

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY
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A CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT.

That amazing story of brutality in Louisiana is of more than local importance. The thing that happened there is capable of repetition in many other communities throughout the nation.

Two young men who had incurred the enmity of a masked gang were kidnaped, slain and their bodies hidden in a lake. They had committed no crime, and they were granted no trial, but were doomed to torture and death because they had dared to denounce the methods of the Ku Klux Klan.

When men organize to see their prejudice and judgment above the law, this is what may be expected. Shrouded in secrecy, they cast off the restraints of civilization and revert to barbarism.

The laxity of public officials in enforcing the law encourages such movements in two ways. In the first place, such hooded mobs have little or no fear of being arrested and punished for their violence.

In the second place, the loose administration of law in other cases leads to the feeling that some strong hand is necessary to suppress crime and support public order. There is a contradiction here that condemns the basic principle of such movements.

Breaking the law in order to compel others to respect it is a particularly dangerous and unwise proceeding. There are orderly ways in which to secure stricter administration of law, and these would eliminate the possibility of personal spite being confused with the spirit of righteousness.

Last winter the Ku Klux Klan posted a warning in an Oklahoma town which illustrates what seems to be a general policy.

"We are here in Coal county 500 strong. We stand for our churches. Officers of the law, do your duty and we are with you. Fail, and we are against you. We oppose socialism and bolshevism. We are 100 per cent Americans. We are for white supremacy. We are for public free schools. Agitators, better clear out. We know who you are. Gamblers and bootleggers, hit the hike. We will be back soon. Blood won American freedom. Blood will preserve it if necessary."

Doubtless there are many Americans who, without analyzing a document of this sort, will feel that it is warranted by the circumstances. It may have been that conditions were very bad, but unless our government is a failure, there is no excuse for force and violence to clean up. Ours is after all a violent race, much given to short cuts and direct action.

In the last two years 85 persons have been lynched by mobs and more than 50 tarred and feathered. Floggings have been administered to more than 100, some of them women. Such a condition is a challenge to law and order. If it existed anywhere else in the world, American public sentiment would be outraged. It is a situation that demands deep thought, not shallow acquiescence.

The energy with which, now six months after the Louisiana outrage, the case is being investigated gives rise to the hope that some public officers have come better to realize the necessity for a strong hand. No lawless individual or class should enjoy protection or immunity from punishment. Crime must be put down, whether committed by unorganized individuals or by a gang in white robes. The government must show its power, making itself feared by all wrongdoers and trusted by all decent men and women.

"SAGE OF SILVER CREEK."

When the list of men who were active in public affairs of Nebraska is finally made up, the name of Charles Wooster of Silver Creek should get a high place. One of the pioneers of the state, he came to Nebraska from service in the Union army, and settled down to make a farm. He did this in a way that won for him a competence, but to the end of his days he remained a farmer. Yet he found time for other matters, and showed great interest in all that was going on about him. His views were his own, and were not always popular, but he held them independently, and battled lustily for his notion of the right. Compromise was not in his nature, and nobody was left in doubt as to where the "Sage of Silver Creek" stood, once he had made up his mind.

His first came to general notice in connection with the populist movement in 1890, and in the legislature of 1897 he attracted much attention by his opposition to the Transmississippi and International Exposition, about to be held at Omaha. So rigid was he on the point that he did not visit the exposition at any time. To illustrate another phase of his character, it may be permitted to tell of his contribution to the support of French war orphans. He subscribed \$10 per month, or the number of francs equivalent to that sum, to the fund that was administered, his donation being sufficient to support two orphans. When the franc began to decline in value, Mr. Wooster engaged in a rather extended controversy with the French authorities because they did not increase the amount in francs allowed each orphan, or at least the particular orphan he was contributing to sustain. He was giving \$10 a month, and he wanted the young folks to have it all, no matter how many francs it represented.

His last active effort was to attend a meeting at Hastings, the object of which was to form an organization to work for lower taxes. He was the true stormy petrel in this respect, his connection with the Farmers' Union and similar bodies giving him ample opportunity to expound his views and air his opinions. His contributions to the press of the state were always interesting, although not always couched in terms that would endear him to the person he had under consideration.

