

THE MORNING BEE

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ARMISTICE DAY. It is well to pause today, if only for a bit of introspection, to decide how far each of us has striven to keep alive the clear light so brightly burning on November 11, 1918.

All that had been hoped for has not come to pass; maybe it never will come to pass. That will be for mankind to determine. Clouds have arisen to obscure the beacon which guided men through the terrible days of the war.

Strong faith may be required to see this, yet one great proof is at hand. Civilized peoples do not make war; ambitious rulers may be aggressive, but the common men and women abhor strife on general principles, and the people are taking their own affairs into their own hands.

Just as the great fabric of our civic liberty is made up of small contributions by each individual from his personal liberty, so the growth of civic liberty and its spread throughout the world is made possible by the contributions of each in the way of helpful effort.

This is a day for re-dedication, for reconsecration to the undying words of the immortal Lincoln, "highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, for the people, and by the people, shall not perish from the earth."

FOOD.

One impression brooded away from watching Charles Gilpin's development of the character of Emperor Jones is that a good square meal would have turned the course of that drama, and brought a triumph for its hero. Jones had providently buried a supply of food at the place he designed to enter the forest in event of his being forced to flee.

Five years ago we were being told wherever the eye turned that "Food will win the war!" Food did win the war, and not the least of America's contribution was the voluntary abstention from eating to the end that Hooverization of our daily menu might be made complete, but even extended. It was an inspiration then, and it is a comfort now to recall how many deprived themselves of substantial and took up substitutes that they might aid in winning the war.

It is not inspiring, however, to read that in many parts of the country good food is going to waste, because of the cost of getting it to market exceeds or equals at least the price it will sell, and producers are averse to working for nothing.

WATCH MR. FORD.

A great many ordinary people, whose minds are not geared to a billion dollars, often wonder what Mr. Henry Ford does besides counting his cash. Aside from increasing the output of his Detroit factory from 400,000 to 800,000 cars a year, he has several modest enterprises on foot.

One of these is to purchase a coal supply, said to amount to 180,000 tons, which will allow him about 10,000 tons a day for the next six years. When this transaction is completed, he will no longer be subject to worry as to where his fuel supply will come from.

Another of his little ideas is to buy a few thousand miles of railroad track, said to include the T. & M. W., the M. K. & T., the Missouri Pacific and the Western Pacific. With these added to the D. T. & I., he will have the nucleus of a rather tidy system of tracks and by a little effort can extend it so as to connect the Atlantic and Pacific coasts by a single Ford-owned railroad.

Mr. Ford has not entirely abandoned his little dicker with Uncle Sam for the Muscle Shoals project, which will give him possession and exclusive use of the largest single hydro-electric installation in the world. Whether this deal goes through or not depends on congress, for Mr. Ford has attached to his proffer a "take it or leave it" note.

and he is possessed of means to carry out projects that would stump the ordinary mortal. No wonder Wall Street watches him closely, for he is a hard man to keep up with.

ITALY PUTS IN ITS CLAIM.

Italy, after all, is still very young as a nation, though old in culture. Its jealous, warring states were not united until 1861, and until its entry in the world war the spirit of nationality was weak.

When the treaty of peace was drawn at Versailles, Italy was too weak in prestige and power to secure the spoils to which it felt itself entitled. The aspiration was strong for domination of the Adriatic and a measure of control in the Balkans and the Mediterranean. Refusal of America and the allies to allow it to occupy Fiume and the Albanian port of Valona was received by Italians as an insult and humiliation.

Italy did receive Trent, Trieste and the South Tyrol in addition to a sphere of influence in Asia Minor. But with a large surplus population it desired real colonial concessions. The problem of feeding its congested people caused a hunger for wide stretches of wheat land. Accordingly, at the peace conference it put in a claim for a large share of Asia Minor, a slice of Dalmatia and the cession by France and Britain of a part of their North African colonies.

