

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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AMERICA AND IMMIGRATION.

The movement to lift the drawgrates and admit a new flood of immigration to America is not in accord with public opinion. The nation as a whole, including both those of foreign and native birth, is pretty well satisfied with present restrictions.

This law expires June 30 of this year, and there is beginning a determined drive to have its provisions modified. Such complaint as exists arises from the fact that great numbers of foreigners from the south and east of Europe are kept from entry by the quota set for their country.

Shortage of labor in some industries is alleged by those who seek to bring in aliens by the million under new legislation. Some of these interests would even have the literacy test eliminated and let in anyone with a strong back.

The problem of Americanization would be intensified many fold by such a policy. The organizations seeking a new supply of cheap labor fail to realize the seriousness of this. Lowered cost of production is indeed a desirable thing, but not at the price of American standards.

Involved in this question is the maintenance of the American standard of living. These races from abroad have simpler wants and can work for lower wages without any sense of sacrifice than can native Americans.

It has not been proved that there is any shortage of labor in America when wages sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living are offered. A year ago there was no employment at any wage for millions of men and business suffered for lack of popular purchasing power.

To select and limit our immigration is not in violation of the historic function of America as a haven of the oppressed of every land. The decline of autocracy and the freeing of the subject nationalities has placed the peoples of Europe in a position where they should be able to work out their own salvation at home.

START SAVING WITH NEW YEAR.

"A pin a day is a great a year, and a sixpence saved is a shilling clear," sang "Poor Richard" many years ago, putting in homely rhyme a most important truth. Secretary Mellon of the Treasury department urges observance of this maxim on the American people.

Let us make 1923 a better and more prosperous year than 1922. It can be done, if all of us will unite and try to save more and waste less. In the last two words is contained the real meat of the secretary's message. Waste less. Our great national shortcoming is wastefulness.

That lesson was forgotten at once, when the war was ended, and in the speculative spree that followed we restored our old habit of waste in all its evil fullness. If our country is to get ahead, and it will get ahead, it will be because individuals live economically and use their savings wisely.

The bird who was caught locking the door of his establishment, over which several families were sleeping, and in the basement of which a fire was brightly blazing, says he cannot stand confinement in jail. Was a time in Council Bluffs when he wouldn't have had cause to complain on that score.

A train in Georgia went off the track when running at thirty miles an hour. No wonder; tracks down there are not built for such speed.

That little sample snowstorm on New Year's day was acceptable. About a foot of it will meet Nebraska requirements.

Democrats only request four-ninths of the committee assignments in the legislature. Their modesty is charming.

ANOTHER PARIS CONFERENCE.

The gathering at Paris of the premiers of England, Italy, Belgium and France, to confer with regard to the reparations question, is perhaps the most momentous of the many post-war assemblies. It is portentous as well, for as its result may turn one way or the other will depend the solution of a number of questions. The proffer from France to reduce the reparation charge to 50,000,000,000 gold marks is a most notable concession, indicating as it does a change in attitude on part of the French government.

At his New Year's reception to the newspaper correspondents, President Millerand declared that France would not recede from its position of reparations, and that the peace of Europe and the world depends on strict and literal observance of all the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles. This French view has not been adopted by the other powers, who incline to plans that contemplate something less than French occupancy of another sector of the Rhine-land. President Millerand and Premier Poincaree furthermore are committed to the seizure of all the productive agencies of Germany, in event of further default in payment of reparations. It is this part of their program their allies object to.

For the present Germany's ability to pay is not so much at issue as is the general effect of Germany's financial policy on Europe's commerce and industry. Some way must be found to dry up the flood of marks and to restore the industry and commerce of the Germans to a healthy state. A moratorium on reparations payments has been granted, but not of sufficient length to provide the relief needed. Bonar Law proposes that the whole question of reparations be re-examined by a commission of experts, to the end that some readjustment be made. This seems a reasonable thing to do, and the adoption of such a plan would be reassuring to all. American financiers are inclined to adopt this view as offering a solution.

France would gain little if anything by undertaking to enforce its will through seizure of the Ruhr valley and other regions across the Rhine. A better way would be to aid the Germans in recovering their national health, and then to press for payment of claims. The French position will not be weakened in any material way by adopting views held by peoples on whose friendship the French rely.

If the present Paris conference leads to a break in the four-power combination, the situation in western and central Europe will be more chaotic than since the fall of 1918. Should agreement come from it, the terms will probably be such as will enable Germany to get on a more stable footing, and so tend to a restoration of general health, not only to western Europe but the world.

