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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. The great difference between them is that the subsidy paid to American vessels does not find its way back into the public treasury, while the funds set aside by the Smith-McNary bill are merely loans upon the best security in the world-western farm lands-and eventually repaid from the profits made by raising products upon land now useless because of lack of water.

The one great mistake in the reclamation service was in believing that repayment could be made in too short a time. Ten years was the limit first set, but this time has had to be extended, but even the extension provided was not enough, owing to the ignorance of eastern representatives, and the apparent lack of proper explanation on the part of western representatives. Right now hundreds of farmers in the irrigated districts of Nebraska are facing bankruptcy because of high water charges and their inability to pay them from the sale of products on a market that shows a loss over the actual cost of production. If congress is really desirous of extending help to somebody, then its first concern should be for those who produce the products that make possible a merchant marine.

The Smith-McNary bill provides a revolving fund of \$250,000,000 for the reclamation service, to be used in rapidly completing present reclamation projects now under way, and beginning and completing projects approved but held in abeyance necause of lack of funds. This fund is to be maintained by repayments from the owner of reclaimed lands, whether they be irrigated lands of the west, the reclaimed swamp lands of the south or the cutover lands of the north. It entails no loss to the federal treasury, being in effect a loan without interest with a security that is doubly ample. And with the enactment of the Smith-McNary bill should come a speedy reorganization of the entire reclamation service, to the end that it speed up its work, thus reducing the final cost to the land owners. As usual with all government work, the overhead is entirely too great for the actual work done.

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 affairs led him first to accept the office of police face of the Hudson Bay company, and set up a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia 112 years ago. Astor had competed in the Omaha territory with the British and the French, and with success, but he sought to seize and hold an empire.

Many accounts have been written of the trip around the Horn of the vessels of the Astor expedition. Puget sound was the original destination, according to the most reliable accounts, but wind and wave had a part in determining the outcome. Over the bar at the mouth of the great Columbia the Astor vessel rode and Astoria was founded. It was the first American settlement on the Pacific coast. In 1787 Captain Robert Gray, sailing from Boston, had visited the region, and had continued his voyage westward to China, and thence to his home port, being the first to carry the Stars and Stripes around the world. In 1792 Captain Gray returned to the region, sailing from Boston again, and this time encountered Captain George Vancouver, who was in command of an English vessel and looking out for the interests of the Northwest company. Gray's Harbor was discovered and named for Gray on this

On these beginnings and that of Astoria rested the claim of the United States that finally settled the boundary between this country and British Columbia. One of the most interesting chapters of our history is written around Astoria and the rivalry between the fur traders. That the historic place has suffered so severely is most regrettable, but it will rise again, for it has commercial as well as sentimental value.

HOW TO BUILD A STADIUM.

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

Students at the University of Nebraska have long realized the need of an adequate athletic field. Team after team has been compelled to do its training and put on its exhibition contests wherever the athletic director or coach could find a place. Once, when Nebraska was coming to the fore in football, big games were played in Omaha. It was here the championship was won several times by the Scarlet and Cream. The fair grounds at Lincoln, the State Farm, and other places afforded the athletes a place to work, but none of them met the needs of the teams. In time a gymnasium was erected, but it is far too small to accommodate the student body at this time. Then came the present football field, a great improvement on anything that preceded it, but soen outgrown, as the prowess of Nebraska increased and the fame of the Cornhuskers spread.

"If you want a thing well done, do it yourself," said the alumni of Nebraska. Each of them has been through the mill at Lincoln, and each knows what is necessary. So the subscription fund for the construction of the stadium, that will seat 40,-000 and accommodate all the teams and games has gone over big.

These former students at Nebraska Uni were not merely building a stadium. They were erecting a monument to their own faith and loyalty in the great school that has realized something of the dreams of its founders, and that is truly growing greater with each passing year. The stadium next year will show the wor'l what the boys and girls of Nebraska, now grown into men and women, mean to do for their state in days to come.