As things now stand, Italy is still dependent on Great Britain for most of its fuel and raw materials and imports also great quantities of food. This dependence on foreign nations, together with the attitude of superiority adopted by France and England in leaving Italy out of their confidence in diplomatic moves about the Mediterranean, galls the proud and desperate spirit of the fascist.

Premier Mussolini accordingly has dispatched a bold note to its former allies, serving notice that if there is any further division of spoils Italy intends to be in on it. The charge that Great Britain is deliberately courting war with the Turks is apt to have its repercussion in London. Furthermore, the claim that England is plotting for private control of the Dardanelles, made by an unnamed Italian diplomat, appears as uncomfortably close to the truth as it is diplomatic. These new leaders of Italy wear the black shirts of the fascisti, and their statesmanship is countless.

The people of Europe do not want another war, but it is impossible to see how the action of Italy contributes much to the prospects of peace. This is open diplomacy, but it appears not to be based on any idea of world welfare, but on the same spirit of national aggrandizement that is hampering European reconstruction.

CLOSING THE TAX EXEMPT REFUGE.

In spite of the natural hesitancy over changing the fundamental law, two more amendments to the constitution of the United States are in the air. One of these proposals concerns child labor and is rather more familiar to the general public than the other, which concerns the elimination of tax exempt securities.

President Harding has recently come out in favor of the adoption of a pending resolution proposing a constitutional amendment closing the door to tax exemption. This is in line with his message of last December in which he said: "I think our tax problems, the tendency of wealth to seek non-taxable investments, and the menacing increase of public debt—federal, state and municipal—all justify a proposal to change the constitution so as to end the issue of nontaxable bonds."

Notwithstanding the fact that the principle of the income tax is now firmly established in public favor, yet the income from billions of dollars' worth of bonds is untouched by taxation. Prof. Edwin R. A. Seligman, the famous American authority on taxation, estimates that there are \$10,000,000,000 worth of municipal bonds of this sort outstanding, and \$20,000,000,000 in government bonds, tax exempt to a greater or less extent. He estimates that if the tax exemption of federal bonds alone could be abolished, tax revenues would be increased by \$300,000,000 a year.

The advantage of these issues goes mainly to wealthy investors. Governmental divisions are encouraged to emit bonds for larger amounts than they should by the fact that there is a ready market for them. It is said to be a fact that if tax free bond issues were to increase at the present rate for the next three years, they would absorb every cent of new capital in the United States.

It is readily apparent how such a movement withdraws capital from productive industry. Charles M. Schwab has declared that he could retire from active business, reinvest his fortune in tax exempt securities and treble his income. Many men of wealth have followed this course—and the people pay the tax.

The last three secretaries of the treasury have favored a constitutional amendment permitting taxation of public securities. A committee of congress has held protracted hearings on the matter, and it indeed seems probable that this refuge from the income tax is to be eliminated.

SOME ELECTION BETS.

This has nothing to do with the wheelbarrow stunt, nor the rolling of a peanut up Farnam street hill with a crowbar. Such things belong in the elementary or kindergarten class of election bets. A more solid and substantial phase of the sporty character of the event is presented in the statement that \$100,000 in regular money, each dollar worth 100 cents, changed hands as the result of the election in Nebraska.

We do not encourage gambling in any of its forms, nor do we believe that a bet on the election influences a vote in any way. Wagers of any kind represent either faith, hope, or a hunch; the man who offers to bet is convinced that he has a chance of winning, and feels it so strongly he is willing to risk a definite sum of money on the proposition. Men of that positive character are not easily affected by reports and rumors; their faith in the candidate of their choice takes definite form, and ripens into conviction, which in turn is evidenced by the wager. Here and there crops up a player who hedges his bets, by distributing them in such fashion that he feels the loss of one will be compensated by the winning of another.