MORALITY AND THE MASSES.

Charles M. Schwab is quoted as saying that he likes the morality of the working man. Well, why shouldn't he? He is wrong, though, in undertaking to set up the toiling masses of the land as superior to those who are not engaged in the mills and workshops. Americans are moral by nature and inclination, not merely from choice, from heredity, or environment, but because of the natural tendency of man to do good and be good. No class is in possession of exclusive control of those virtues the sum of which is contained in the expression moral, nor does immorality or the lack of morals attach to one group and not to another.

A distorted vision is presented by reason of the fact that the misdeeds of the wealthy and the elevated get more attention than those of the lesser, because the public is for some unaccountable reason more concerned with the behavior of one who has succeeded in attracting notice to himself than it is about the man who merely plugs along in his place in the column.

Mr. Schwab, however, may well feel proud of the friendship of the men he worked with and their successors, for that is something that is not lightly given. His statement with reference to their general character is also of service, because it answers the pseudo-reformer, whose inexperience usually finds expression in deploring the immorality of the workers, and in providing means to enable the working girl to avoid selling herself into shame.

Katherine Bement Davis long ago classed as a cruel and unnecessary insult the frequently repeated assertion that girls who work are driven to sin by low wages. Their natures are as healthy, their character as strong, and their morals as pure as any. Schwab finds similarity for the men, and the two agree on a point that long has been apparent. For if it were not true, our country would have been in a bad fix long ago. The masses of the American people are moral, in every sense of the word, and that fact is the force that sustains America.

When the Union Pacific gets all its new locomotives and box cars and other expansive equipment lined up, we would like to call attention to the fact that Omaha was promised a new passenger station fifteen years ago. Or maybe that isn't too long to wait.

The Big Sixth is on the map at Lincoln as well as at Washington.

Poor Old Pharaoh

In all the world there is no pricier nor is any man safe from the curiosity of his two-legged fellow creatures. They are about to dig poor old Tut-Aankhamen out of his tomb at Thebes. Doubtless the mummy of he who was lord of the Nile will be shipped away somewhere and put in a glass showcase.

Forty centuries ago this Pharaoh of a mighty Egypt laid himself down in his royal tomb. With him he took, after the manner of Pharaohs, his throne, his bed, his chairs and his chariot. Favorite statues and wall paintings, were there. Stone walled him round about when the embalmers and burial priests had finished with him and the old Nile flowed on through Thebes.

Forty centuries of sleep unbroken in this sumptuous narrow house. Then the other day the picks and shovels of curious white men broke through and into the stillness and the dust of 4,000 years. Children of a rich, resourceful and marvelous era, these men were stunned by the richness, the marvels and evident resources of the dead and gone Theban empire that has been a dusty half-myth these forty slow-footed centuries.

Gold and silver, yes, and ebony and ivory. Wonderful alabaster vases, the like of which no living man has seen. Porcelain, carnelian, turquoise, piled heaps of wealth around the door of a second-rate king of old Thebes. It is like the cave in "King Solomon's Mines" all over again, doubled, tripled and multiplied. It is a pity that it can not stand as revealed and stay as it was found, preserved from the gnawing tooth of time by sand and silence and the arid air of Egypt. It can not, of course. Egyptologists are raving over it now. Its riches will be carried away from their setting and lie rest under alien skies.

The privacy, stone-walled and deserted, of poor old Tut-Aankhamen is at an end. The world has burrowed in and found him just as it burrowed into the dust heaps of Babylon and under the buried stones of Troy.

"From State and Nation" Editorials from Other Newspapers

From Nebraska to the Sea.

Edgewood, N. Y., Columbus Telegram. It seems absurd to demand that the grain states shall send their products all the way to New York in order to reach the sea, when by employing barge systems on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers the route might be shortened one-half.

As a member of the American congress it should take active interest in any plan to get the product of the grain states to the sea more quickly and at less cost than the present hideously expensive method of railroads, and perhaps I may even support one New York plan, but before my vote will be cast for that plan I shall first demand government action to employ the waters of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to that good end.

And since the agitation in favor of the Chicago-New York canal will certainly carry that scheme to the attention of the new congress, I suggest the formation of a grain states congressional bloc in the new congress—not for the purpose of defeating the Chicago-New York canal, but rather for the purpose of demanding that there shall be considered in connection with that plan the proper legislation which will make New Orleans the great outlet of the products of the grain states—such products to be borne to the sea by the waters of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. I suggest a conference of all the Mississippi and Missouri valley congressmen to consider this vital need. I further suggest Omaha as the most central and convenient city for the holding of such a conference.

