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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

SPOTLIGHT ON CONTRIBUTIONS.

Sentiment in the senate is unanimous that all campaign contributions be given the fullest possible publicity. An amendment to this effect was attached by unanimous consent to the Kelley-Edge postal pay bill now under consideration. It will become a law only if and when the bill is passed and the house consents to the amendment. That still is on the knees of the gods, but the principle is declared very plainly.

No objection can reasonably be lodged against the proposal. No political party can afford to accept money from a source it would be interested in concealing. Political campaigns, however, have reached the point where very large sums of money are required to carry on the work of organizing to successfully propagate the legitimate purposes of the party's work. This money will come only from those who are interested in the success of the party whose cause they espouse. It has not been a matter of favoritism, as so many charge, which has led to the giving of large sums of money by wealthy individuals or corporations. Jay Gould is recorded as having once testified that he was a democrat or a republican according to the political complexion of the state in which he was operating. This meant that he has contributed to both parties. The same is and has been true of others. In the recent inquiry at Washington it was brought out that Dohney contributed to one party and Sinclair to the other, leaving honors even so far as tainted oil funds were concerned.

Particular stress is laid on the amendment as being of service in determining which of the officers of the public service give, how much and to what party. Nothing can be alleged against this, save that it may operate to expose the official who is reluctant to contribute to the scrutiny of the party leaders. Thus some will be constrained to make payment to campaign funds perhaps against their will, for fear of incurring displeasure of those who may hold power over their jobs. Here is one place where pitiless publicity may also be of harm quite as much as any good it will do. Efforts to reduce expenditure on campaigns are commendable. Great sums of money have been lavished by candidates and their supporters, to the infinite scandal of all, and yet not for corrupt purposes. Candidates as well as parties must get their case before the voters, and to do this efficiently are compelled to resort to various devices that are costly. It is possible that a slowing down of the general machinery may be brought about with no harm resulting, yet each of the rival aspirants is out for the votes he feels he needs, and so it is but natural that each will exert himself to the utmost to secure those votes. The man who has already established himself in the public mind has a distinct advantage over the man who is comparatively unknown, and so the latter is at greater expense if he seeks to overcome the disparity by informing the voters with regard to himself. Such illustrations of the necessity for campaign expenditures may be multiplied many times. They are commonly understood, and the people know that a huge campaign fund does not of itself imply widespread corruption of the electors.

In the end the existence of our government in all its ways and its ramifications rests with the people. Only as the majority of those who go to the polls decide is the course of government shaped. It is absurd to talk of wholesale bribery of voters in a land where 54,000,000 are clothed with the franchise and have a right to exercise it. If only a minority of these take the trouble to vote, the laggards have taken bribes of their own indolence or indifference, and are not influenced by the campaign fund, however munificent or lavish it may be. Nor do the energetic, patriotic workers feel in the presence of such a fund the urge to go with it to the end. Our national, as well as our local, elections turn on something higher, nobler, more worthy in every respect, than the sum of cash that is at the disposal of a campaign committee.

ROMANCE DYING OUT OF SEA LIFE.

Stories of deep sea romance in the future will have to be written with some consideration to the effect of the La Follette seaman's law. Yarns that have entertained us from the days of Tyre have been bristled with rope's ends and belaying pins. The ready fist of the bucko mate has always enforced discipline and obedience, quelled mutiny, silenced the sea lawyer, and brought the craft safe to harbor. Sometimes the stark brutality of the episodes has shocked our sensibilities, but as a rule it has been accepted as an indispensable part of sailing before the mast.

A verdict just returned at Seattle will take some of the joy out of the life of the bully in authority. Four members of a crew who had been manhandled by the first mate have just been awarded \$14,500 as damages in a suit brought against the vessel's owners. The mate is in prison, serving a term for his assaults on the sailor men. He was an adept in the use of the rope's end and the belaying pin, and made life correspondingly interesting for the men over whom he had been set. A jury several months ago listened to the tale of seamen who had been abused by this brute, and he was accordingly sent to prison.

