk into the lion-infested arenas calmly and unafraid. It is the faith that has dared unknown and unparalleled dangers to carry enlightenment. It is that faith, blooming and blossoming into unselfish service, that has founded hospitals, alleviated distress, builded orphanages and lifted mankind to higher levels. It is the faith that has lifted mountains of doubt, given solace to the afflicted and carried millions to the tombs without fear or faltering.

Faith in the risen Christ has withstood the fiercest assaults through a score of centuries, and is today stronger than ever before. The gentle Jew, born in the lowly manger of Bethlehem, this kindly philosopher of the valleys and plains of Judea, this minister of love and service, crucified on Christ's cross and buried in a borrowed tomb—this risen Christ before whom millions bow today in humble adoration—lives in the hearts of mankind.

Slowly, but surely, it is dawning upon the world that its hope for salvation from devastating wars and national and racial misunderstandings, lies not in the wisdom of diplomats and statesmen, but in the application of the principles laid down by this journeyman Carpenter of Nazareth when He spoke from the mountain. In that sermon, never approached by mortal man in eloquence and kindly philosophy, is to be found the only safe and sound basis upon which to build lasting peace and universal prosperity.

It is because this is becoming more fully recognized as the days come and go that increasing millions each succeeding resurrection morn gather to sing praise to the risen Lord; to strew His altars with the brightest blossoms of spring, and to acknowledge His sovereignty and His power.

### MR. SCANDRETT STEPS UP.

Years ago an American poet sat himself down and wrote the following lines:

"The heights by great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight;  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upward in the night."

H. A. Scandrett, recently promoted to a vice presidency of the Union Pacific system, did not reach that high position by sudden flight or favoritism. He earned the promotion by diligent and efficient service, performing faithfully and well each duty falling upon his shoulders as he toiled upward.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago Mr. Scandrett began service with the Union Pacific as a clerk in the claim department. His rise has been steady but not spectacular. From claim department he went to the legal department, and later became assistant interstate commerce attorney of the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific. During the greater part of the World War he was assistant director of traffic. At the close of the war he returned to the Union Pacific as valuation and commerce counsel. His experience and his ability combine to make him a valuable man, and this combination is recognized by his superior officers in the creation of a special vice presidency that clothes him with greater powers and responsibilities.

It was not luck. It was not sitting around whining about having no chance. It was pluck backed by industry and intense application. Mr. Scandrett studied his job, loved it and gave it his best. That is the simple explanation of his repeated promotions. It also explains why those promotions have won for him the congratulations of his fellows.

Concealed in the life story of H. A. Scandrett is a moral that a host of young fellows in these parts would do well to search out and study.

### GOING AFTER THE PIRATES.

A long delayed movement to protect honest buyers and sellers is getting under way. The National Association of Credit Men proposes a relentless war on dishonest buyers. Fly-by-night concerns, who make a fictitious showing of credit, obtain goods for quick cash sales and then flee. Other concerns who abuse legitimate credit, and slip into bankruptcy, when the pinch comes. Individuals who get possession of goods, dispose of them and disappear.

And those who delay payment until the creditor accepts a compromise and loss in order to save a little. Against these will be directed the power of a great organization. One million dollars has been set apart as ammunition for the war, and the courts will be appealed to in every case where fraud or dishonesty appears or is suspected.

People who habitually meet their obligations will in the end be the gainers. Every going concern must take into account the factor of bad debts. That means that the percentage of uncollectable credits affects the ratings of all who do pay. Every honest buyer makes his purchase with something of a feeling that part of the price he pays goes to provide the deadbeat with what he consumes. No matter whether it is the manufacturer, the jobber, the retailer, the one who produces the raw material, the effect of the crook, swindler or deadbeat is the same.

The job is a huge one, because the business of the country is so vast. Resting as it does, on the element of personal responsibility, the factor of credit is the fundamental of commerce. Unless it is preserved, disorder and disaster are certain. It is to be hoped the credit men will pursue and exterminate if possible those who prey on society through the abuse of credit.

### JEW'S NEW CENTER OF CULTURE.

Protests by the followers of Mahomet marked the ceremony of the opening of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem. Balfour was hooted and jeered by mobs. At Damascus, where he visited afterward, the house where he lodged was stoned. These demonstrations only serve to emphasize the universal rejoicing of the Jew, who sees in the event one more great institution to buttress his renewed hold on Palestine.

All over the United States the Jews express great joy at the opening of the school that is to solidify and strengthen the national aspiration of the race that has so long wandered among other nations of the earth. It is a strange commingling of racial and religious pride, modified by an intense devotion to the land in which they are now permitted to walk upright as freemen. It was England that promised them support and protection in recovery of Palestine. It was largely contributions from the United States that made that recovery possible. Balfour gave it the political, but America provided the financial, impetus that brought success.

So Jews in America rejoice, but with no thought of giving over citizenship in this land to assume that of the new kingdom of Judea. The rejoicing is that a national home has been provided for those of the race who have been so long without a country. Constricted to the Pale, beyond which they ventured at hazard of life at times, and always of liberty. Restricted in opportunity, forbidden access to schools to the support of which they were compelled to contribute. Occupations closed to them. Oppressed in every material way. Now, in recovered Palestine, all this will vanish, and again the proud race will take its place among the nations of the earth.