In this connection I have no thought of arousing antagonism toward the plan of the New Yorkers. I am only bound to say that it is about time for a compact organized group of grain states interests in congress to fight for the interests of the people of the grain states. Too long the New England states in general, by the aid of tariff legislation, have been monopolizing the grain states, and too long New York, by financial manipulation, has been exacting unfair tribute from the people of the grain states. I am not now running to the length of calling such a conference of grain states congressmen and senators as here proposed, but I am quite ready to participate in such a conference, which shall be called by the Mississippi Valley association, or by any other organization which has for prime object the general interests of the people of the grain states.

Go Slow!

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. Applicable in almost every urban community, great or small, is the warning recently issued by the Hartford (Conn.) Courant respecting the temptation of rates varying in population from 100,000 to 500,000 to take on airs of "big towns" like New York, Chicago or Philadelphia. "Our assessments," says the Courant, in comment on the pending Hartford budget, "have been increased until everybody is ready to cry enough. The tax rate should not be increased slowly toward disaster. It is better to go even toward prosperity than fast in the opposite direction, in which, by the way, so many cities are headed nowadays." In the present connection that has been noted since the close of the year of labor, many other things—it is desirable to note that there has been little if any deflation in taxes, federal, state or municipal.

Where Politics Need Cleansing.

Roosevelt Brown, in the North American Review. The civil service reforms of 1883 checked customs that threatened to swamp American statesmanship and honesty. But the reforms have since become a struggle for spoils. But the work is not finished. In more than three-fourths of the states of the union the political system still dominates administration and bedevils politics. Down into the city and county services of a larger part of the country the political parties reach for the nourishment with which to build their organizations. There can come no healthy politics of ideas from creatures so fed. How can sincerity and courage in the exposition of ideas, or even an agreement on national party policy, be expected from parties made up of state, county and city organizations dominated by and in turn largely controlled with the patronage of their own localities? The establishment of the federal merit system only half rescued national politics from the dictation of the spoilsman so long as all these reservoirs of spoils remain. They permit the building up of organizations of voters lacking common principles and held together only by the spoilsman or long as all these reservoirs of spoils remain. These organizations in turn make up the national parties and stand for such small measure of ideas as can be rescued from the conflict of their local opinions, controlled chiefly by an eye on local spoils. Not until the whole field of politics, local as well as national, is freed from this misuse of government to build up party machinery can national parties be made effective instruments for carrying out political principles.

"Rabbit Snow"

The guns are full of laughter, When fields are full of snow, When dogs go running after And every dog returns, For traitor tracks will follow, Of ways that rabbits ran To seek to wage battle, With gun and dog and man.

An Arithmetic Revival.

St. Paul's city schools could not be engaged in more useful work than in teaching arithmetic thoroughly, a movement in which direction has been started, as a result of some investigations made into the progress of the pupils. It is not an interesting subject to most minds as music, drawing or nature study. If on no account should it be neglected. Without the more ornamental branches of instruction, it is indisputable that they have been cultivated of late years at the expense of the old multiplication table. It might never be necessary for a grocery clerk, for instance, to put down 16 and 24 on paper to add these amounts, as is often done. The aggregate of time lost in St. Paul one year by slow adding would be worth many dollars, if it could be saved.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee.

The Packers' Combination. Kansas City, Mo.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee. The combination between Morris and Armour is a bad thing for all the world. As it is today, Armour is bigger than the United States and it controls politicians of both old parties.

Morris has always been a thorn in Armour's side. When the smoke clears up you will find Armour owning the Morris Packing company and Morris will own all the stock. It will reduce competition; it will not reduce your meat bill, and it will only cost you more money.

Violations of Labor Board Decisions.

Chicago.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee. The railroad labor board has received many inquiries in regard to the number of violations of its decisions. The people are apparently anxious to ascertain the extent to which the decisions of the board, without the sanction of a penalty, have been respected by the parties. A careful check of our records shows the facts set out below.

There are in the United States 201 class 1 railroads and 892 short lines. Of the class 1 carriers, 58, and of the short lines and miscellaneous companies, 56, are alleged to have violated the decisions of the board. The violations that have occurred on the short lines affect a comparatively small number of men, but involve the same principles as those on the large railroads.