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. In very truth, the successful farmer of the modern school is fairly well up to the minute on economic as well as political questions. Nebraska has many of these, for Nebraska has been sending her boys and girls to school, and then back to the farm, where they have added all the abstract and theoretical knowledge gathered up in the class room to the concrete and practical information accumulated on the farm, and the result is a type of farmer who knows a hawk

from a handsaw, and is not bumptious about it. 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 if possible. Many of is would like farmer, and knows the game all around the year, for he has worked at it and made it pay. He is also a lawyer, good enough to preside over the late constitutional convention. The advanced ideas of that charter for Nebraska's liberty under the law owe much of their value to his skill and care in shaping the form in which they are embodied in the fundamental law of the state. He is a business man, and is not a politician.

If Mr. Harding 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 Gadski 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-service men should take offense at her singing, has a better ear for harmony, and is not a whit less patriotic than the objectors.

Music, art and science-these are three things that know nothing of race, creed or national boundaries. It is readily apparent that a scientific discovery is no less true because the moral character of its proponent is bad. The art of Benvenuto Cellini is no less beautiful because he was a scamp. Nor have the political or patriotic views of Madame Gadski the slightest effect on the sweet tones of her voice. It may be that some music lovers are unable to enjoy her art to the full because of her having been the wife of a man imprisoned during the war as a German spy. The natural thing for them to do is to stay away from her concerts and let those go who do not thus confuse politics and music.

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 gov-

Couzens made an immense fortune from a lucky vestment in the scheme of Henry Ford, yet when he dropped out of the business, he was not content to live idly on his income. His interest in public commissioner of Detroit. There he came into constant conflict with organized vice and the ward political machines, but won the confidence of the people. Then he was elected mayor, for two terms.

As a practical man, he handled the many difficult situations confronting a city of spectacular growth without undue regard to past methods and without fear of adopting new ideas to meet the needs of the time. Detroit had perhaps the worst street railway system in the country. It was outgrown and inadequate. Mayor Couzens built a municipal line and later induced the city to buy the old lines. This was not in deference to any theory, but simply a business man's way of meeting a problem that had

There are no tags on Senator Couzens; he belongs to no special group and is not bent on advancing his own political fortune or any personal hobby. His aim is simply to get things done. Congress needs more men of this type.

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

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

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 resident of Colgate university recently informed us hat it is now "discovered" that "only 15 per cent of the people have sufficient intelligence to get through college." From this "discovery" he draws the conclusion that as we have never had a real democracy, so "the low level of the intelligence of the people will not permit of our having one.

He not only makes the undeniable statement that ve are ruled by an aristocracy in industry, commerce, professions and government, but he terms this aristocracy an intellectual aristocracy! The adjective seems incredible. But President Cutten thinks there is he same scientific warrant for assuming that conspicuous success under present conditions is a sign of innate intellectual superiority as for saying that 25 per cent of the population are mentally subnormal and that only 15 per cent are capable of higher education.

We may be thought to ignore the interest which many testers have shown in pupils of superior abili-For some the testers tell us that one of the chief beneficial consequences of testing is that it enables us to pick out the superior tenth, to rescue the saving remnant from the ruck in which they are now submerged. But the seeming exception proves the The idea of classification still fatally pursues and dominates. "Superior" is still a classificatory

The size of the class is reduced, say from a million o a hundred thousand. But what kind of superiority marks a particular individual is still unrevealed to us. If there prevailed from the elementary school up the kind of inquiring and creative education which President Cutten desires for the college, perhaps democracy, in spite of native inequalities and inferiorities, would not be in such a parlous condition. Until we have tried the educational experiment, we simply do not know what individual capacities and limits really are. For it is not just the quantity of our education which is confessedly at fault; it is its quality, its spirit, method and aim.

Demand for Lower State Taxes

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

Don C. Van Deusen: State taxes terially reduced. may be reduced by the new administration and they may not, since the legislature has the say so. They cannot be lowered by doing away with the code bill and the budget tem, which the elected legislature should not be lowerd by stopping our federal road program. Neither should the auto license tax be lowered. State expenses should be ut to the lowest possible point and preserve efficiency. New buildings for state institutions could be cut out der present circumstances, this should ment. The fund for law enforcement should not be cut if the cut would mean lax enforcemeent. Most of us want taxes reduced, but we weakeen when it comes to the definite items. That is what the legislature will find when it gets to grinding next month. Incidentally, the legislature might cut its employes to the minimum and the session be shortened. That would

