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Thought for the Day
Selected by C. J. Smyth
How'er it be, it seems to me 'Tis only nobles to be good.

Can President Wilson, by indirectness, repeal the ninth commandment of Baltimore? Colonel Bryan has the floor.

It is hardly fair to speak of Arizona as strictly dry, when the cactus state has an occasional spring flood.

It takes more money to run the county than it used to before the legislature tacked on a few costly frills at our expense.

Lieutenant Governor Pearson might put some push behind his opening remarks by declaring a moratorium on hot air.

The next suffrage campaign blacklist of antagonistic congressmen will look like our shoe-string ballot if it takes them all in.

Still, the fact that Great Britain has treated the shipping of other countries no more gently than ours, offers us no great consolation.

It is not a question of a full-weight loaf or a short-weight loaf. Any kind of a loaf is welcome in these days of democratic prosperity.

The Journal of our state senate printed day by day makes its appearance on pink paper, but the contents will disclose a few yellow streaks before long.

The legislator who inscribes his name on one of those hoary old holdup bills advertises himself either as a knave or as an easy mark for some other knave.

The action of the repudiated governor of South Carolina in emptying state prisons goes to show that lunatic asylums are not getting their rightful share of business.

The attention of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Statesmen is called to the shameless rule which invites Nebraska lawmakers "to lick the stamps they pay for."

That nepotism evil seems to have made itself odious and odorless also down in Missouri, where it is proposed to stop it by law as it should be stopped everywhere.

In moving for court reform and judicial restriction, Senator Quincy is treading on dangerous ground. Reforms of that character are the special province of bar associations.

The movement launched by societies of women in Washington to unite and nationalize efforts for world peace faces a tremendous task at the present time. The very greatness of the task is all the more reason for concerted action.

Thirty Years Ago
This Day in Omaha
Compiled from Bee files

John D. Howe, attorney for the M. & O., came down from St. Paul, and was meeting his many friends.

Miss R. M. Hood invites the women to call at her room at the Arcade hotel and examine her work in painting and needlework.

Daily church has arranged a course of winter lectures to be given by Rev. J. T. Sunderland of Chicago, Prof. C. M. Woodward of Washington university.

The much-talked-of grand charity ball, the crown social event of the season, took place at Boyd's opera house tonight.

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The President's Partisanship.
The dominant note of the comment on the president's Jackson day speech is its show of intense partisanship, and its promise of a distinctly partisan administration during the remainder of his term in the White House.

His own declarations now disclose him to be characteristically typical of the democratic party—perhaps the higher minded part of it, but nonetheless bounded in his vision by the democratic horizon.

In another place, the president gave a hint as to his idea of party obligations within the party when he threw a bouquet at the democratic senators from Indiana as two he "does not have to lie awake at nights thinking about."

Taken altogether the president's declaration of his partisanship must be viewed as a reflex of his "state of mind" that he believes, as would go without saying, that the democratic party is far superior to any and all other political parties.

The federal raid on the Terre Haute election manipulators, the most extensive of its kind, ought to have an invigorating effect, not alone on Indiana politics, but wherever "machine" control is still potent to direct the current of political life.

Organization is vitally essential to political success; without it little can be accomplished. Political parties are formed along certain fundamental lines, and with certain definite policies for government, and their operations can only be orderly followed through effective business management.

Once again the doctrine of state's rights has served the democrats in congress. This time it is used to dispose of the bothersome question of votes for women, by relegating the matter to the several states for disposition.

The southern states are very much concerned in the control of suffrage. Unless it be left to them to determine who may and who may not vote, it will be found impossible to effectually disfranchise the negro.

A professional base ball player is quoted as having said, in reply to a tempting offer to "jump": "I am legally and morally bound by my contract." In these days when so much is heard of "tearing up contracts," and the like, this utterance is refreshing.

