

THE SUNDAY BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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LIBRARIES AND HOME LIFE.

A plea from the directors of the Omaha Public Library that the city budget contain a more liberal allowance for the work of that institution should call closer attention to a great service that is modestly carried on. We need not go back to the beginning of things to get a perspective; the library has grown up slowly, along with the city, now and then keeping pace, now and then falling a little behind, because its funds have always been limited, and its managers have been compelled to set aside many ambitious prospects because of lack of funds.

A public library is a great asset, an indispensable factor in the communal life of the nation. Many years ago the people of Omaha rejected a proffer from Andrew Carnegie, proudly asserting the library here had been established by the people and would be maintained by them to the end of time. The spirit was commended then, and is commendable now, but the performance has not entirely measured up to the promise. Omaha has grown much faster than its library service, although vigorous efforts have been made to keep it close to the people and responsive to their needs.

Annexation of South Omaha brought into the fold a well established library, founded by Carnegie and maintained by the people of the South Side. This and branches set up north and west, at public schools and elsewhere, throughout the city, bring the books closer to the readers, yet a great deal remains to be done.

No argument is needed to support the statement that books play a highly important role in the life of the people. A library is the companion of the school; the public library is the poor man's university. Not everyone with means possesses the faculty to select and acquire a serviceable collection of books; haphazard buying is encouraged in many ways, and the average home library is more apt to be the heterogeneous result of fancy than the purposeful accumulation of judgment.

Here is where the public library comes in. On its shelves is to be found the richest collection of literature possible to provide. Science, art, fiction, history, poetry, travel, a lavish profusion of authors and authorities, the triumphs of the book publishers' genius and ability, a noble tribute to the intellect of humanity of all times. From this the reader may select, realizing the old motto: "From every man according to his ability; to every man according to his need." Such a fountain should not only be perpetuated in its flow, but its stream should be directed into every home in the community. Publicity is the cure for secret evil; information increases intelligence, and our nation will live and thrive just as the public library is supported.

WHAT MAKES US LAUGH?

A little study of the question of laughter may interest even those who are not particularly concerned with psychology or any of the kindred sciences. Why do we laugh? Generally to express or relieve the excitement of some surface emotion, a feeling that is easily touched, and lightly restored to normal. Laughter is the expression of good nature, of satisfaction, humor, and sometimes of passions or feelings not so creditable. We speak of light laughter, of hearty laughter, of cold or sardonic laughter, and by each distinction in grade suggest a mood.

As to the source of laughter, we must conclude its nature to be that of a nervous reaction. An actor, recently writing advice to his brethren, tells of how an experienced comedian, sick in bed, made him laugh by merely reading addresses at random from a telephone directory. He is a fit companion for the tragedian who brought tears to the eyes of companions by reciting the dishes listed on a dirty menu card. Such things are possible, and prove that the springs of laughter are not deep-seated.

One of the "sure-fire" methods for exciting laughter in a theater is to break a hat. The comedian smashes a cheap straw hat, and the folks out in front are swept away by chuckles; the comedy actress crushes the derby hat of her admirer, and gales of merriment rock the audience. Out in the world it is much the same. A man or woman slips on the pavement, and everybody who sees the fall snickers, giggles and guffaws. One life long friendship in Omaha was broken because when one man fell down an embankment his friend chuckled and said: "Do it again, I didn't see you start." The aggrieved man never forgave the affront.

If we ever stop to think, we may stop laughing. Yet there is good and sufficient reason for laughter in all the world, and it will be a sad and dreary place if it is all taken out.

FATHER AND SON PARTNERSHIPS.

As one journeys through the state of Nebraska he is struck with the surprisingly large number of partnerships on farms where a father and his son or sons compose the firm. Usually these partnerships represent live stock farms where the raising of pure bred animals is the main business on hand. There is something very pleasing in the thought of a farm partnership where father and son are working together. All too often it is the tendency of the sons to break away from the old home ties and try their fortunes elsewhere. Too often there is a feeling of restraint on the part of boys on the average farm, an eagerness to reach their majority and leave for other fields. The formation of father and son partnerships is a very encouraging sign.