"Charlie" Wooster was a strong man, a patriot and a good citizen, and even those who did not think as he did felt for him the respect due a courageous adversary who did his fighting in the open.

Head of Omaha's booze sleuths has the American record for capturing stills, but he hasn't exhausted the supply as yet.

FOR A BUSY NEW YEAR.

Beginning with Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, and coming on down the list, every agency that is assumed to be in touch with conditions predicts a busy time for 1923 in the United States. Retrospection shows that 1922 was not such a bad twelve months after all.

November's record of exports of food products showed greater amount in both volume and value than for 1921. Similar revival of exports of manufactured goods is reported, indicating a healthy condition of foreign commerce. At the same time affairs at home show a great change for the better. Unemployment is fast disappearing, workers are getting full time at high wages, and the home market reaps the benefit of the improved buying power of the consumer.

Specifically, the building trades have been the most active, the effort being to overcome the acute shortage in housing facilities created by the practical abandonment of that class of construction during the war period. The coming year will exceed the record of the year just over in this regard, according to Secretary Hoover's view. This in turn insures occupation for factory hands, and that makes sale for farm products, and so the movement goes around the beneficent circle.

Operations in stocks and bonds during the last year rose almost to the peak attained by the boom following the war, when inflation was at its zenith. Prices are strong and high, indicating faith in the future. For Omaha the bank clearings for the year show a record of increase of over \$78,000,000 the total being \$1,902,158,685.91. No sign of falling off in this. President David Friday of the Michigan Agricultural college says the farmer is entering on an era of prosperity that will equal the fourteen-year period that culminated in 1913.

A general chorus of encouragement is heard from all sides. Money is easy, interest rates are lower than in many years, enterprise is being extended, factories are busy, railroads are buying new equipment to take care of increasing business, and no sign of calamity is apparent. The year of 1923 promises to mark some new records in the United States.

LAUDER'S PLEA FOR PEACE.

It was only yesterday, or the day before, that Harry Lauder was in Omaha, on his way from New Zealand to England. War had been declared while he was in the Antipodes, and he was making his way back. One of his hopes was to reach home before his son, Capt. John Lauder, had gone to France. In this he was disappointed, and when he did go to France it was to search out the grave of the lad by whom he had set such store, and in whom he had such pride.

Harry Lauder carried on throughout the war; his part was honorable and arduous, and a baronetcy was given him by his country as partial compensation for his services. Nothing, however, can restore to him the boy he loved, and, while his ardent patriotism has in no sense diminished, he is committed to the cause of peace, for he knows what war costs.

Therefore, it is not an idle statement on part of Sir Harry Lauder that he would rather build friendships than battleships. He abates in no degree his devotion to righteousness, to the maintenance of law and order, but he does believe that men and nations alike can find as much cause for agreement as for quarreling, and that the search should be made for points of meeting rather than for excuse for separation.

A little more singing to lighten the load a little more handshaking and cheery greeting, a little less of self and a little more of service—these are ingredients for a prescription which, if taken right, will make come true another thought of Sir Harry's, that each day be a happy day, instead of the once-a-year greeting of "Happy New Year." For the birth of each new day is itself a miracle, as much a wonder as the birth of a new year, and deserving of as much effort on the part of each to make it a happy one for all. May the gospel according to Lauder spread!

A permit has been issued for a \$40,000,000 power dam on the Colorado river in Arizona, if you want to know where the opposition to the seven-state treaty for dividing the waters comes from.

Discussion of conditions at the County hospital reminds us that it is not too late to take steps to rebuild the city and county hospital, so long mooted and so badly needed.

A special train to carry democrats to Lincoln on inauguration day is something of a rarity in Nebraska. It has happened but few times in history.

Organized agriculture is now considering its problems, but what the wheat belt most needs is about four inches of closely packed snow.

"Charlie" Wooster could tell a sham farther off than most men, and he loved to smash one.

