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AMERICAN SPIRIT NEEDED.
No one can fail to be impressed by the difference in the atmosphere of the opening session of the international conference at The Hague and that of the Washington disarmament parley or the Genoa economic round table.

At Washington men met under the impetus of high resolve to achieve a definite and practicable reduction of the war burden of the world. They were stirred to enthusiasm by Secretary Hughes' inspiring appeal and his unexpected announcement of the United States' readiness to agree upon a fixed program of radical naval curtailment.

At Genoa the circumstances were less auspicious. The United States was absent and there were very definite elements of discord between the European nations represented. Nevertheless, representative statesmen took advantage of the opening session to voice their hopes for a "new deal" in Europe, for the solution of economic problems which were and still are forestalling the permanent advancement of the peoples so lately released from the horrors of war.

The Hague session opened without apparent inspiration, with nothing but reiterated of the antagonistic positions which wrecked the Genoa conference. It opened under the dispiriting shadow of failure by the allied bankers to arrange new bases of European national credits. It is perhaps significant that the first day was marked by attempts to discourage publicity of its affairs to an extent not undertaken at any other international conference since the war.

JUST EVERYDAY PLUCK.
Circumstances, as much as men, make popular heroes.
Albert N. McDonald, 43, Texan, after 10 years of training in the American army, enlisted with the Canadians in 1916, fought at Vimy ridge, Cambrai, on the Somme, and suffered four wounds, one by a bayonet.

AMBITION NOT MERELY DISCONTENTED.
The manager of a hotel, taking breakfast in the main dining room a day or so ago, rebuked the waiter for what seemed a most trivial thing.
"When placing a fingerbowl before a guest always have the hotel crest on the silver base toward the guest," he told the waiter, with much sternness.

guy," or "He may call that work but I don't," are remarks heard frequently during a day.
These discontented ones are oblivious to the fact that every job, from digging a ditch to running a banking house, requires a peculiar physical or mental ability. The haberdashery clerk forgets that pitching hay is an art and wishes he were a farmer; the farmer blisters his hands after pitching hay for twelve hours and wishes he had a "soft" job in a furnishing store.

Ambition is not useless envy. It is to be fostered as a potent factor in American life. The hotel waiter might well wish to be manager, but he should not confine himself to wishing. He should try to fit himself for the management. In doing this he would learn that being a hotel manager is not such a snap as it may appear. And like the manager he would acquire insight which would give him a healthy respect for the ability of others. Much useless discontent could be stopped by this line of reasoning.

PULLING IN OUR HORNS.
Considerable grief impends for those coast cities that will have to give up navy yards or shore stations under the naval reduction plan. Who will doubt that the civic and commercial bodies in each locality will pull every political string to maintain their hold on the government payroll? The commission which will handle this problem will have a difficult task. Dismantling warships, while requiring less finesse than removing a naval station, is not easy, either. One has but to consider that these heavily armored vessels were built to withstand the highest explosives to realize the difficulty of taking them to pieces with peaceful implements. The oxy-acetylene torch, pneumatic drill, the chisel and the power-hammer have much work before them.

More than 500,000 tons of the American navy are to be scrapped under the disarmament treaty. Junk out of these men-of-war will turn up later in automobiles, electrical appliances, farm implements and tools. This conversion of what may be called waste into useful products adds to the wealth of the nation, just as the abandonment of surplus camp sites and navy stations will do by reducing the nation's tax bill.

THE FINE ART OF PENMANSHIP.
Come to think of it, women generally do write a better hand than do men. So it is not surprising that the first prize for penmanship in the Omaha schools should go to a girl, Inez L. Harris. That 13 awards of merit should be made before one boy is reached, is however, rather remarkable.

WHAT THE INCOME TAX SHOWS.
Year by year the American people increase in wealth and productiveness. That conclusion is inescapable after pondering a pamphlet on statistics of income for 1920, issued by the internal revenue bureau. Returns of net income show a heavy increase each year. The greatest increase, amounting to \$7,400,000,000, was recorded in 1917, reflecting no doubt some of the profits of war. Since that time \$10,000,000,000 more has been added, more than a third of it in 1920.

Freedom and Reform.
From a Speech by Senator George W. Norris.
In a free government, founded upon consent of the governed, on the theory that the people are sufficiently intelligent to be given the right of self-government no man in my judgment can successfully deny the right of the people to elect their representatives unless at the same time he is consistent and denies the right of the people to vote at a general election. The history of the country is full of such examples.

CINDERELLA AT THE BRITISH COURT.
Cinderella was blessed with a fairy godmother who arrayed her in fine jewels for the court ball. That magic feat is now imitated by London jewelers who hire out diamond tiaras for a night's social display. These will not fade out at the stroke of midnight, but may be returned the next morning.

When Andy Nielsen, parson-pilot, goes flying he believes in doing it right. When he crashed into a hay rack near Tekamah, he had a police surgeon with him to dress his wounds and a lawyer with him to prevent any damage suits. All he needed, in fact, was a fire chief to put out the flames.