The moral obligation contained in a contract is its most vital element; without it, the contract is worth but little, for when the moral obligation is ignored the only question left to be determined is, on which side does the greater profit lie? If it will pay better to observe the contract, then it will be fulfilled. It is the moral and not the legal obligation that makes a contract of any kind valid and binding.

Men who have done the world's work—perhaps not those whose names have loomed highest in the list, for history has accorded place to men who were more noted for breaking than keeping their pledges—the moral obligation has had the strictest observance. No higher tribute can be paid a man than the simple expression, "His word is good." It is the basis of business, for business, in the final analysis, rests on credit, and credit must have character to support it, and character recognizes moral responsibility in all undertakings.

The man who does not regard pledge or promise beyond the extent of his personal interest fails so far as achieving the best he may in life is concerned. No real success is built on broken pledges.

The Political Caldron

MAYOR Jim's alleged intention of going it alone in his fourth mayoralty race serves, paradoxically, both to soothe and to stir the local political market at one and the same time.

It bolls it for the crowd that demands a complete overhauling in the city hall and bears it for some of the mayor's present colleagues on the commission, who had counted on what help his alliance would be to them this time, as before.

Dahlgren, however, declares himself fixed in his determination (subject to change) to look out for No. 1. He knows better than anyone can tell him that Jim Dahlgren does not possess the political strength he did three, six or nine years ago.

How does Dahlgren's plan bull the anti-city hall crowd? It simply means to tie the element that instead of having a fence-high and hog-tight organization to fight, it will have five men, each following pretty much his own "cow." Or, of course, after Jim pulls away they may fall into separate alliances, as already intimated in this column—for instance, Kugel and Hummel going together, with McGovern, Withnell, Butler and possibly Lyder tying up. But even so, like the old man's seven sons, the compact will in that event be broken and thereafter weakened.

That's what the outside element is counting on, the element that seeks a completely new set of city officials. And Jim's "cash" about this element not amounting to much, amounts to a whole lot. It is quietly gathering strength. It comprises some of the most aggressive and yet conservative business men in the city, while, at the same time, the church and other "moral" factors. And, while this element as a whole expresses dissatisfaction with the present administration, it probably would demand a complete change even though impressed—as it must be—that some of the present commissioners have done some commendable things. As one man put it to the writer: "This agitation for a complete change in the commission is so strong that even though it is admitted that some of the present commissioners had done very well and were fairly good officials, it would still insist on a change. The feeling we have simply is that the city ought to have an entirely new set of men to head its civic affairs."

Now, that is a very fair index to this general feeling. And it won't do for any wisem, "practical" politician to sneer at it, for it is not a matter to be sneered away. Don't make the mistake of thinking that this agitation arises only from a small set of "theorists" or any thing of that sort. You'll find it in the nodules of as practical men as any who occupy official seats in the city hall.

Yet to date, it can be said that no "states" or "lickers" or even deceptive plans of organization have been determined on by what we may refer to as the "ants." The people, perhaps, are some of the men who engineered the anti fight in the last city campaign and they tell you that as yet they have not drawn their lines of battle, but are preparing to. It was said at the time of the late school board election that the citizens' ticket was to have an effect on the forthcoming city commission campaign. It triumphs naturally encouraged the belief that something similar may be accomplished in April and May. To be sure, some 2,200 regulars helped out "practically" materially at the November election who will not have the privilege of aiding in the spring fight and yet the citizens school board ticket would have fared tolerably well even without the women.

Then there is a psychological value to such a victory. Victory begets victory, just as defeat begets defeat. No one will say that the citizens' ticket bench is not stronger today than it was before or would have been in defeat. And what gives it a lot of tangible strength is the personnel of the men it put across. People are saying all over Omaha today that they would like to see a similar set of business men installed as city commissioners.