It is of interest to note that the junior partner of these live stock partnerships is often a boy who has been given the opportunity that his father did not have, that of attending college and securing that training which is so helpful in a life work. Perhaps the boy has been a student of animal husbandry and won a place on an International Live Stock judging team. He comes back to the farm at the completion of his college course equipped with the knowledge that is essential to the best results in the breeding of live stock. He puts the energy of youth into the business and supplements the practical knowledge gained by his father in the school of experience, with his own text book knowledge. The result is that these partnerships are a potent force in the live stock industry.

The success of such partnerships depends of course to a large extent upon the attitude of each partner toward the other. The father must have a real faith in the theories gained in college halls. On the other hand, the son must have the fullest respect for the practical facts of the father. The live stock industry is the hope of our future agriculture. These father and son partnerships will raise the standard of the industry.

HOW TO GAUGE PUBLIC MORALS.

A correspondent challenges the statement of The Omaha Bee that men and women are inherently good, resting the case on the number of crimes reported in the newspapers. Another correspondent argues that bootleggers thrive because a majority of the people are not in favor of the Volstead law. It would be a sorry day for humanity if either of these correspondents were right. In each instance the conclusion rests upon an assumption that is not justified by experience or by proven facts. Crime gets an apparently undue proportion of space in the newspapers, but only in appearance. The correspondent who took the pains to count the number of news items that recorded one or another shocking deed might have been comforted by a little further search, which would have disclosed a large number of news items of importance, disclosing facts of general interest concerning other matters than crime. Even were this not entirely true, the proportion of crime in the news reports is yet an argument in support of the statement that men and women are inherently good.

A news item gets its value from its quality of novelty. The commonplace event is seldom reported, or, if set down at all, is given but little consideration, because it is of a routine and expected nature. A crime is recorded accordingly as it presents something unusual or startling in its nature. If good were less common than evil, it would get the greater attention because of its novelty. People throughout the world are moral from choice, by nature, and always have been. Mankind has recorded many centuries of history, and back of these definite records we find legends, folk lore, mythology, all permeated and shot through with moral precepts and teachings. Our most exalted maxims have come down from an honored antiquity, proving the universal prevalence of right motives. That is why evil gets notice and wrong attention, when good and right are accepted as matters of course and excite no comment.

TOMB OF AN "EPHERMERAL" KING.

Tutenkhamun, whose tomb has just been opened by English explorers, was tucked away 3,312 years ago. He is labeled in Egyptian annals as one of the "ephemeral" kings, of whom there were five, their combined reigns covering a period of five years, from 1395 to 1390 B. C. Naturally, neither Tutenkhamun nor either of his immediate predecessors made a very deep dent on history. Events were moving rapidly in Egypt about that time, and being king was about the same in respect to life insurance as being mixer in a dynamite factory—not a good risk.

Egypt had just come out from under the rule of the so-called "Shepherd" kings, who were not shepherds at all, but some daring adventurers who fastened their control on Egypt much as did the Normans on what is now called Normandy. That is, they took charge and defied the inhabitants of the country to expel them. These intruders got along fairly well in Egypt for several hundred years, but when they undertook to set up a new religion, trouble started. Tutenkhamun was one of the rebellious group, but he didn't last long enough to get well set in the game. After him, however, the old religion was set up again, and matters went along fairly well, such well remembered rulers as Sesostrius and Ramesses coming along to do great things.

The explorers who have opened the tomb, however, have reaped rich reward. Tutenkhamun may not have reigned long, but more than \$15,000,000 in gold and gems were found in his last resting place. That would be a reasonable amount of treasure to inter with a modern ruler. Along with this material wealth is listed much of art and useful ware. A chest contained linen garments, presumably the underwear of the monarch, who took with him into the shades—a change of clothing as well as the fortune. Another find was that of alabaster vases, containing perfumed ointment, still fragrant, after being hidden away for thirty-three centuries. A lasting perfume.