Singularly appropriate, too, is the establishment of a university as the first step toward future greatness builded on a recovered past. For it was the Jew who, through the long centuries of intellectual darkness in Christian Europe, kept alive the light of learning, of science. Jews were the doctors, the lawyers, the astronomers, the teachers. From Athens and Alexandria, Constantinople and Jerusalem, they carried their learning to Bagdad, to other centers of Islam's flowering greatness, and divided with the Arab the lore they labored together to advance. Through Spain and France and Italy they penetrated Europe, and when the time came, it was to Jews the scholars of Europe found themselves indebted for the preservation of pure science.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, new though it is, has behind it many centuries of cultural triumph. It should be a beacon light to the Jew alone, but to civilization, for what it represents. And the political outbursts that accompanied its dedication should presage clearing skies for the magnificent enterprise.

### HOW TO ACT.

"If he had acted as a gentleman and allowed the men to search him, there would have been no trouble."

Thus is Bob Samardick quoted as saying in reference to the assault upon Dr. Wearne by men under Samardick's command.

Respectable law-abiding citizens are thus notified how to act when accosted and seized by unknown individuals. The assailants may be prohibition enforcement officers, or they may be mere rough-necks not commissioned by the federal government. They may be searching for liquor, or they may merely be staging a holdup. In either event the citizen should act as a gentleman and make no resistance. If his assailants happen to be dry agents he may get away with nothing more than a mere search for liquor. If they happen to be another kind of holdup artists he may lose his purse and watch and a few bits of jewelry, but he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he not only acted as a gentleman but was treated in a most gentlemanly manner.

But the main thing is to act as a gentleman when a couple of unknown gentlemen seize you and proceed to haul you around while patting your pockets to see what you possess. If you resent treatment of that kind, of course you are no gentleman. No gentleman would even think of resenting being pounced upon at the door of his own domicile by unknown men. However, it would simplify matters if the federal prohibition authorities would act upon the example of their esteemed monitor, Lord Chesterfield, and make public a few lines defining just what gentlemanly conduct is. In these changing times it is difficult for even the most diligent to keep up. Mr. Samardick has a hard and a thankless job; it is admitted he often has to deal with hard characters. The problem of prohibition enforcement can not be solved, however, by calling upon men, accosted as was Dr. Wearne, to act as gentlemen.

The Birmingham (Ala.) News kindly informs us that down there "the negroes in the main are not concerned about the ballot and neither register nor offer to vote." It seems that we have heard something to that effect before.

The corking-up of Count Karolyi did not deprive the American public of much, if his Montreal speech is a fair example of what he had to say.

It would be pleasing to hear of some act performed by a federal board or commission that met with universal approval.

A city 10,000 years old has been discovered in Nevada. Probably that is where the latest new stories originated.

Secretary Mellon has returned from his trip to Bermuda. We hope he was on the scent of another way to reduce taxes.

The "T. N. E." boys know where they stand at Crighton.

## Revised Intangible Tax Law

By THOMAS J. FITZMORRIS,  
Secretary Nebraska League of Savings and Loan Associations.

During the legislative fight on the senate revision of the intangible tax law and the subsequent amendments made by the conference committee, which whipped the measure into shape for enactment with his emergency clause, misunderstandings arose as to the scope of the law and its effect upon intangibles classified for taxation. News reports from Lincoln stated that building, savings and loan association shares were classed for taxation with bank stock. Another report represented that under the provisions of the bill adopted building and loan stocks are exempt, while banks will be taxed on 70 per cent of the capital employed.

A summary of the amended law now in force, made from an engrossed copy, disposes of the erroneous reports and makes for a better understanding of the provisions.

The difference between the old and amended intangible tax law takes four forms: Division of intangibles into two classes; applying a different rate of taxation to each class; the tax on bank stock, and the addition of searching penalties for evasion.

### Classification of Intangibles.

Class A consists of "money, United States legal tender notes and other securities of the United States payable on demand, savings accounts, all bank deposits, bills of exchange, checks and drafts." Assessed and taxed at 2 1/2 mills on the dollar of the actual value.

Class B includes "all other kinds of intangible property which is not included in Class A, namely: Gross credits, including corporation shares and stocks, notes (other than notes secured by mortgages on real estate situated in this state), contracts for cash or labor, judgments, choses in action, liens of any kind (other than those secured by mortgages on real estate situated in this state), securities, debentures, bonds (other than those of the United States or of this state or governmental subdivision of this state), annuities, and all other demands for labor or other valuable thing, whether due or to become due, and all other intangible property, except as otherwise provided" in the act. Taxed at 5 mills on the actual value, assessed and collected where the owner resides.

The capital stock of "every bank or banking association, loan and trust or investment company" is to be assessed "at 70 per cent of the mill rate at which tangible property is assessed in the taxing district" where the institution is located.