Now justice reaches out a little farther, and condemns his employers to make money payment to his victims. This will be approved by all who will give the matter a little attention. The case will doubtless be noted carefully in shipping circles, and will have

its effect on the lives of sailormen in the future. Slowly they are working up to the status of human beings from a condition of abject slavery, to which once they were condemned by a decision of the United States supreme court. The lives of those who go down to the sea in ships will be safer because of this.

JOHN L. McCAGUE.

One of the real builders of Omaha has entered into rest. John L. McCague, although born in Egypt, where his father was a builder as well as a missionary, had lived 57 of his 69 years in Omaha. From boyhood he was active, energetic and enterprising. His manhood years were devoted to enterprises that developed greatly for the benefit of the community in which he made his home. Many monuments to his work may be noted about the city. He was one of the group that made the East Omaha bridge over the Missouri river a possibility. He assisted in financing and erecting a big business block at a time when depression had discouraged others. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce his services were notable, especially during those years he served as chairman of what is now the municipal affairs committee of the chamber.

In church work he was no less active. Uncompromising in his stand for private as well as public righteousness, he took a quiet but influential part in building up the spiritual and cultural elements of city life, and in this, too, he has left many outstanding works that keep his name alive for years to come.

Any city is better for having in its working ranks men like John L. McCague, no city can have too many of them. Such men are the builders in the truest sense, for they round out their work to perfection by balancing the material with the spiritual, and holding only well done that which squares morally as well as commercially. Such a man was John L. McCague, who will be sorely missed by the community for which he did so much while living.

UP GO THE BARS.

President Coolidge has signed the new immigration bill, and it is now a law. Aside from the Japanese exclusion provision, over which such wide debate has followed since its passage, the main features of the law is that it greatly reduces the tide of possible immigration from southern Europe. Italy is most affected by this, although Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey also feel its effects in proportion.

Under the new law, the chief immigration for the future will be from Great Britain or Germany. Sweden will come next, with Italy, Poland, Russia and France following. The total number of aliens to be admitted under the new law is cut a little more than half, and hereafter examination must be at the port of departure, so that most if not all the delay at our ports of entry will be removed.

President Coolidge expresses regret that the blow to Japan was not softened in some degree, but congress was determined on the classification of Japanese with other Asiatic undesirables. The position of the government has been made plain to Japan, and it is not expected that relations will be interrupted on this account. Ambassador Wood is returning from Tokio, his resignation said to be due to his displeasure at the exclusion measure. Right or wrong, the action of congress is in line with the feeling of this country, where orientals are not in high favor at the present.

In putting up the bars so high, congress has yielded to a pressure of public opinion that the United States is no longer a haven for the surplus populations of all other nations. Our own domestic situation calls for consideration. Problems of immigration and the assimilation of new population are alike social, industrial and political, and have become acute since the war. The bar to unrestricted immigration was put up long ago to exclude classified undesirables, but with the coming of peace it was found necessary to limit the number of those who might at all points stand inspection.

A stiffer law, with provisions that will not be so easily evaded and circumvented, is the outcome of the experience with the first law, which was extended to operate until July 1 of this year. Fewer immigrants and those of a higher type, will now be permitted to land in this country. If no other good comes from the law, the reduction in numbers will give time to more satisfactorily adjust those who already have come. What is sought is thrifty, industrious, frugal people, who come with the intention of becoming citizens, to enjoy with all other citizens the rights and privileges of citizenship in the republic. These will be welcome. The mere sojourner, whose sole interest is the money he can gather here, is no longer regarded as an asset and will find it hard to gain entrance to the land that has flowed milk and honey for him in days gone by.

William Jennings Bryan is again showing his versatility and adaptability as well by participating in the Presbyterian general assembly and anticipating the democratic national convention at the same time.

A tiger went to sleep on a waltz and the lion grinned at the saxophone, showing that animals are sometimes almost human.