Some papyrus scrolls were also found, and inscriptions that may be valuable in shedding further light on Egyptian history, all in all one of the most notable discoveries made in the Land of the Nile in many years.

An "ephemeral" king! Yet which of his predecessors or successors has lasted longer? Other names than his are written higher on the scroll of fame, but Tutenkhamun shall have his day before the public, because his tomb remained untouched, hidden under the dust of centuries, until today.

"Uncle Andy" Mellon is pursuing tax-exempt security with a persistence that ought to bring results. But property in other forms also is escaping taxation, and the game has been going on all through the ages.

Rumors from Europe are to the effect that alarm is spreading among winemakers and brewers because the country is drying up. They should worry. Look at what prohibition did for us.

The moral of that bridge disaster in Washington, if any there be, is that when the authorities know a bridge is unsafe, they should close it against public use.

Another coal wage conference has exploded, but the year is young yet, and probably several more will blow up before any settlement is reached.

The first week end is a welcome period for the legislators, for it gives them time to catch their breath and see what is to be done and who is to do it.

The Woman Voters' league having endorsed the physical training law, maybe somebody will come forth and explain what it provides or requires.

An Omaha man, whose wife ears the living for the family, rebels at doing the housework. How would he feel if the positions were reversed.

Present day efforts to get the prince of Wales wedded and settled down revive memories of the day when his grandpa was on the market.

The mail clerks are keeping the Council Bluffs transfer on the map, but not in a way the service enjoys.

Florida is getting into the limelight for something else than winter climate and early vegetables.

Mussolini either had a hunch, or he is the luckiest of European premiers today.

When Augustus Ruled in Rome

Some of the Lessons History Holds for People of the Present Day.

"ROME AND THE WORLD TODAY," by Herbert S. Hadley, G. P. Putnam's Sons, London and New York.

If one were not aware of the thorough Americanism of Dr. Hadley, it might be easy to mistake his intent from the subtitle of his book: "A study in comparison with present conditions of the reorganization of civilization under the Roman Empire, which brought to the world two hundred years of peace." On reading the volume, one easily comes to understand that its author has no purpose of suggesting an imperial master for the world of today, or that the United States assume a role such as that played by Rome at the beginning of the Christian era.

What Dr. Hadley has given the world as his contribution to the critical historic study of existing conditions is an interesting analytical account of how Cæsar Octavius came to be known to the world as Augustus, how he succeeded in establishing the famous "Pax Romana," restore industry and commerce, and gave to the world a civilization, much of which we still enjoy, and which is the basis of the "dark ages." The work is valuable, as providing a link between the monumental works of Mommsen, who ended with Cæsar, and Gibbon, who begins with the Antonines, and neither of whom accord more than passing notice to Augustus, whom Hadley describes with some enthusiasm as being "one of the greatest, if not the greatest, constructive statesman and reformer of all ages."

Augustus came into his power at the end of a century of almost continual war. The Roman Republic had literally drowned in a sea of blood; the savage proscriptions incident to the factious and civil wars of Sulla and Marius, the Punic wars, rebellions of various kinds, civil and servile conflicts, as well as the incursions of the Scythians and the invasions of the Parthians under Mithridates, all had sapped the manhood and wealth of the Romans, until the end seemed at hand. When Antony followed Cleopatra from Actium, and cleared the way for a single ruler, Augustus found Rome and the world at a desperate crisis. Cicero says of the provinces:

"All the provinces are mourning; all the nations that are free are complaining; every kingdom is expatiating with us about our greed and injustice. There is no more place on the surface of the ocean, none so distant, none so out of the way, that in these later times the lust and iniquity of our citizens have not reached it. The Roman name is no longer honorable to bear, I do not say, the violence, the arms and the war, but the mourning, the tears and the complaints of all foreign nations."