Happy New Year to you all!

The Craze for Oriental Curios

From Arts and Decoration.

Your true Asiatic treasures his works of art whether he be a mandarin or a simple trafficker. He has a tender and admiring affection for them, and cherishes in them his ideals of beauty. He is endowed by nature with the artistic sense. He has a keen eye for color, good taste, and a wonderfully clever hand for shaping things.

A person who haunts the curiosity shops of Peking, Canton, Tokio and Yokohama catches deep glimpses now and then into the secret depths of the oriental soul. He finds people buying, haggling, bartering. Natives and foreigners alike are feverishly interested in collecting curios. Half of Asia lives from them. Every year the volume of this trade increases. The marvelous Ill Baba treasures of China and Japan captivate the imagination of the European. Only in these lands can he revel in such a wealth of shimmering silks, wrought gold and silver, and precious stones. In western countries such treasures are hidden behind lock and key. In Asia they are exposed by the wayside and in open bowls. A Chinese Croesus will let a pearl fall from his jewel-embroidered mantle and leave it lying in the dust.

The curio fever has seized everyone—buyers, sellers, barterers, tricksters and tricked. Here is a young Chinese foreign office official, who hangs his gold-embroidered mantle on a peg and becomes a curio dealer; there is a German calico salesman, who by chance discovers an old treasure of little boxes and caskets and Tanagra-like idol statuettes, from the time of the Han dynasty. They show traces of Greek and Roman influence. He is now scouring China for treasures which the market of London and Paris eagerly absorb.

Even high Chinese notables are so possessed by this wild collecting-mania, that they plunder ancient ancestral tombs in search of antique bronzes, prehistoric pottery and sepulchral images. The common people are bribed to be quiet. Reverence for the dead runs in the blood of the Chinese peasant; he will have nothing to do with this violation of ancient tombs. The people do what is at night to carry off old inscriptions and famous reliefs of the Wei and Han dynasties, from cliff tombs and burial mounds, are professional grave-robbing. Indeed, European collectors condemn such vandalism—unless they profit directly by it!

America and the World

Nebraska Editors Discuss Question of an Economic Conference and Differ on Part to Be Played by President and Senate.

Grand Island Independent. A. F. Buchler: It would be a serious mistake to place all responsibility of dealing with the European situation in the hands of any one man, even the president. And power means responsibility. The senate, if not the entire congress, should handle it.

Kearney Hub. M. A. Brown: Give the president a free hand in dealing with the European economic situation. If there is need for calling an international conference he alone is in position to decide.

Bloomington Advocate. H. M. Crane: We are of the opinion that the senate should have something to say in regard to European matters as well as the president.

Blair Pilot. Don C. Van Deusen: If Harding should have a free hand in dealing with European affairs, why shouldn't Wilson have a free hand also? The senate, of which President Harding was then a member, seemed very much inclined to take things into their hands when President Wilson was negotiating the Versailles peace treaty. What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander. Personally, we believe the president should have a free hand in the negotiations with foreign nations. The senate's business is to ratify or reject, not negotiate. They should mainly accept the president's negotiations and get things done.

Norfolk Press. Marie Weeks: The newspaper reports in the matter of the proposed international economic conference seem evasive and unsatisfying. Between the lines citizens read the handwriting of diplomacy, which is the antithesis of "open covenants openly arrived at." The government of Germany is a weak thing. American financiers are pretty thoroughly disgusted with their governmental leaders and may kick over the traces any minute. American money lenders are willing to loan Germany any amount of European countries money if they can make sure that they can protect that money and get their interest. President Harding wants a free hand that he may give Wall street and those it stands for full and free rein to secure mortgages on the unborn workers of Europe for generations. Mr. Borah has gotten the wrong end of the lid on a cullion of finance and is ready to call an economic conference, then let us stand by until it is time and then call it.

