

SCHOOL FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT. A bill introduced in the legislature may serve to open the way for the full examination and consideration of one of the most important questions now before the citizens of Nebraska. School finance and management have been discussed on many occasions, but seldom with the broad view that sees the problem as a whole and not with reference to its local application.

The bill referred to has for its purpose the establishment of a budget for schools, and intends to require that the school boards prepare and publish each year a carefully itemized list of proposed expenditures, that the residents of the several districts may be given due notice of how much money is to be expended and for what purpose.

On the surface this appears to be a step in the right direction. It possibly may lead to economies; it certainly will head off extravagance by warning the public in advance, and it will stop the door to the grumbler, who stands on the fact that he did not know what was going on. Publicity is the greatest of safeguards for public business, and no part of our social machinery deserves or requires more watchfulness than the management of the schools.

But the budget only touches one item in the general problem. Some further inquiry will lead directly to the center of the school question, that of financing. We still follow the original, primeval plan, that of establishing districts separate and independent each of the other. What little effort has been made to consolidate districts and bring about a group management has met with much opposition, some intelligently selfish and some that will not measure up to that distinction. Inequalities have arisen that are all but insurmountable under existing conditions.

RELIEF SHOULD BE EXTENDED. One of the most difficult tasks facing middle western congressmen is that of convincing eastern congressmen that money advanced by the government for reclamation purposes is not lost to the federal treasury, and that irrigation means vastly more than merely squirting water on a garden patch through a hose. During the last twenty years the federal government has advanced to Nebraska irrigation areas something like \$12,000,000 for the construction of irrigation and drainage ditches. About one-fourth of this amount has been repaid to the federal treasury to be used again and again in reclamation projects.

De Freycinet may be old and feeble, and all but forgotten, but he still retains his faculty for defending his views. A man who has been away from Omaha twenty years expresses amazement at the changes. He should come again in twenty years.

When the black signs change to green the automobile license is renewed. Are the War Grifters To Be Punished? From the New Republic.

Possible we are unduly sceptical, but we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the indictment of Mr. Crowell and other members of the emergency construction committee will lead to any substantial results. We have no doubt whatever that the government was grossly and scandalously plundered by numbers of contractors during the war period. Nor do we doubt that the officers of the administration were often culpably negligent in permitting the plundering to go on.

Europe is really learning the virtues of corn as food, a fact that is indicated by a 40 per cent increase in purchase for American corn in the last year, and that the consumption now is five times that of the prewar average.

DIVIDED THEY FALL. Americans struggle in vain to understand conditions that prevail in Europe. Chaos has followed the emergence of suppressed nations, and efforts at self-determination have served so far only to confound confusion.

In some respects the redrawing of the map of Europe, done at Paris, failed to achieve the happiness of the people. A plebiscite to determine nationality for Upper Silesia has produced more misery than blessing; Memel was left in such an uncertain state that none can say just what its exact status is, and over these two bits of territory, formerly included in Prussia, war is now threatened.

Divided they fall, and unless something like concord is speedily restored in Europe the horrors of a long continued succession of small wars may be again experienced. The situation is a strong argument for a new council at which a basis for peace and agreement may be discovered and applied.

The United States is concerned in Memel, for example, because the control of that bit of sea coast was awarded by the treaty to the Allied Powers and their Associates, the latter term being insisted upon by Mr. Wilson to designate America's part in the World War.

Reason demands a reassembling at the council table, where these differences can be adjusted, and agreement reached that will avert what is now a serious threat to European reorganization.

"The People's Voice"

Enforcing the Dry Law. Lincoln.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I have just now read the editorial in The Omaha Bee entitled "Upshaw's Crusade for Honesty."

If You Don't Like Fatty. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: A letter in the "People's Voice" column, signed by one "R. M. Fiala," severely denounced a backer of Fatty Arbuckle for his policy of doing as he pleases.

Why Belong to a Political Party? Scottsbluff, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In these days of reckless thought and unbridled academic learning, when men talk independence of party principle, it is well to stop and ponder "whither we are drifting."

North Bend Eagle. J. C. Newsom: The invasion of Germany by the French is regarded here by some with indifference. Many are not in sympathy with the move and very few believe it wise.

York New Teller. The majority of thinking men consulted in this community consider that France is making a serious mistake in entering German territory.

The Present Financial Situation. Lincoln.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: To trace the main cause of the world's chaos that now exists is not difficult. To the unprejudiced mind it may be made as plain as that 2 and 2 make 4.

AC Spark Plug Company, FLINT, Michigan U. S. Pat. No. 1,287,272, April 13, 1919. U. S. Pat. No. 1,287,273, April 13, 1919. Other Patents Pending.

Nebraska and the French

One State Editor Finds Local Sentiment Favors Occupation—Another Says His Community Indifferent—But Most Condemn French Policy—All Glad America Is Out.

Orleans Chronicle. H. H. McCoy: The unprecedented action of the French government in repudiating the good offices of the government of the United States and that of Great Britain in the matter of the French-German reparations controversy and the subsequent invasion by France of German territory, occupying the Ruhr district, has had a sobering effect on the people of Harlan county.

C. A. Goodall: Sentiment of western Nebraska and Keith county regarding the occupation of the Ruhr is that France has moved wisely, providing the actions of her soldiers toward civilians is guarded with greatest care.

McCook Tribune. F. M. Kimmel: The sentiment of this community, as expressed in many instances upon the invasion of the Ruhr is that our good friend and ally, France, has not only alienated itself from the favorable sentiment and support of America and England, its chief supporters in the crisis of the world war, but has endangered and endangered the whole European situation.

Imperial Republican. W. J. Reynolds: France has made mistakes in the past, but invasion of the Ruhr district is the most foolhardy. It will alienate the rest of the powers. The damage to France in the world war is well known, but this manner of collecting reparations will not meet with approval.

Palmer Journal. In its seemingly heartless course France remembers the treatment it received at the hands of Germany when conditions were reversed, also what it might now expect had the central powers won in the world war.

Discipline Yourself to Save Regularly. These days a lot is written about "self-discipline."

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for DECEMBER, 1922, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 71,494 Sunday 78,496 B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr. ELMER S. ROOD, Cir. Mgr.

Did Your Ford Start Hard This Morning? Hard starting and poor performance in cold weather have always been bad enough, but these difficulties become worse each year because of fuel conditions.

Pop to the Plaid



Impossible for you to purchase certain things, but because it is in little bits, in small sums the aggregate is far larger than you realize.

California through Carriso Gorge Newest of Scenic Marvels. Rock Island Lines Golden State Limited. Shortest—quickest route to San Diego. Carriso Gorge is only one of the many points of interest on the short, interesting route to California—the Golden State Limited way.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for DECEMBER, 1922, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 71,494 Sunday 78,496 B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr. ELMER S. ROOD, Cir. Mgr. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public.

Rock Island Golden State Limited. 50th Anniversary of Service. Security Years of Service.

Money to Loan on Omaha Real Estate Present Interest Rate Charge Is 6%

The CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION 1614 HARNEY

Chest colds—broken! Sloan's Liniment—kills pain! For rheumatism, bruises, strains, chest colds.