And Dr. Hadley goes on with his comment:

"The picture we get of the conditions in Italy is almost as gloomy and oppressive. By the slave and the peasant, by the product of cruelty and injustice, by the social wars, brought about by unfairness to her allies, by the civil wars, and by the proscriptions, resulting from the bitterness and injustice of the opposing factions, Italy had become a disordered, devastated and a poverty-stricken land. Her population and that of the empire was decreasing, and crime was so general and unpunished that both life and property were insecure. The darkness and gloom of the earlier part of Europe 500 years later in the beginning of the middle ages threatened to oppress the most civilized and the most advanced world in the last half century of the pagan era."

There is a picture of the Roman world as Augustus found it when he set about to restore peace. He could not shun war at the outset, for he had rebellious subjects to deal with, and he had to make the frontiers safe, especially those to the north. His first step was to continually threatened. A series of well planned movements consolidated his political empire. In Spain he boldly rode, unarmed, into the camp of Lepidus and secured his sword, even the commander suing for peace, and being given honorable treatment, his life being spared against the advice and demands of the young emperor's friends. Lepidus and Antony having been removed. A new constitution was given to Rome, and again and again Augustus was elected to head the senate. His position is thus described by Hadley:

"It is difficult to imagine any situation in this country that would present much of resemblance to the position of Augustus. Our form of government is too rigid and our democracy too commonplace for the development of dominating personalities and the enjoyment of great careers. But if in the first year of the Civil war the confederate forces had occupied Washington, captured President Lincoln, his cabinet and most of the members of congress, and then, by common consent of the Senate and the approval of what the official authority there was, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had assumed dictatorial authority, and had he brought the war to a successful conclusion, and wisely directed the reconstruction of the union, his election as president in 1864 would naturally have followed. And if he had regularly every four

years with practically the unanimous approval of the people, been elected to the office of President in 1816, the second election of Wood Wilson, and had died in 1919, beloved and regretted by 100,000,000 of people, his public career would have been comparable to that of Augustus."

It would be interesting to follow in order the steps taken by this great Roman in his task of bringing order and health to the empire. That he succeeded is amply testified by the two centuries of peace and progress for the world which began under his administration. He not only laid the foundation, but he built so much of the superstructure of modern civilization that centuries of blundering were required before his successors succeeded in completely wrecking the work he did.

Asking, "Have we anything to learn from history?" Dr. Hadley points out the lesson to be learned from Rome and today. Government was along the same lines as exists for the constitutional monarchies and republics of today. Commerce and industry was founded on the principles now prevailing, education was freer and more general than in modern times up to 1850; newspapers did not exist. Bryan's idea of government publication was present in the form of the daily bulletins put out by the government for the information of the public; courts were open, and religion was free, public amusements were provided, and Dr. Hadley says:

"Their civilization and culture were superior to any the world had known before or knew later up to the middle of the 19th century. Comfort and conveniences of life for the well-to-do were equal or superior to those which were available in Europe or the United States up to the middle of the 19th century, while the condition of the artisan and middle classes does not suffer by comparison with the condition of these classes in modern times."

"The chief points of distinction between the civilization and culture of that day and this arise from the use of gasoline and steam engines and electrical power. If these three agencies, which have been put to such varied and important uses through the skill and ingenuity of modern science, life in the 20th century would not be essentially different from what it was in the first century of the Christian era."

Dismissing just a little, it is well for Cleopatra that popular notions of her personality and charms rest on the picture given by Shakespeare, of the Sardan and Daudet, rather than on the estimate given by Hadley. Let me quote:

"The picture we get of the conditions in Italy is almost as gloomy and oppressive. By the slave and the peasant, by the product of cruelty and injustice, by the social wars, brought about by unfairness to her allies, by the civil wars, and by the proscriptions, resulting from the bitterness and injustice of the opposing factions, Italy had become a disordered, devastated and a poverty-stricken land. Her population and that of the empire was decreasing, and crime was so general and unpunished that both life and property were insecure. The darkness and gloom of the earlier part of Europe 500 years later in the beginning of the middle ages threatened to oppress the most civilized and the most advanced world in the last half century of the pagan era."

