

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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THE WEST'S DEMANDS.

Western senators and congressmen are about a unit in demanding that the Smith-McNary bill be enacted into law. The Smith-McNary bill is calculated to do for reclamation interests what the merchant marine bill is calculated to do for American shipping; and certainly one is of as much importance as the other.

ASTORIA'S PAST AND PRESENT.

Conflagration, started by an incendiary torch according to the belief of the mayor, has turned attention to one of the historic towns of the great northwest. Following the exploration of Lewis and Clarke, and building on the reports of various adventurers, John Jacob Astor flung his challenge in the face of the Hudson Bay company, and set up a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia 112 years ago.

HOW TO BUILD A STADIUM.

The oft-repeated anecdote of the three stonecutters, one of whom was working for the union scales of wages, the second was cutting stone, and the third was building a cathedral, is getting eloquent application in Nebraska just now.

NEBRASKAN FOR THE RESERVE BOARD.

Under the law President Harding is expected to appoint one member of the Federal Reserve board who is a real "dirt farmer." One might be of the opinion that the only thing a farmer knows about banking is that a bank is a place to go to pay interest; some also borrow money there.

One of these is now being offered to President Harding for a place on the Federal Reserve board, Arthur J. Weaver of Richardson county, or Falls City, to get at his postoffice. Mr. Weaver is a dirt farmer, and knows the game all around the year, for he has worked at it and made it pay.

Mr. Weaver is looking for a man to grace his judgment, to bring ability and experience to a difficult task, and in whom farmers will have confidence, Nebraska offers him "Art" Weaver.

A QUESTION OF MUSICAL APPRECIATION.

One may well suspect that those American Legion men who objected to a concert by Madame Gadsdki lack musical appreciation. It may be assumed also that the commander of the California Legion, who has given out the word that there is no reason why ex-serve men should take offense at her singing, has a better ear for harmony, and is not a whit less patriotic than the objectors.

There is little enough beauty in the world, and those who have the power to create it should not be hampered by those who would censor their personal views before allowing it to be produced and enjoyed.

NEWBERRY'S SUCCESSOR.

A plain business man, James Couzens of Detroit, has been appointed by the governor of Michigan to fill the seat vacated by Senator Newberry. There are many reasons to expect him to become one of the outstanding figures in Washington. For this is a man who has faith in the people, trust in democracy and a high determination to apply the ordinary principles of good business to the process of government.

At last the army balloons will be filled with helium, the noninflammable gas. If this could have been arranged sooner there would have been many fewer lives lost.

A star has been discovered that speeds through space at the rate of 2,500,000 miles an hour, a record that no automobile speeder can hope to attain.

The shipment of 2,700,000 eggs this season from a Grand Island creamery is something for Nebraska to cackle about.

Wreckless driving is what is wanted in Omaha, but too many motorists are dropping the "w."

Mediocrity and Individuality

Prof. John Dewey, The New Republic.
Mr. George B. Cutten in his inaugural address as president of Colgate university recently informed us that it is now "discovered" that "only 15 per cent of the people have sufficient intelligence to get through college."

Demand for Lower State Taxes

Nebraska Editors Point Out Methods by Which New State Administration Might Conserve the People's Money.

Blair Pilot.
Don C. Van Deusen: State taxes may be reduced by the new administration and they may not, since the legislature has the say so. They might be raised. In our opinion they cannot be lowered by doing away with the code bill and the budget system, which the elected legislature won't and should not do.

Gering Midwest.
Will Maupin: The one great burden of taxation, heretofore cheerfully borne, has been for the support of the schools. So long as those who paid these taxes had the chief voice in the expenditures, the burden was not unduly heavy.

Norfolk Press.
Marie Weekes: Make no appropriations on the 50-50 plan which permits the state to exploit the taxpayer 50 per cent while the federal government rolls him for the other 50. Let's get back to normalcy in educational matters, and while giving every boy and girl a free, broad and fundamental education let the individual who seeks special privileges along this line pay for them.

Bloomington Advocate.
P. M. Crane: Use the same economy in running the state as is used in taking care of private business. Cut off the state inspectors and make those kept do double the duty. The adoption of a budget system and living up to it will help a great deal.

Kearney Hub.
M. A. Brown: Requirements of university, normal schools and state institutions prohibit retrenchments in those directions. Highway taxation must be maintained in direct proportion to the needs of the state.

Falls City Journal.
Aaron Davidson: Taxes will automatically be reduced to the lowest possible level consistent with good government when the affairs of the state will be conducted with the efficiency of a private business.

Scottsbluff News.
George Grimes: Tax reduction should begin with the county, and should include the state. Then the first duty of every public official who takes office the first of the year should be to keep every expense within his control at a minimum.

Nelson Gazette.
We are unable to figure any likelihood of a material reduction in taxes in the immediate future, although we have in mind the pre-conditions of a more right economy and the payroll might be cut somewhat by reducing the number of employees, and still meet all legitimate requirements.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION
for NOVEMBER, 1922, of THE OMAHA BEE
Daily ..... 73,843
Sunday ..... 78,105

Geneva Signal.