Conan Doyle explains that Sherlock Holmes is dead, but that he is reviving in his mind a new fiction character to take his place. A detective story from Sir Arthur's pen would seem much more plausible than his spook stories.

BUILDING A NEW CAPITOL
Some Nebraska Editors Favor Marble Over Limestone—While Seeking Economy, Do Nothing for the Sake of Lowering Cost That Would Injure Permanence or Dignity of Building. Is General Sentiment

Raymond News.
C. R. Case: The capitol building will be an architectural triumph when completed, a building in keeping with the grand and progressive state of a great state. A million more or less in its cost represents to the individual not much more than a few galloping horses or attendance at a few movie shows, and the permanence of the building should not be cheapened or its beauty lessened by the use of inferior material. Marble is the standard material of architectural durability and beauty the world over and its use in the construction of the new building is greatly to be preferred to limestone. If necessary to circumvent the contractors' trust, let the state proceed with the work under competent supervision.

Long Pine Journal.
Ted L. Hummel: The new state capitol building should be, as far as possible, a home state project, but only in the work itself. Nebraska men should give preference to jobs for Nebraska men coming first. Competition among bidders should be more keen. Build it of marble, that it may be a lasting monument to the state. The \$300,000 saved would be poor economy when it comes to consider the wearing qualities of limestone. Limestone is anything but the quality that goes into the building.

Hay Springs News.
George E. Benesch: I do not think it advisable to carry on the capitol work by the state without contract, better put out a bid for a place of marble. If the architect thinks it is as durable, better save \$300,000; if not, use marble. Nothing is too good for Nebraska.

G. A. Dudley: The taxpaying public is entitled to know the policy of the capitol commission in rejecting the building bids because they seem unreasonably high. If that policy is considered, the alternative of the state doing the work hinges on the reliability and integrity of the men who are to be considered in building of the proposed magnificent, a saving of \$300,000 does not justify substituting limestone for marble. Nebraska should not hesitate at the legitimate cost of a capitol worthy of the state, but does not countenance graft or any other kind of dishonesty in the value in return.

Nelson Gazette.
The lack of competition in bids is the first act in the Nebraska capitol drama indicating a disposition to pave the way for graft. In rejecting the few bids submitted Governor McKelvie has again demonstrated that he has a mind of his own and the committee of which he is the head is to be commended for endeavoring to protect the Nebraska taxpayers. The wisdom of the state undertaking the work "without contract" is questionable as it would furnish many opportunities for misunderstandings, and these always prove unsatisfactory and expensive. The letting of contracts aggregating upwards of \$5,000,000 is a herculean task and must be kept well in hand if the people are given justice and their money is to be spent in an honorable record. Economy is always commendable, but to cheapen the capitol by substituting lower grade material would likely prove disappointing in the end.

From the point of view of general welfare, it is reassuring to find the bulk of the increasing income falls now to the small fellow. Out of 7,259,944 persons reporting, only 33 had an income of \$1,000,000 a year or more. In the war years this class was more numerous, with an aggregate income five times as large as in 1920, the last year for which figures are available. In the same period total annual earnings of the class falling between \$1,000 and \$5,000 doubled.

Secretary Weeks said that when we have attempted to improve the constitution by amendment we have failed signally. He believes we ought never to change the constitution. That means that we would have had the amendment guaranteed liberty of the press and freedom of speech. That means that today we would have slavery; and that means that we would have no primary; that means that no change could be made; that means that human suffering or to bring about improvement in government.

One of the statements of Secretary Weeks is that the primary has a tendency to abolish partisanship in government. If that were the only thing it ever did, it would justify its existence. If there is one single evil in the government today, it is the evil of arbitrary partisanship which forces senators to come into the senate to vote "What my vote? Where does the committee stand? I do not know a thing about it." If the committee has it in the bill that way.

The Bee's LETTER BOX

"Treat 'Em Rough" No Solution.
Stanton, Neb., June 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: Who is Brown? Is he a cause or is he an effect? Everybody will have to admit that he is a bad actor. His latest crime is a most detestable one. He is not even on the level with the beast. Beasts obey the law, law of their kind, nor do they deviate from this law by one jot. This fellow obeyed neither the beast law nor yet the statutory law.

He has been in jail. What was the result of his incarceration? Did it do more than to suspend his crimes while he was in prison? How many more years of prison life would be necessary to make him a decent, respectable citizen, and one who could go at large in safety to the women? How much more time must he do to be cleaned from his lusts? Are there not other Browns? Are there not other Browns who have not been apprehended, who have not served any term in prison for their crimes? What about these other Browns? If found out, arrested, put on trial and convicted and sent to prison, would they be any cleaner than the Brown when they are let out?

Low Shelley: I believe the public has always suffered from the policy of asking for competitive bids on public works. It usually, sooner or later, drives contractors into combinations for self-protection, or furnishes a strong incentive to render defective service. If Governor McKelvie has found "competition lacking" he has in this case only discovered what is usually overlooked. In an enterprise of this magnitude, no contractor should be considered whose character and business dealings are not above reproach, and the state should expect to pay a reasonable price for his services.