On the class 1 roads there have occurred 61 cases in which the board has formally held that its decisions have been violated. Of these, 46 are comprised in the so-called "contract" cases, in which the carriers let to contractors, independent or claimed independent, the work of certain classes of their employees. In addition to those cases wherein the board has formally held its decisions to have been violated, there are 75 cases pending before the board in which it is charged that class 1 carriers have violated decisions, but upon which charges the board has not yet taken action. Many of these are contested by the carriers and a majority of them have been heard and are ready for decision.

A large percentage of the alleged violations involve unauthorized reductions of wages and unauthorized changes in rules. In cases complaining of such wage reductions, the board has decided seven in favor of the employees and one in favor of the carrier. In cases complaining of arbitrary changes in rules, the board has rendered 10 decisions upholding the employees and two sustaining the carriers.

Only two of the board's decisions have been attacked in the courts, in both cases by the carriers. In only one instance to my knowledge has an employe gone into court to assert his rights under a decision of the board. In that case the supreme court of Mississippi gave judgment in favor of the employe and upheld the board's decision.

There have been no violations of the board's decisions by employes, unless the shop strike on the Missouri & North Arkansas strike should be accounted. In the shop strike, however, it must be remembered, that the employe did not accept the board's decision and continue to work, but that they did not violate it but exercised their legal right under the transportation act to reject it. There is no instance in which the employe has violated a decision and remain in the service, because such violation would mean discharge.

For the Tragic Muse. Some fellow with a gift for rhyme and reason should write a poem about "Twas just before Christmas, and the fourth income tax installment was due."—Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette.

Common Sense

Before Signing a Contract. Before you sign any agreement binding you to do a certain thing, read and think it over. When you pledge your word to carry out certain provisions in a contract you are assuming an important obligation, and are bound by law to fulfill it.

Do not allow anyone to hurry you into signing a contract which compels you to pay a certain sum, or deliver a certain service or goods within a specified time.

Allow yourself time to read and digest carefully the provisions of the agreement, and to consider its phraseology and what it means.

If you feel that its provisions will not be required of you, do not sign it then anyway, because it is more than likely that every provision in it will be rigidly adhered to and you will have to fulfill it.

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A Book of Today

The new work of Lethrop Stoddard, "The Revolt Against Civilization," will please those who are well pleased with themselves. Upon extremely doubtful anthropological evidence and the much mentioned tests, Mr. Stoddard builds up his thesis that the noble edifice of present day civilization is being menaced by the "under man." This under man is, of course, usually poor, belongs to the inferior social classes, and is less fit biologically and mentally. It is racial impoverishment, therefore, and not the bolshevik propaganda, which threatens the existing economic system.

Daily Prayer

Make His praise glorious—Ps. 63:2. O God, our gracious Father, we look to Thee now for Thy benediction. We are Thy suppliant children, who subsist under the cover of Thy providence. We praise Thee for all Thy extraordinary mercies. Thou hast made us like Thyself in the desire and in the capacity for fellowship. May fellowship with Thee be the basis and supreme blessing of our fellowship with each other. May flowers of devotion breathe their fragrance every day upon the family altar. Teach us how to be blessed and how to abound. Keep our feet from unbidden paths, and our eyes from tears; or if the tears must come, let the Comforter come as well, that He may wipe them all away. Temper to us the long night watches of pain and sorrow. If weeping endure for a night, bring joy in the morning; and when the long afternoon shadows deepen toward the evening of this earth's life, bring us very gently to the turn of the road from whence we may catch the vision of the home eternal. May this our present habitation be a promise and a foretaste of the house which has foundation whose builder and maker is God. Help us in our social joys and pleasures to remember Thee. Grant us all to face all life's tasks bravely, and perform them earnestly. And bring us in the end with joyful hearts and glad faces to abide with Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The American Way.

When the great American public isn't sure what it wants, it votes for something different from what it has. —Butler (Mo.) Republican-Press. investigation of what civilization consists of, biologic heredity, and of extreme stratification and its causes. These Americans who believe in social democracy have a task to perform—to inform their fellow citizens concerning themselves.

They're Moving Fast! —and Is There Any Wonder? Our "Pre-Inventory Sale" of Pianos, Player Pianos and Grand Pianos has been most successful, and why not? Never before have such high grade instruments been priced so low—and the terms, too, are exceptionally low. NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY—if you would secure an instrument at the lowest possible price.

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