Frank O. Edgecombe: Available information indicates reduction must be made in dollar swapping with federal government. If there are other state institutions needing additional housing facilities as badly as the industrial school for girls at Geneva

Fairbury Journal.

W. F. Cram: The way to reduce taxes is to reduce. Each and every department of the state should be carefully scrutinized and the non-essentials ruthlessly pruned. The sanctity of education should be laid aside for the time and our school system completely overhauled and its cost returned to the people.

Seward Independent.
Mrs. P. W. Mickel: In answer to the question, how best may the taxes be reduced by the new administration, I will propose more efficiency all along the line of state employees, but no paring of state appropriations.

The New State.

Joseph Gilbert: There is no way to greatly reduce state taxes as long as the public demands good roads, good schools, protection to health and property, and the various advantages now derived from state activities. It is true that rigid economy practiced in conducting the affairs of the state will effect some saving, but not to any considerable extent.

Seward Blade.
Mrs. E. E. Betzer: I would not deprive the state of the state sheriff, for then intoxicated drivers will throng our state highways, a menace to motorists. The small sum of 19 cents state tax is too small to argue over, but, please, Mr. Bryan, do not do anything to lessen the comfort of our state's unfortunate charges.

Advertise.
I'm just a common geezer, I'm lookin' like the rest. To find the place where I can buy the cheapest and the best; I ain't got time to travel around from store to store.

Hip-Pocket Money.
The bail of a bootlegger in New York was placed at \$101,000. It took nearly all his small change.—Life.

Russia demands the recognition of open straits. It's just like those bolsheviks—they'll want bottled flush legitimized next.—Life.

Christmas Tree Vandalism.
Alpena, Mich.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Like other Nebraska people, I have always supposed that Christmas trees were taken only where they stood too close together, and this in effect was really a benefit to the remaining trees.

Katharine Newlin Burt proves that the most powerful stories are not necessarily written by men. See The Eagle's Feather, drama of the West--

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A Woman Motorist Replies.
Kearney, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: As one of the many women drivers of automobiles today, I feel that a "Real Man's" letter which appeared in Saturday's paper should not remain unanswered.

His percentage was very "reasonable"—nine out of every ten. If nine out of every ten women drivers today are public menaces, a good share of the blame can be placed upon the men themselves, for nine out of every ten women get their driving lessons from some male member of the family, who puts them in the driver's seat, shows them how to stop and start, then turns them loose, never losing an opportunity from that time on to criticize their technique instead of taking the time to show that a car has more to it than a wheel to steer with, a clutch, brake and throttle to step on, and a seat to sit in.

Also, while you are chalking up the scores against women drivers, don't be too careless, and you might reverse the debit side of the ledger before you get through, and if you care to, you can find plenty of women drivers willing to compete with any "real men" for driving honors, and for brain work when it comes to a pinch.
A WOMAN DRIVER.

Christmas Tree Vandalism.
Alpena, Mich.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Like other Nebraska people, I have always supposed that Christmas trees were taken only where they stood too close together, and this in effect was really a benefit to the remaining trees. But for several days I have been out with other men cutting Christmas trees for shipment, and I find that evergreen trees which stand very close are not the right shape and few are taken. As a rule the best shaped trees are taken, regardless of location or their future value as lumber. So trivial a matter as ownership will not save a tree. Trees too large are cut

A Book of Today

"Church Street," by Jean Carter Cochran (Westminster Press) is a collection of stories of American village life. It is a village in New Jersey which is pictured, but the delightful sketches might have been written about many others.

There are nearly 500 periodicals published by negroes in the United States. Prof. Frederick G. Detweiler has made an illuminating study of their volume and influence in "The Negro Press in the United States" (University of Chicago Press).

Millicent Newberry, the simple "slueth," solves another of the mysteries written by Jeannette Lee. "The Mysterious Office" (Scribner's) is a detective story made in the style which has secured many readers for Miss Lee, who has a style and finish about her writing that is most attractive.

Walter Gordon Merritt, counsel for the League for Industrial Rights, gives the conservative viewpoint of recent industrial history, in a little pamphlet, "The Struggle for Industrial Liberty." It is especially directed against unionism and the closed shop. It is published by the League.

Fifty of the most familiar of our proverbs are traced in all their forms in different lands in Dwight Edwards Marvin's "The Antiquity of Proverbs" (Putnam). Many of our maxims, as we know, are old folk sayings, and Mr. Marvin has performed a service in collecting variants and precursors.

In these days of unemployment the question of health insurance and the relief of sickness is important. Mr. Gerald Morgan has written a discussion of these problems in America and Europe, "Public Relief of Sickness" (Macmillan). His conclusion is that medical benefits should be provided by state-aided health organizations, to be developed on the principle of the pay dispensary, cash compensation for loss of wages to be left to compulsory health insurance.



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