Gering Midwest. Will Maupin: The one great burden 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. But a centraliz-ed system of management has been foisted upon the people under the guise of "higher education," and a little educational hierarchy now adds to the burden by exacting conditions that do not fit our local schools, but com-pel us to ignore in large measure the educational welfare of 98 per cent of the children in order that 2 per cent may be fitted for the university. Our local schools are no longer hooked up with our community life, but hooked up with something indefinite and up with far off. The solution is to centralize; to give the control of local schools back to local authority and make the community school the big factor the overhead, get down to practical things, and make education a practi-cal development instead of a process of mental stuffing. I believe our school taxes may be reduced 35 per cent without any decrease in effi-

Norfolk Press. Marie Weekes: Make no appropria tions 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 mat-ters, and while giving every boy and girl a free, broad and fundamental ed-ucation let the individual who seeks special privileges along this line pay for them. Cut down on the agencies that are reaching out to control the individual, the home and the school. Let's get back to the good old demo-cratic "states rights" and eliminate

Bloomington Advocate.

P. M. Crane: Use the same econin 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 hydrogen ing up to it will help. Quit matching dollars with Uncle Sam. See that the people get \$1 value in service for every dollar in taxes paid. The biggest part of the taxes come from the local governments, where the economy should start in.

M. A. Brown: Requirements of niversity, normal schools and state nstitutions prohibit retrenchments in those directions. Highway taxation must be maintained, directly or in-directly. There can be healthy eliminations in state departments, by removing duplication and overlapping. Three persons should not be employed to do the work of two, and it should not possible for one person to hold the job and employ a second person to do the work. A program cannot be formulated. Common sense must pre-

Falls City Journal.

Aaron Davidson: Taxes will auto matically 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. Over-lapping of work to supply plums for political workers have helped swell taxes, and the elimination of this evil will be a great step toward tax re-

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 minimum. The governor and the legislature should earnestly seek to kep expenses at a minimum, shun the costly business of matching dollars with the national government and reduce the length of the payrolt.

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

Nelson Gazette.

We are unable to figure any liklihood of a material reduction in taxes in the immediate future, although we have in mind the pre-election promises made to do so. Twentieth century customs have brought about big plans and some inexcusable extravagance in public affairs. There should be more rigid economy and the payroll might be cut somewhat by re-ducing the number of employes, and still meet all legitimate requirements.

Taxes pay for the privileges and the protection we enjoy as citizens of a great commonwealth, and the cost is largely what we make it. But there should be no favorites. All should pay their just share. This is not being done. In Nebraska the principal resource comes from the farm and for it to prosper it must not be burbeyond its equitable propor-The capitalist and the salaried class, who control legislation to a very great degree, are not paying their full share, in fact, many no share at all. Hasten the day when there will be no tax exemption, nor tax-free securities. Then, with proper economy and efficiency, the per capita tax may be materially reduced. Levy taxes on actual incomes, rather than acres of land or visible property possessed, and the cry of class against

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for NOVEMBER, 1922, of THE OMAHA BEE

Sunday78,105 B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.

ELMER S. ROOD, Cir. Mgr. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of December, 1922. W. H. QUIVEY, (Seal) Notary Public

formation indicates reduction must be made in dollar swapping with fed-eral government. If there are other state institutions needing additional housing facilities as badly as the industrial school for girls at Geneva needs them, it would be cruel neglect to deny reasonable relief through ad-ditional buildings. Fairbury Journal. W. F. Cramb: The way to reduce

class and of high taxes will be ma-

Geneva Signal.

Frank O. Edgecombe: Available in

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 control returned to the people. The fessors in our state university and state normal schools who are doing the people more harm than good, and others who are teaching subjects which have no place in any sane system of education.

Thirty years ago and previously, two-thirds of the students in the state university believed that unless they studied Latin and Greek they would not be educated; today it is "business administration." Which period had the correct idea? To train the mind, the hand and the soul is the purpos of education; beyond that is folly. the everspreading out and ever taking on more subjects that is break ing down our educational system and making it an intolerable burden upon the people. Let the motto of the incoming administration in Nebraska be, "The fads must go; we will support the essentials liberally.

Seward Independent. Mrs. F. 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 employes, but no par ing of state appropriations.