Common Sense. The Most Valuable Employee. "She is not only a good stenographer and typist, but she has brains and good judgment and she uses them." This is the sort of recommendation a man who has an expert office girl gives him. It is the kind of recommendation that every girl employee in an office should strive to warrant. There should be a desire to be more than a machine when you are paid for office work. There should be interest in your work and interest means thought, and thought means better service, and service means better salary and more respect.

McCook Gazette. H. D. Strunk: It would seem that the best results might be obtained by giving President Harding a free hand in dealing with the European situation. The fact that the people might then place the responsibility definitely for the results would have a tendency to cause deeper concern on the part of those who hold the helm, and result in a more just settlement of such questions. Public sentiment is not capable of judging as to whether or not America should call a new international economic conference.

Falls City Journal. Aaron Davidson: A new international conference having the sage counsel of experts on economics certainly could do no harm and may accomplish some good in unsmothering the country today.

Daily Prayer. Open to me the gates of righteousness. I will go to them and I will praise the Lord—Psalm 118:19. Our Heavenly Father, we pause at the opening of this day to place ourselves in harmony with thy great plans. We know that it is unwise and sinful to oppose or attempt to hinder Thy purposes. Hear our humble appeal for Divine wisdom, for spiritual sensitiveness to Thy messages, for broader views of our duty, and for peace of God which fills the soul when working in full harmony with Thee. Let each of these blessings be given to all whom we love, incline them to stop and pray—to watch and act, under the impulses which come from Heaven. Make known Thy love and law to all people in all lands, and hasten the era when all mankind shall accept the teaching of Thy Son, and of the Holy Prophets, and thus in sincere agreement live in peace with all, and in full obedience and devotion to Thy Holy Will. We ask these great blessings in the Name of our Lord Jesus, Thy Son, and our Redeemer, Amen. RUSSELL H. CONWELL, D.D., Philadelphia, Pa.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION FOR NOVEMBER, 1922, OF THE OMAHA BEE. Daily 78,843 Sunday 78,105 B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr. ELMER S. ROOD, Cir. Mgr. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of Dec. 1922. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public.

Lyrics of Life by Douglas Malloch. "New years for old! New years for old! 'Tis time to give up your old ways, He'll take your cross and give you gold, And give you hope for your despair. What cause is lost? What love is cold? 'New years for old! New years for old! 'New years for old! Whatever dream Died yesterday, today is here. Full of new visions, new lives ahead. For every candle that is dead. New years for old! Bring hither, then, Your disappointments and your griefs, Your hurts and your sorrows, Your shattered faiths, your disbeliefs—'You, bring them all, and Time will give New faith for all, new lives to live. 'New years for old! New years for old! 'So Time is crying out his wares. He'll take your cross and give you gold, And give you hope for your despair. What cause is lost? What love is cold? 'New years for old! New years for old! 'New years for old! New years for old! (Copyright, 1922.)

Your Hens Need This Big Help. Then they'll pay you back with more eggs. Keep them vigorous and active—and they are bound to lay Give them Pratts Poultry Regulator in their daily feed and see how they waken up and get busy. Helps to maintain health. Fry it at our risk. 'Your Money Back If YOU Are Not Satisfied! PRATT'S FOOD COMPANY, Chicago, Tenn. Day Pratts in 12 or 25 lb. packages. 50¢ per lb. net.

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"The People's Voice"

Always a Penalty. Sterling, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: On reading The Omaha Bee Sunday my attention was called to the statement of Will Hays: "You will not be unkind of the words of him who first taught us to forgive." This refers to the "Arbuckle case," and if I did not see whether such argument is drifting I would not enter protest.

A Note of Appreciation. Valentine, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Two editorials in The Omaha Bee, read and pondered with interest and admiration, have given me the inspiration to make a good start in life. They are entitled "Easy Money and Afterwards" and "Opposition for the Country Bee." A life of 83 years, and 60 years in the ministry, mostly in cities but somewhat in the country, enable me to appreciate these editorials. I have been acquainted with The Bee for 20 years, but it was never as good as now. J. M. CALDWELL, Pastor of the Valentine Presbyterian Church.