Lawrence Ruestler.
E. J. Mitchell: Would not use limestone in the capitol. Colorado sandstone might do as a substitute if \$300,000 could be saved. Let the state handle the job.

Harry G. Smith, Omaha air mail pilot, was at the stick of the Bellanca when it first left the ground at Fort Crook field. He piloted the ship on its maiden voyage from Omaha to Monmouth, Ill., without mishap, and

a lot of sapheads who have no ability to reason who loudly demand that our prison be made a place of terror and of severity. Good Lord! The human race had that for thousands of years and got no better results than we are getting now. These sapheaded fools advocate severity because they are incapable of offering any other scheme. They know that imprisonment does not work any good. Nevertheless these want it continued despite its failures and the Browns that it sends out. This proposition is so elemental that it needs no comment—namely: Punishment will not make a good man out of a bad one nor will its terrors deter any criminal from committing his crimes. There were criminals when death was the reward for nefarious acts. There were heretics when the Spanish inquisition tortured its thousands by all the savagery that its administrators could devise. Nobody was ever made good by torture nor was anyone committing a felony by terror.

You and I are in luck or out of luck, whichever way one views it, that the good Lord didn't exact the supreme penalty for our first or any subsequent sin. Had He made this His rule of action, how many would there be who would have survived until now? Had the death penalty been His practice for every and any sin the whole race would have been blotted out at the very beginning. There would have been none left after Cain. You and I are here because God didn't do that sort of a thing. He was too wise to do that to try it. It is odd that any should assume greater wisdom than His. What fools these are who think their wisdom superior to His! We have tried the most severe inflictions that devilish human ingenuity could devise. We have made use of the gallows, the guillotine, we have immolated prisoners alive. We have run the gamut from severity to mildness. What is the result? Browns! Shall we keep on? Perhaps so, for we don't seem to have intelligence enough to devise any better method. We will go on to the WILL R. WOODRUFF.

Omaha and Aviation.
Omaha, June 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: An Omaha designed and constructed airplane has made its maiden trip. At the other end of that voyage this plane was entered in the midwest flying meet in which aviators and airplanes of renown competed. And the first day of the meeting this Omaha ship nosed its way into the aviation hall of fame by winning two main events. This airship, which is of a distinct type and was designed and constructed under a veil of secrecy, attained an altitude of 8,500 feet, returning to earth in 15 minutes, and won a 15-mile race against a field of worthy opponents.

High praise is due the designer and builders of this flying machine, all Omaha men, and congratulations also are in order for the pilot who guided the Omaha winner in the lists. Harry G. Smith, Omaha air mail pilot, was at the stick of the Bellanca when it first left the ground at Fort Crook field. He piloted the ship on its maiden voyage from Omaha to Monmouth, Ill., without mishap, and

he was in the cockpit when the Bellanca was declared winner in two main events of the meeting. Smith is known as the most careful pilot of the air mail service and it is fitting that he should be an Omaha pilot for the Omaha division of the friendly hold unblemished record, not equaled by any other division.

Blanking Horns.
Omaha, June 14.—To the Editor of The Bee: The crash and clatter in downtown sections of American cities has come to be accepted as a necessary phase of present-day civilization. One soon becomes accustomed to the rumble of surface cars, the roaring of motors and even the discordant medley of sounds in busy thoroughfares.

But after the day of toil, when one retires to the so-called peace and quiet of one's home, much lesser sounds disturb the peace. The friendly but thoughtless motorist who drives up in front of a residence and sounds his claxon horn and does not adding to the peace of the neighborhood. In most cases he is endeavoring to entice a friend out for a ride. But his claxon sounds just as loud in the homes of people whom he has no intention of taking out for a spin. How are these people to avoid hearing his claxon? And how, oh how, are they to know the signal isn't meant for them? Many a peaceful nap has been interrupted by a claxon which isn't meant for the ears of the napper; many a book has been hastily closed without a bookmark by some innocent reader who thought the claxon called him.

The most obvious solution would be for the motorist to leave his car long enough to ring the doorbell. If this is too great an effort, why not invent a special system of signals—two short honks and one long honk—for example—and thus eliminate any unnecessary discomfort to others? QUIET, PLEASE.

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ONLY 5c for an extra can of DR. PRICE'S PHOSPHATE BAKING POWDER. POSITIVELY the greatest value ever offered in a whole some high-grade baking powder. If you haven't taken advantage of it do so today—the supply is limited. Every can bears a blue sticker on the label containing this special offer: SPECIAL ADVERTISING SALE. One 12 oz. can at regular price . . . . . 25 cents. One 12 oz. can at special price . . . . . 05 cents. Two 12 oz. cans for . . . . . 30 cents. Perfect Satisfaction Guaranteed or Money Refunded. Never again are you apt to get this famous brand of baking powder at this "give-away" price, which is offered during this sale, just to give every housekeeper an opportunity to prove its superiority for herself. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! If the first grocer you call on hasn't any left, try the next one. Don't let this opportunity slip by. It's all new stock and guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. The time grows short. Act today!