Any excitement that sort of man gets is fictitious, unless it is accompanied by an upset such as reported concerning one of the U. S. He is said to have conceived an elaborate system, following out which he laid a number of wagers, assured in his own mind that they were of such character that while he might not win anything, he would not lose. His hope went wrong, and he lost every bet he made. Again, not intending to condone or encourage betting, we say if you must bet, take a chance, and either win or lose.

"The People's Voice"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee, Readers of The Morning Bee, for expression on matters of public interest.

Salvaging Humanity.

Tekamah, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: During the late world war there were 3,000 amputations and innumerable men were disabled, or rather, handicapped, by wounds and gas poisoning. Our government is spending millions of dollars every year fitting these men for a position where they may "carry on" to the same degree of efficiency as they were before the war.

Sometimes these handicaps are a blessing in disguise. A man who has been in some position which he did not care for, and where he had been standing still, we all have something in mind that we would like to be and here is his chance to take a course in almost any subject. The war, in a sense, has been a great blessing to many men who have been able to find their proper level, otherwise, would have "stuck" at some position which did not develop their effectiveness.

Any system which we may be able to perfect, to take care of the men who were handicapped in the service will be a distinct addition to our social assets. It will help us as a nation to be better prepared to handle any emergency that may arise. We are a patriotic people, and we are proud of our industrial achievements. We are proud of our scientific progress, and we are proud of our military strength.

It is my contention that some government should be instituted by the government whereby disabled industrial workers could be given a chance at vocational training. The home, which is now established for these people, is a very good one, but it would find in a few years that they would not have so many applications for admission. A plan of this kind should be considered, and it should be a more prosperous and efficient nation.

The Crime Problem. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The public complains of being molested by criminals continually, but they do not make an effort to correct the lax laws so that the criminals who face extreme penalties for their crimes should be deterred. When caught they will be fed on the punishment which they contracted for.

There can be no ray of hope for the public until dire measures are taken whereby the prospective criminal will realize what will be meted out to him should he be detected. He should be allowed to roam the highways unmolested. Why should the state be placed at the expense of catching and holding him? If he does not respect the right of freedom before he commits his acts why make the public suffer at his hands by turning him loose subsequently?

The public pays triple for its criminals: First, it pays for suffering from the criminal's lawlessness; secondly, it pays for the crime which he is tried and convicted, and lastly, it pays for protection officers, pardon and parole officers and the governor to free him. Does the public realize that if they exacted severe penalties on criminals this would aid in diminishing their numbers? Why tolerate indeterminate sentences where the maximum confinement is for nine months, or one year? Crimes should be punishable by degree or aggravation. If a hold-up or burglary are grave offenses they should not command a heavy penalty? By easy going methods of the state with reference to the criminals, the crooks consider the whole thing as a farce; they disrespect law and officers, and consequently become poor citizens. They appreciate lax laws, the slow bringing of cases to trial, juries not cutting them, sympathetic talk, officers not functioning, and having their criminal lawyers showing them how to squirm out of conviction and the use of technical means to defeat laws. Nevertheless our state puts up for this in many ways, financially, breeding poor citizenship and the disheartening of the law-abiding citizen. It is somewhat reduced also if the bill for entertaining criminals was allowed in other words, if the criminal were not held, accompanied, and there would be less expense.

Timber as a Crop. From the New York Times. When Joyce Kilmer, in his book about trees and other things, said: "Poems are made by fools like me, but I think God made a tree." He did not take enough credit to himself and his craft for giving enough credit to the Department of Agriculture and the human beings who plant and care for the trees. A line about a tree in Homer has outlived nearly every tree on the face of the earth, except the redwoods of California—the line in which, after speaking of Nautilus as the most beautiful object he had ever looked upon, Ulysses jangled and added, "No, once I saw a tree."

It is of course, true that only the God of all nature can make a tree, but it is to be inferred from the address of the secretary of agriculture in Chicago the other day that if man doesn't do more to assist in the making of trees, the Maker of heaven and earth and the trees that grow beneath them will find this particular occupation gone, except in forest reservations. It is He that "giveth the increase," but there is need of Pauls to plant and Apollos to water and Antiochs to protect against pests, and fire wardens to protect against fire, and plant pathologists and soil physicists.