Twice Told Tales

His Performance.
Jesse R. Grant, the famous general's son, said in Reno the other day.
"Gaff, an old soldier, was so bored once by war talk that he broke out into a war story on his own account. He worked his story up in the conventional way, and at the climax he said:
'Yes, gentlemen, men fall by the dozen on every side of me. Bullets pelted down like hailstones. The roar of the big guns was deafening. Legs and arms, to say nothing of heads and bodies, were flying through the air in all directions. And then, by jingo, I saw we were out off!
'Holy smoke, man, what did you do?' asked a listener.
'If women voted there would be no more war,' minutes.'—San Francisco Chronicle.

Forewarned.
Senator Borah complained in Washington of an underground effort which was being made in certain quarters to defeat his recent bill.
'I would like to feel a little more frankness in the air,' said the senator. 'I wish the opponents of my bill would be as frank as the miner of Crispin Gulch. A foolish stranger once said to Three-Finger Sam of Crispin Gulch:
'Do you think it is polite for a man to sit in his shirt-sleeves and play cards all day?'
'Yes, sir,' answered Sam, 'and maybe it'll be for your own good to remind you that the fewer sleeves a man has on when he plays cards about here, the less liable he is to fall under suspicion.'

Defining Business.
A lawsuit was recently in full swing, and during its progress a witness was cross-examined as to the habits and character of the defendant.
'Has Mr. March a reputation for being abnormally lazy?' asked counsel briskly.
'Well, sir, it's this way—'
'Will you kindly answer the question asked?' struck in the irascible lawyer.
'Well, sir, I was going to say it's this way I don't want to do the defendant in question any further. As far as I know, he is a very busy man. He's very busy at his own part to digest his food—why, he's die from lack of nourishment, sir.'—Everybody's Magazine.



An Indignant Protest.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Jan. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: Yesterday's issue of The Bee there appeared a statement by a Mr. W. E. Martin, "A man plucking himself beyond attribution of righteous motive in proposing shutting off the allies supplies * * * either sinks to the lowest depth of sordidness or is a fool."

As a German-born American citizen who has given almost twenty-five years of incessant toil and sincere endeavor to the cause of public welfare in this great and glorious country, and who has even his enemies will admit—neither "sordid" nor a "fool." I most emphatically protest against such slanderous insinuations.

In due time this gigantic struggle will come to an end. And I am confident that the cause of righteousness and justice will then prevail. Germany will be victorious, because this war was not of its making—it has been driven to it by the enmity of France and Russia, aided and abetted by hypocritical England.

The attitude of England is explained by the decline of its commercial supremacy. Some time ago E. A. McKenzie wrote in the London Daily Mail: "Twenty years ago China's trade was absorbed by England. It was a case of Britain first, and the rest nowhere. This is no longer so. And at about the same time Ferdinand Banuierre, editor of the Revue des Vieux Mondes (Paris) said: 'England never has hesitated to draw the sword, whenever its business interests were threatened.'

Those Americans who feel inclined to antagonize the German side in this momentable world tragedy, will do well to read the words of Sir Thomas Barclay in the Independent Review (London): "The foreign offices have, though slowly, awakened to the necessity of treating the existence of Germany as a fact. The intellectual jurgery of trying to think it nonexistent, the childish ranting against it of irresponsible writers and politicians * * * only fan into intensity a hostile spirit, which every responsible and sensible German deplores. Those who do this fool work expose themselves to execration by all who wish to see Europe settle down to a few years of peace and stability."

The only rightful attitude of America is that of strict neutrality. Of a neutrality that is dignified, because it does not seek or usurp the function of an arbiter and controller of the destinies of Europe—and that is also wise, because it prevents the scattering of seeds of internal discord, that otherwise will be sure to ripen.

DR. JULIUS LINGENFELDER.

Florence Has Reason for Suspicion.