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The Bee Bookshelf

"NOBODY'S GIRL," by Hector Malot, Cupples & Leon Co., New York.

A little girl is left destitute in the slums of Paris. She must go to the home of her grandfather who years before had driven from home her father, his son, and disinherited him. Into the midst of the bustling factories of the wealthy old gentleman the little miss makes her way, and the story of how she crept into the heart and affection of the grizzled old business baron is sweetly told in "Nobody's Girl," by Hector Malot (Cupples-Leon).

"Nobody's Girl" was published in France as "En Famille." The translation is by Florence Creeve-Jones. The book follows "Nobody's Boy" as a companion juvenile story, but, like its predecessor, has an appeal to grownups as well as younger readers.

"NOW, VIRGINIA," by Helen Sherman Griffith, Penn Publishing company, publishers.

Life at Miss West's farm school is told in a manner to entertain girls from 9 to 14. The benefits accruing from learning how to take care of a house furnishes the lesson.

"A YANKEE GIRL AT SHILOH," by Helen Sherman Griffith, Penn Publishing company, publishers.

A story for boys and girls from 7 to 11. It deals with the experiences of a northern girl in the mountains of Tennessee preceding the battle of Shiloh.

"STRIPED COAT THE SUNK," by J. Wharton Edwards, Penn Publishing company, publishers.

This is the story of an unusual skunk which made its presence felt by helping its human protector, the farmer, in killing pests of the fields. It is written in a manner to entertain and instruct children.

"ROSEMARY," by Josephine Lawrence, Cupples & Leon company, New York.

Rosemary is a sweet little girl of 12, gifted with a childish insight into the hearts and motives of the people. She mother her younger sisters, Sarah, 10, and Shirley, 6, in the absence of her parents, while Dr. Hugh, their big brother, is in the military places in their hearts from idol to tyrant.

"Eating Vitamines" is one of the most unique and interesting little volumes of the day. Being scientifically correct, it will serve the most useful end of acquainting the public, in an authoritative manner, with the real truth, and the value of the much discussed vitamins, without which, in what we eat, life is impossible. The author, C. Houston Gowen, is a national authority on nutrition, and the introduction to the book is written by the man who discovered vitamins, Casimir Funk, associate in biological chemistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

"There is," said Prof. Funk in 1912, after a long research and investigation, "a force that exercises vital guardianship over the nutritive processes by which inert food material is translated into human feeling, thought and action. That force I call vitamine, because it is the warden of health—because it is necessary to life."

While the book is interesting to read, its special function will be to aid the housewife in making up her daily menus so as to include foods that contain vitamins instead of using foods that fail to nourish. With this in view, the author has provided for her 300 choice, tested recipes and seasonal menus, dishes that are inexpensive but rich in vitamins, food combinations that are nutritious and healthful. Furthermore, the author tells her what foods tend to stay off sickness—gastro-intestinal troubles, loss of weight, anemia, breaking down of organic functions, etc.

In issuing "The Home Radio, How to Make and Use It," by A. Hyatt Verrill, Harper & Brothers, New York, have made work easy for radio amateurs. The book is intended and designed particularly for the use of amateurs, young and old, and those who wish to know how to make, use or adjust wireless telephone instruments. The author has purposely avoided all technical terms and dissertations and made his directions and explanations plain and simple.

Grant Overton's "When Winter Comes to Main Street," (George H. Doran company), is frankly devoted to the promotion of interest in Doran books and authors. The book gives personal information, literary and critical impressions, photographs, bibliographies and excerpts, with interlarded chapters of comment and summary concerning many writers not included in the individual accounts, and it is very fully indexed.