The New State. Joseph Gilbert: There is no way to

greatly reduce state taxes as long as the public demands good schools, good roads, protection to health and property, and the various advantages now derived from state activities. some productive enterprises, such elevators, storage warehouses, packing plants and other profit making industries now the subject of polies, and by serving the publie in this manner reap a small profit which can be applied to other state needs, instead of as now these profits oing to private corporations for such services. In this manner these prof-its going to the state would lessen to liv. who puts them in the driver's that extent the necessity for taxes. reducing state taxes is to deprive ourselves of the many advantages now enjoyed through state activities sup-

Seward Blade.

Mrs. E. E. Betzer: I would not de-prive the state of the state sheriff, then intoxicated drivers will

ADVERTISE.

common geezer, I'm lookin' I'm jest a common geezer. I'm looking like the rest
To find the place where I can buy the cheapest and the best;
I sin't got time to travel around from store to store.
And grab the biggest bargains—my trampin' days is o'er.

and gophers live, and have nothing to my discredit yet.

Speaking of women who lie to allay the blame when they have an accident, they haven't a thing on the men, for in our line of work we meet limit those very people, and the men

I scan the daily papers and generally set my mind
By readin' advertisin' what bargains I
can find;
But ev'ry day some feller whose friend
has got a store
Is tellin' how his prices is clear down
on the floor.

And I ain't never guessin' on what I
want to get.

The paper's allus willin', I wonder in surprise

where the decit side of the ledger before you get through, and if you care to, you can find plenty of women drivers willing to compete with

s'pose a lot of people is pretty tight like me.

And has to squeeze their pennics and spend 'em carefully,

But here and there's a merchant who's groanin' in dismay

Because he's got the bargains and still

wal, we don't know about it—that's

ROBERT WORTHINGTON DAVIE.

Russia demands the recognition of open straits. It's just like those bol-sheviki—they'll want bobtailed flush-

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

in JANUARY



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"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bec. Readers of The Morning Bec are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

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, for, he ought to know that when he starts is true that rigid economy practiced in conducting the affairs of the state will effect some saving, but not to any considerable extent. It is possible, however, for the state to engage to call woman drivers "public menaces."

His percentage was very "reason able"-nine out of every ten. If nine out of every ten women drivers to-day are public menaces, a good share of the blame can be placed upon the ten women get their driving lessons seat, shows them how to stop and start, then turns them loose, never losing an opportunity from that time on to criticise 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 throt-

tle to step on, and a seat to sit in.
In the event that one has the extreme egotism to call themselves a "real man," would it not behoove them, (in case they know anything about a car), to assist women drivers in the art of driving well instead of handing them packages because, perhaps, some lady honked the horn in his ear when he was looking the wrong direction for traffic on his side

of the street. I have driven a car for 10 years and not always where prairie dogs

just those very people, and the men are there and over when it comes to 'passing the buck" in regard to the

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 brise

Why that there bargain merchant his and for brain work when stuff don't advertise.

A WOMAN A WOMAN DRIVER. a pinch.

Christmas Tree Vandalism. Alpena, Mich—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Like other Ne-braska people, I have always sup-posed that Christmas trees were taken only where they stood too close to-gether, and this in effect was really where the trouble lies,
And so again I'll shout it—why don't a benefit to the remaining trees. But
he advertise?

for several days I have been out 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

down and the top taken. To my mind this is an unnecessary sacrifice of one of our most valuable of natural

Alpena, Mich.

In these days of unemployment the question of health insurance and the elief of sickness is important. Gerald Morgan has written a discus sion of these problems in America and Europe, "Public Relief of Sick-ness" (Macmillan). His conclusion is that medical benefits should be proresources and one which only an awakened public sentiment can prevent.

T. R. JONES,

T. R. JONES, compulsory health insurance.

A Book of Today

"Church Street," by Jean Carter Cohran (Westminster Press) is a col-

lection of stories of American village life. It is a village in New Jersey which is pictured, but the delightful

sketches might have been writte

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"

Millicent Newberry, the simple sleuth," solves another of the mys-

tective story made in the style which has secured many readers for Miss

Lee, who has a style and finish about

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 Indus-trial Liberty." It is especially di-rected against unionism and the

rected against unionism and the closed shop. It is published by the

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 aur maxims, as we know, are old folk sayings, and

Mr. Marvin has performed a service in collecting variants and precursors.

(University of Chicago Press)

tries written by Jeannette Lee.



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