FLORENCE, Neb., Jan. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: The announcements in the Omaha papers of the vote in Florence regarding annexation was, in the main, true. Over two to one voted a decided "No." Not that the city of Florence is so much opposed to annexation, but would like to know just what we are to receive in return for the surrender of our property and our inherent rights. You can't blame Florence, Mr. Editor, for being suspicious of getting the worst of the deal with Omaha after our very own experience with the water district bill, and it does not inspire much confidence when we read in The Bee that Senator Howell has introduced the bill in the senate to unite the five cities. Florence is very old-fashioned and still believes there is a great deal in a name. You will see by looking through the files of The Bee that I favored annexation several years ago and am still of the same mind, but am firm in the belief that both parties concerned as to how it should be done. Now Mr. Editor, you are Florence correspondent, knowing him as I do, must have been misinformed in regard to the council busting for votes. I am not sure, but am of the opinion that the mayor hustling for votes, that goes without saying. I believe that the man who does not vote and take some interest in those affairs should forever keep quiet afterwards, and that would be hard on the mayor.

F. S. TUCKER, Mayor of Florence.

The Officeholder's Trust.

SOUTH OMAHA, Jan. 12.—To the Editor of The Bee: Many people are very unfavorably impressed with the spectacle of the residents of the aristocratic part of Omaha coming down to this workmen's city and uniting with the office holders trust of South Omaha to perpetuate the present unsatisfactory conditions that are distasteful to a great majority of the residents of South Omaha today.

A great many think the people of Dundee, who think they are the best-kept, the nabobs and aristocrat of earth are in pretty small business in coming down to South Omaha to fight the best interests of the residents of this city. The self-styled high tones want to use us as cats-paws. It is fair and square and honest vote was taken in South Omaha today on consolidating with Omaha it would carry by an overwhelming majority for we are ready for it except the office holders and those who have contracts with the city of South Omaha.

The people of South Omaha say it would be unconstitutional for the legislature to annex us to Omaha. If they are so sure of that, why not let the legislature pass the act, and then knock it out in the courts, for that would effectively kill it for years to come. But they know such laws have been passed hundreds of times in the United States and held good every time. When Omaha now furnishes us with gas, electric light, water, street cars, telephones and mails, why not dispense with the office holders and complete the consolidation?

If we should be annexed things would improve in a great many ways. Why would it not be better for the corporations to use every effort to have some manufacturing establishments and tenements built to use the \$4,000,000 of \$5,000,000 worth of hides shipped from this city every year, than to send some of their tools to Lincoln every two years to fight the wishes of the people of this city? Why not have the hides used here rather than to send them to distant points and then send them back to us as a "leaked product"?

SUNNY GEMS.

Second Cook—Did you expect me to scrape those fish you just disemboweled? First Cook—Yes. They are drawn to scale.—Judge.
'How useless girls are, today. I don't believe you know what needles are for.' 'How absurd you are, grandma,' protested the girl. 'Of course I know what needles are for. They're to make the graphophone play.'—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Editorial Shrapnel

Boston Transcript: The president of the University of Illinois discharged a professor when the latter married his daughter. Secretary McAdoo is congratulating himself that this quaint old custom didn't prevail at Princeton.

Philadelphia Ledger: There is no cause for alarm over the statement that our navy is in cold storage. Any man who has ever partaken of cold storage butter can tell you that it is a process which adds great strength to the product stored.

Houston Post: The man who has a million dollars and feels poor may be more unfortunate than the guy who has \$7 and feels rich, but the millionaire has a more intimate acquaintance with that part of the anatomy of a steer from which the porthouse is cut.

St. Louis Republic: A decision to the effect that a dog trespassing upon another's property cannot legally be killed in Missouri merely for that trespass seems to show that sheep owners must ask dogs what they are doing in the pasture before they open fire.

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An Open Letter
(About Bronchitis) August 2, 1914.
In March, 1914, I became afflicted with an attack of Bronchitis which forced me to remain in bed for two months. The doctor in attendance changed the medicine several times, and instead of improvement, I seemed to grow worse.

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