### Taxation of Mutual Associations.

Building, savings and loan associations are not classed with banks for tax purposes, nor is any of their assets exempt from taxation. Only in one way does the amended law change the tax on shares reported by the members, and that is by substituting for the former 25 per cent of the tangible rate a straight 5-mill tax on the taxable value of the shares scheduled by the owners. Directly and indirectly the measure will save associations pay taxes in three ways: A tax of 4 mills on

the gross income of each association; a 5-mill tax on the taxable value of shares reported by the owners; the mortgage tax interest on real estate pledged as security for loans, paid by borrowing members.

### Deductions Allowed.

The taxable value of shares or stocks of corporations is arrived at by deducting the value of the property taxed in some other way, such as real estate, notes secured by mortgages on Nebraska real estate, etc. Associations are corporate bodies entitled to the deductions provided by law. Otherwise double taxation would result.

Notes secured by mortgages on Nebraska real estate, on which the borrowing members pay the tax, the office buildings, furniture and fixtures, and real estate acquired in course of business, all taxed at the tangible rate and paid by the associations, constituted 92 1/2 per cent of the total assets of Nebraska associations on June 30, 1924. Officials reports on that date, compiled by the state department of trade and commerce, show total assets of \$123,021,550, of which \$110,843,804 were scheduled as first mortgage real estate loans, and \$9,724,224 as office buildings, furniture and fixtures and other real estate, taxed as tangible property. The gross rate and paid by the associations, covers cash on hand and loans to members on pass book security, totaling \$4,577,923, leaving \$3,600,000 of the combined assets of associations on which to base the taxable value of shares reported by the owners for taxation.

State Tax Commissioner Williams announces that the taxable value of association shares reported for taxation by the owners this year will be 10 per cent of the sum reported taxable at 5 mills. The tax amounts to 50 cents on each \$1,000 reported to assessors. The commissioner's ruling is the same as that made by his predecessors, Commissioners Osborne and Smith.

### Penalties for Evasion.

The "teeth" in the amended law, fashioned by Representative Bynum and Senator Robbins, does not go into effect until April 1, 1925. The legislators had deemed a year none too long for the grime to harden and the public become familiar with the size and griping power of the "molars." It is enough to point out at this time that assessing officers, if suspicious reports are turned in, are empowered to summon the suspects, "require the production of any books, records or papers containing evidence of such property. The person summoned shall answer under oath and give all information which he may possess." "If any person or persons are summoned shall be excused from answering any question put to him on the ground that his answer might tend to incriminate him, but no answer he shall make shall be used against him in any criminal prosecution."

When concealment or undervaluation is proven, the cost of the investigation is to be assessed against the property involved, together with "a penalty of 500 per cent of the total value of all the property listed and returned." Neglecting or refusing to comply with the act involves a fine ranging from \$10 to \$2,000 and cost, and confinement in a county jail until paid, besides the additional risk of prosecution for perjury.

### Petitioning a Senator

Oxford, Neb.—To the Editor of the Omaha Bee: Truth is often magnified by jest, as for example, the Houston Post-Dispatch says, "nothing has so cured recently to sending a desirable party to abandon the grand old jackass as our sacred party emblem." Democrats recently confessed that their overwhelming defeat could be traced to their pre-election tieup with republican insurgents in their attempt to besmirch the administration. They avowed they would never do it again, and as Coolidge had been chosen to administer the government, they would co-operate with him in trying out his government policies and the insurgent wrecking crew could stop put to him on the ground that his answer might tend to incriminate him, but no answer he shall make shall be used against him in any criminal prosecution."

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Surely, the Post-Dispatch was right. When one considers that Bryan lodged the same objection to Davis that the insurgents trumped up against Warren, the inconsistency of the democrats is shown to be 100 per cent. It is true that Nebraska republicans have nothing to boast of in this matter, unless it is the expert gallery playing of our senior senator. All parties trying to do him wrong were eclipsed when, in the closing hours of the senate, Norris arose and, in tremulous tones, told of the grave danger that the party to abandon the grand old jackass as our sacred party emblem. This Bryan was capable of throwing great balls of propaganda into Washington with fearful force. For some reason, the senate didn't move to investigate, probably because George has been seeing spooks, monopolists and political bosses under his bed for years. There is always some emblem that would be more artistic and up-to-date than the old one, which the high-brows have come to regard as real low-brow stuff. The picture of an apron worn at an antiparty meeting out "equality before the law" may have been good enough 50 years ago, but the style in emblems is supposed to have changed materially in

Nebraska republicans who petitioned Norris were not acquainted with the senator, or they would have known better. It is true the constitution says the right of petition shall not be abridged, but that is an old doctrine. Progressive Norris will accept only petitions that read, "follow your own sweet will and please allow us to apply for a special exception to the rule, when his will may be ignored, ya, even trodden under foot. That is when petitioning him to run for office when it is absolutely against his wishes and best judgment. My sympathy goes out to that vast block of voters who wired all those petitions. Norris was not acquainted with the senator, or they would have known better. It is true the constitution says the right of petition shall not be abridged, but that is an old doctrine. 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