Settling Labor Disputes. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I note the article in the issue of December 29 signed "Member of Labor Union," and reading between the lines, one comes to the conclusion that the writer has had his trials and tribulations in his years of service on the firing line. He has gone on record times innumerable. However, that does not necessarily mean that the time is not ripe for compulsory arbitration. We might just as well have it now as later, for it is the unavoidable climax to the campaign of ruthlessness directed against organized labor.

Faithful to Fatty. Howells, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The discussions of country editors regarding Fatty Arbuckle are disgusting in the extreme. Especially so is one statement by one editor that if the public refuse to see Fatty, Hollywood will clean up more quickly than the employment of ten Hays. I am personally acquainted with this editor and have never seen any great reform that he has pulled off, although he has always been classed as a trouble maker. I am one of the public that refuse to be hounded into staying away from a theater where Arbuckle is being shown. I admire the statement by the Falls City Journal and the Oakland Inde-

pendent, and to Mr. Wood in the Gehring Courier I say, "Stay away till there are snowballs in Africa for all that anybody cares." Arbuckle was acquitted, and that should be the end of it. I certainly would enjoy seeing all the people making these statements against him put up against the same charges that he was.

Those Dull Details. There seems to be at least three details common to all the payroll and bank robberies: "First, the attack was well planned;" second, the bandits "used a stolen motor car;" third, "the bandits escaped."—Kansas City Star.

Let's hasten on—get it all out of our systems—and then perhaps enter into that desirable state where we will do unto others as we would be done by. HOPEFUL.

Money to Loan on Omaha Real Estate. Present Interest Rate Charge Is 6%. The CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION 1614 HARNEY.

Illinois Central System Reviews Its Record of Service in 1922. As we enter upon the new year, it is fitting that we review, briefly, the events of the past year and pledge our most earnest efforts to the task of meeting the problems ahead.

The past year began with a business depression and ended in a period of business activity that carried the tide of traffic on the Illinois Central System higher than ever before. The freight traffic handled in 1922 (December estimated) was 16,676,800,000 ton miles, an increase over 1921 of more than 21 per cent. The great increase in business came in the last six months of the year. In the first six months of the year, up to July 1, the Illinois Central System handled an average of 1,169,065,500 ton miles of freight per month. In July it handled 1,311,564,000 ton miles; in August 1,649,538,000 ton miles; in September 1,690,066,000 ton miles; in October 1,759,576,000 ton miles, and in November 1,703,662,000 ton miles. The October business was the greatest in any month in the history of the system.

The handling of this mounting tide of business was made possible by the loyal team-work of the employees of the Illinois Central System and the splendid co-operation received from our patrons.

Despite the difficult conditions of the year—the unsettled state of business and the unrest generally existent—the Illinois Central System, looking to the future needs of its patrons, contracted for new equipment costing approximately \$18,000,000. For other improvements, including reduction of grades and construction of new main line and yard tracks, it incurred an additional expense of \$7,500,000, making a total outlay of \$25,500,000 for new facilities and enlargements.

During the year the patrons of the Illinois Central System have had neither all the transportation service they deserve nor all the service we wanted them to have. The shortage of railway facilities has been of national scope. The losses of the year suffered by shippers as a result of the inadequacy of transportation will not be altogether in vain if they serve to teach the American public the absolute necessity of having an efficient, well-equipped transportation machine, and if they demonstrate that the public cannot have such a machine unless the railroads are regulated constructively.

Some of the prominent antagonists of the railroads are expected to make efforts during this year that will, if successful, place further restrictions upon the railroads, making it still more difficult for them to take the steps necessary to forestall further transportation shortages. Farmers, business men, wage earners and all other classes of our population should be active in opposing these efforts, because their interests in the stake of adequate railway transportation are just as great as, and in some instances greater than, those of railway men themselves.

The New Year season is an occasion for pledging ourselves to the tasks before us. We of the Illinois Central System face the new year hopefully. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to merit a continuance of the support and co-operation which our patrons have so generously accorded us in 1922.

Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited. C. H. MARKHAM, President, Illinois Central System.