Victor Herbert will be best remembered as a composer who could write popular music without using a tin pan or a cow bell.

President Coolidge still finds it impossible to please the democrats. Maybe he is not trying to.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

ISAAC'S FARM IN SUMMER.

Isaac's corn is growing swiftly, and his wheat's a sight to see. In the garden the potatoes reach halfway to Isaac's knee. Phoebus grants the balm that's needed, while the humid clouds of Thor Do not hesitate to sanction all that Isaac's asking for. Round his cottage climbs the woodbine, and exalted dahlias grow Where the eyes in summer showers take the rushing overflow. And along the weed-bid fences domineering hornets guard. And the Wyandotts are clucking in the mammoth chicken yard. Isaac's cattle roam the valley and his pigs plow up the lane.— Isaac's faithful collie warns them though his purpose be in vain: In the skies the crows are winging, while a hawk in yonder tree Eyes his prey, but keeps on swinging on the branches o'er the sea. Isaac hums the same old anthem while he plows and does the chores.— He's as cheerful and as robust as the endless Out of Doors. And you'd never know to see him the uncertainty of things Where the loam is garbed in beauty, and the swallow sweetly sings.

Rehearsing for the Grand Summer Festival



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.

Even Break He Asks.

Stanton, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In reply to the letter which "Old Fogey," who has rightly termed himself, I would like to say it seems as though "Old Fogey" has the impression that so many others have that the ex-service men want pay for what they did for their country, but that is not so, as it has been explained by thousands of others. All we want is an even break with those who were left in this country while we were in the service of our country for \$1 per day. What were the wages those here working in the fields and factories and shops? Common labor then was not less than \$7 per day and from that upto \$20. Show me where an ex-service man can step out today and make that, even if he is an able-bodied man. Again, show me where there is one man who saw service in the firing lines that is really an able-bodied man. At the age of 50 years there will not be but a darning few of them that will be able to hold up his end of anything. We admit that the folks left suffered and had a hard time, but they were making dollars where we were making cents. Give us the chance to make those wages and we won't want a bonus. How much cheaper is living expenses now to what they were then? Very little. I can tell you, and if a man gets \$2.50 or \$3 a day now he is going some. He talks of the millions of dollars that were spent for wool to make socks and sweaters for us. That is true, but does he stop to think that outside of what few things the government gave us, we had to pay and pay damned dear for? No. He don't know about that, or, perhaps, he thinks that is all O. K. Look at the tobacco that was collected here for us fellows; it was given her free gratis for us, but very little we ever got that way. I myself have paid 25 to 30 cents a can for tobacco and for a little sack of Bull Durham I have paid 20 cents. O, what time I had the 20 cents to pay for it. No, "Old Fogey" you have got us wrong. Give us a chance. That is all we ask. How many of the ex-service men can step in and take back their old jobs and get away with it? No many, I can tell you. Perhaps, old fellow, you are one of those who are a newly made millionaire and afraid you might have to jar loose of some of it. That would be tough, I'll admit, but, old dear, come up with wages or down with living expenses and let us break even, and we will get ours without a bonus. AN EX-SERVICE MAN.

How to Reach Happiness.

New York.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Ever since the conclusion of the great war nations have been absorbed in discovering a way to permanent peace. Propositions galore have been analyzed with a fine-tooth comb and found wanting. It is said that charity begins at home, perhaps this might also apply to peace. In my opinion the strongest argument for permanent peace is an industrial condition that secures prosperity to all the people, and from which contentment, happiness and a strong aversion to war would inevitably follow. It would seem, therefore, that this problem is neither political nor moral, but economic. The exploitation of natural resources is usually the principal cause of war between nations. The logical remedy, therefore, is to destroy all profit in the mere ownership of land, considered entirely apart from its possession for use, which is both right and necessary. Private ownership in land is not essential to its best use for it is not true that most of the business in New York and other large cities is done on leased land? This result can be accomplished by raising all public revenues exclusively from economic rent. The land values of the United States apart from the value of buildings or other improvements, are estimated in round figures at \$140,000,000,000, and the economic rent, which is the equivalent of 5 per cent of this value, will yield in taxes \$7,000,000,000, the approximate amount collected from all sources last year for the national, state and local governments. Since enough from this source alone can therefore be raised for all governmental expense, we could abolish all taxes that now hamper trade, strangle production and check industry and thrift. Society unconsciously condemns stealing as between individuals, but