The virgin forests of the United States once covered well toward a billion acres—822,000,000 acres—over a million square miles; a tract, if all the trees were put together, 500 miles by 2,000 miles. There remains 137,000,000 acres, just one-sixth of the original acreage. Towns and farms have filled nearly half the cleared spaces (259,000,000 acres), and second growth, much of it of an inferior quality, covers nearly a third (245,000,000 acres). The rest (81,000,000 acres) is idle land, devastated and growing nothing worth while. To make the statistical story complete it is necessary to add that our wood consumption amounts to 25,000,000,000 cubic feet yearly, yet even the Supreme Maker of trees is adding, because of the lack of man's assistance, only 6,000,000,000 cubic feet—only one-fourth of the amount consumed. If this goes on, the old saying about not seeing a forest for the trees will have no meaning to future generations.

Here's a New Slogan. From the Kansas City Journal. When it comes to slogans, what's the matter with the following, invented by the sponsors for a movement to "increase the consumption of bunnies: "Eat the habit. Eat more rabbit!" As slogans go, that is at least suspicious. It might be misconstrued by the thoughtless as propaganda in favor of the Welsh midnight dairy, but the sober second thought of the nation must reach the conclusion that one of the vexing problems of the daily life of those who are not vegetarians would be solved if everybody ate rabbits.

International Billiards. From the New York Tribune. In sports, at all events, there are signs of international amity. Of the six leading professional billiard players who are to take part in the approaching tournament in this city, three come from Europe, and one of them, Erich Hagenlaeber, is a German. He will meet over the green cloth the Belgian expert, Edouard Foreman; the young French champion, Roger Conti, and America's big three—Jake Schaefer, the present title holder; Willie Hoppe, the once invincible, and Welker Cochran, who is almost clever enough to beat them all.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from other newspapers—

What Wyoming Wants. From the Laramie Republican. The Republican is today printing a statement made by President Carl Gray of the Union Pacific on the subject of the Central Pacific. We doubt if a majority of the people of this state, or many of them, in fact, realize just what it would mean to Wyoming and to Laramie the taking over into close co-operation of that stretch of road from Ogden to San Francisco as a part of the Union Pacific.

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Doesn't Mean End of Earth. From the Minnesota Star. Have no fears—this old mundane sphere is not going to be blown to bits just because the atom has been isolated. Dr. Aston, the distinguished Cambridge scientist, is authority for the statement that the atom can no longer be held to be a menace to humanity, and he has no fears that some foolish chemist will liberate enough atomic energy to blow the world up.

Shoes of Comfort. For All Occasions. Fry's shoes always fit correctly—because fit comes first at Fry's. We fit shoes to men—not men to shoes—and their comfort naturally follows. The trick lies in finding the individual's proper last—only then do we talk styles. To be sure, we've many different styles built on the same last—which insures a shoe you'll like.

The Object OF INVESTING is frequently to obtain a regular income from surplus funds. THE REAL INVESTOR makes certain his capital is safe and then endeavors to secure the highest possible rate contingent on that security. INVEST TODAY where your money will earn 6%, dividends quarterly, with first mortgages on homes as security. ASSETS - \$1,132,020 RESERVE - 420,650

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Nowadays



its inhabitants would be displaced into space. "The probability of this catastrophe, however, is practically negligible. "I have read newspaper articles pointing out the danger of scientific discovery and actually suggesting that anything which might lead to the liberation of atomic energy should be suppressed. There is no doubt that humanity has misused the gifts of science in a most deplorable manner in the past and doubtless will continue to do so in the future; but, speaking generally, I regard such a point of view as ridiculously pessimistic. "Long ago our apellix ancestors no doubt grumbled at the innovation of cookery and pointed out the perils of fire—the greatest scientific discovery in history."

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