The travel books of George Wharton Edwards are unique. This artist has made it his habit for several years to study some historic part of Europe and then present the fruits of his experiences in the form of a collection of beautiful drawings in a handsomely bound book. Last year it was Belgium that he presented in this way; this year it is "London."

There is no doubt that the matter in this volume to weary the reader, but the main spokesman is the artist's pencil. Of the 51 full-page drawings many are touched with the subdued hues of the original subjects. The Penn Publishing Co.

AROUND NEBRASKA

Fort Calhoun Chronicle: The best front page we have ever seen on a great daily newspaper was that of The Omaha Bee Christmas morning. The design was a full page picture of Santa Claus and while not especially different from the usual conception of Kris Kringle, the beauty of it lay in the comparison it made with the usual recital of crime and scandal that sickens the reader. Not that The Omaha Bee is any worse, possibly it is freer from this type of news than most of its contemporaries, but what a relief it would be and how it would tend to reduce crime if the dailies would in each edition either have the accurate page blank or cover it with something more pleasing than a recital of the misdeeds of humanity.

There is plenty of good in the world, but you'd never guess it from reading the average front pages of the daily newspapers.

Spaulding Enterprise: One of the most discussed questions relative to the state's road building program is that of federal aid. The plan by which the federal government encourages improvement work in the states and which has been tagged with the catch phrase "matching dollars," has come in for a great deal of indefinite criticism during the past two weeks. Newly elected legislators, knowing that the question of federal aid, especially in order to raise funds for road building, is in the coming session, and are asking for the pros and cons on the subject.

Grand Island Independent: When you pick up one of those new Russian cigarettes wrapped with flavored brown paper, doesn't it remind you of the good old days behind the barn when you first got the habit?

Harvard Courier: There is lots of opposition to the system of matching dollars with the national government in order to raise funds for road building and other things. About the only argument that can be found in favor of such practices is that the state has to pay its share of the national appropriation for such purposes and if we do not match dollars in order to get

some of it back other states get it and we get nothing. In other words, we would have to pay all the cost of building our own roads and then help pay for the roads of other states. The whole system is bad, but it needs to be changed at Washington first.

Oakland Independent: The biggest problem that faces the farmer is that of marketing his products. He is entitled to longer credit on his loans, in order that he need not dump his crops on a glutted market. Freight rates are also too high. For these two things he may justly look to congress for relief. But these are, after all, necessary in the distribution of products, but there are also a lot that are superfluous.

York Democrat: The agitation being fostered in Lincoln to retain the services of Osborne, the tax commissioner, will prove of little use. The people of the state have all they want of Osborne, and any attempt to keep him in office is useless. The present administration will not be composed of officials of his ilk and the former bosses of the state government might as well awaken to the fact.

Clay County Sun: Meetings of "taxpayers' leagues" are becoming commonplace, but the only tangible result to date is the knowledge that, to get anywhere, a lobby will have to be maintained at Lincoln at the usual salary of the competent lobbyist. If you have delved in the history of legislatures at all—and are honest—you will admit that "lobbying" is anatomy to all who are decent and is in direct conflict with the spirit of our system of government. Elect honest, capable men to your lawmaking bodies and then fight to protect them from any interference with their honest self-determination of their course of action on all matters which may come up. Would you dare go to a district judge and attempt to influence his decision in any matter appearing before him for adjudication?

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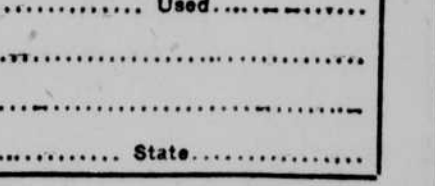
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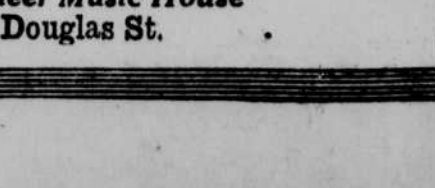
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