Abe Martin



With their mansions full of fake Rembrandts and their cellars full of counterfeit labels, the rich have a hard time of it. Lester Moon has refused a position in our state bank as he's gun shy. (Copyright, 1924.)

NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION for April, 1924, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 74,265 Sunday 77,999 Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers applied in printing and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind. V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of May, 1924. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public (Seal)

SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget That sunrise never failed us yet Colia Thadler

During the past few days we have interviewed several prominent political leaders on the matter of osculatory performance. The recent incident in a meeting of the committee investigating the Muscle Shoals matter aroused our curiosity, hence the interviews. Most of the eminent politicians were unwilling to be quoted, but quite willing to express their views privately. Without exception they admitted a willingness to accept all the osculatory caresses that the young white misses of the south might feel inclined to bestow upon them. As a matter of fact, they did not draw any dividing line between the sections, the only line being one of color.

"I not only would be proud and grateful to be the recipient of those greetings, but the fact that there might be a chance to secure such an ever increasing number would be a great inducement to me to be a candidate for the senatorship," declared one well known leader. "In my opinion, Senator Norris made a mistake in exhibiting so much feeling."

The only one interviewed who endorsed the senator's actions was a very elderly maiden lady whose nose and chin almost met, and whose visage was as sour as a green Ben Davis apple. But her anger was directed at the young lady charged with having bestowed the kiss. "She was very un ladylike," declared the elderly maiden lady. "I'd die first."

Somehow or other the incident in question recalls to mind an instance somewhat similar in the life of another Nebraska senator, although in the case of the latter it wasn't a kiss, it was a rose. We have never been a senator, and never expect to be, but if so be we are ever elevated to that high position we would have it understood here and now that any osculatory caresses bestowed upon these senatorial lips will not be advertised by us, but, on the other hand, if they are ever mentioned, we are not going to deny them. We shall merely blush modestly and indicate, at least by inference, that we expect always to be in a receptive mood.

The time spent by a lot of young fellows in cultivating a dinky little bit of fuzz on the upper lip would make this country prosperous if devoted to cultivating corn or cotton.

We suggest to those who would eradicate the dandelion that they call a mass meeting, adopt some Ringing Resolutions and appoint a committee to Draft a Law. After securing the enactment of a law prohibiting dandelions everybody would forget the whole business and the dandelion would, perforce, cease to be a nuisance.

Now that it is all over and we may not be rightfully charged with being a "knocker," we wish to declare that this rodeo stuff never did make a hit with us. While a member of a party touring Mexico some years ago, the alcalde of one city offered to get up a bull fight and guarantee the killing of two bulls if the party would make up a purse of several hundred dollars. By unanimous vote the party offered to put up the money if the alcalde would guarantee that the bulls would kill two Mexicans; otherwise no deal.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

solive none of its favors. The real beneficiaries of the tariff are the protected manufacturers who urge it for the purpose of maintaining prices without regard to wages or anything else that concerns the improvement of labor. When we set ourselves to righting economic wrongs we shall have taken a long step forward in the direction of permanent peace. E. B. SWINNEY.

Center Shots

Democratic women are said to be compiling a democratic convention cook book. To such extremes are men forced by an amended constitution.—Philadelphia Bulletin. All President Coolidge needs is a suggestion of some way to make the Japanese regard exclusion as a compliment.—Boston Globe. We don't see how those western reformers can complain of graft. Senator Magnus Johnson opens this ses-

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