

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY
THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY
NELSON B. UPPDKE, Publisher. B. BREWER, Gen. Manager.
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEE TELEPHONES
Private Branch Exchange. Ask for the Department AT Lantic 1000
Editorial Department. AT Lantic 1021 or 1022.

IN A WORLD WITHOUT TREES.

At the present time the United States of America is using up its timber resources four times faster than they are being renewed. Not very many years from now we will have no timber resources, if the present policy prevails. A world without trees is quite within the range of probabilities, if all peoples carry on as do the Americans. Impossible? Not a bit of it. Entirely within reason. China did afford a splendid example of the effects of forest devastation and denudation. Palestine, Syria, Persia, many other regions might be cited as examples. The ever-increasing demand of a growing population makes the onslaught on the timber resources of the world more intense, and the end may come much sooner than it did in the countries of the old world.

However, the world will be spared the spectacle. China, backward nation, under tutelage of the enlightened, torn by civil war and beset by all manner of difficulties within and without, has planted 100,000,000 forest trees within the last three years, more than the United States has planted altogether since it took up the business of forestry. Palestine's wind-swept hills are being reforested under the most arduous of conditions. Soil must be carried from the valley in many places, to recover the nude rocks, that tree roots may gain a foothold, but sometime the hills of Judea will be once more crowned with verdant foliage.

Switzerland has a state-owned forest more than nine centuries old, in which more trees are standing than were there at the beginning, and yet the wood is continually being drawn on for industrial and commercial uses. Before the war at least one German town of note derived all its municipal revenue from the city-owned forest. France has spent millions of francs planting and caring for forests, and gets a profit from its state woods. A world without trees would never come, for man is learning something, and is applying one of his lessons to growing forests. Nebraska has an opportunity along this line that ought not to be neglected longer.

WAGES AND MORALITY.

A single phase of the movement to enact a minimum wage law for the working girls of Nebraska deserves attention above all others. It is the assertion that low wages drive girls to shame. This has been so often repeated that it has taken on the fixed aspect of a formula. Yet investigators of such standing as Dr. Katherine Bement Davis, Dr. Abraham Flexner, Mrs. Raymond Robbins, and others who have devoted much time and careful research to the problem, declare that there is so little of truth in the statement that it should not be considered in connection with wage discussions.

Moral as well as economic reasons must be considered in the fixing of wages, but such reasons do not include the element of unchastity on part of the workers. To insinuate that it does is to gratuitously insult the millions of girls and women who daily toil to earn their bread. The quality of self-reliance and self-respect bred from contact with the affairs of the world as encountered in office, factory or store, breeds in woman something far finer than a tendency to degradation. Girls do no wrong, and it is not necessary here to cite reasons; what is aimed at is to point out that the working girl is honest and upright and clean.

Men who work with these girls choose wives from among them; others of them wed outside the ranks of the workers, but all of them make good wives and mothers. Lessons they have learned while earning their living serve them well as heads of homes and protectors of families. Foolish girls are found among them, just as foolish girls and boys are found in every grade of society, but these would be foolish wherever placed. The American working girl is a credit to her sex and to America, because she is honest, proud, sincere, and respectable.

The proposed law to license motorists and to withdraw drivers' permits for thirty days upon conviction of violation of the traffic regulations shows what steps may have to be taken if reckless driving is not curbed by the voluntary action of automobile owners.

Eight million dollars worth of repairs ought to make the Leviathan a fairly presentable boat. But the boys who went over and back on this giant ship in '17 and '18 were not so particular about luxurious accommodations as they were over reaching land.

French reports say they are under no illusions as to the serious situation they face, but they seem to have been under considerable of a delusion when they started into the Ruhr.

"Doug" Fairbanks is going to defy Czar Hays and all his cabinet. Very good; now look out for Doug and Mary in another "epoch marking" film.

Seven former postoffices for Nebraska at the beginning of 1923, but quite as many people to keep the remaining ones at work.

One thing the flyers will enjoy at St. Louis is an atmosphere dense enough to give their propellers fair hold for power.

Congress is facing such a stack of work it begins to wonder where the last two years have gone.

One way to keep folks from watching you is to direct their attention to the other fellow.

The January thaw is about over now.

An Ancient Blunder

The French government thus far has not mined much coal in the Ruhr, but it has succeeded in consolidating Germany. At least for the time being. M. Poincaré has done what no German chancellor has been able to do. He has united the socialists and reactionaries, the workers and the employers, the agrarians and the industrialists, and he has made a German hero out of a German coal baron. He has supplied all Germans with an object which they can hate more fervently than they hate each other. M. Poincaré's apologists like to say that in using force he is at last speaking a language which the Germans understand. That is what the allied powers thought in 1793 when they went to war with the French revolution. That is what another set of allied powers thought in 1918 when they went to war with the Russian revolution. That is what Germany thought when she practiced schrecklichkeit in Belgium and northern France. That is what the British Tories thought when they sent the black and tans into Ireland. That is what General Dyer thought when he ordered the massacre at Amritsar. That is what the allies thought when they sent the Greek army into Asia Minor. It is one of the oldest blunders of governments, the most ancient illusion of statesmen. It arises out of an inability to see that nothing is so calculated to unite a people as oppression by alien force. For in the presence of the invader the ordinary divisions of class, sect and party are submerged and the resistance which the invader went to crush is intensified many times.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from Other Newspapers

Not a Failure. From the Philadelphia Ledger. It would not be exact to say that the debt parley between the British and the American debt commission has failed. In these joint sessions at Washington important and necessary work has been done.

As a result, each nation knows where the other stands. We know that the British cannot pay off the loan in 25 years as congress directed and that the period of payments may need to be extended to 40, or even 50 years. There need be no serious difficulty over that. We now know that congress is the body to be reckoned with in making a settlement and that congress is not likely to agree to an interest rate as low as 4 per cent. If we are paying 4 1/2 per cent on our own Liberty loans that were in turn loaned to the allies. The difference between 3 per cent and 4 1/2 per cent on a half billion dollars is the greatest difficulty in the way.

Both commissions were working with their hands tied. British freedom in bargaining was limited by England's financial and industrial situation. An act of congress restricted the American commission. Both commissions, after 10 days of clarifying talk, have broken off to get fresh instructions. They had gone as far as they could go. On this side of the Atlantic the problem goes back to congress. Since the adjournment of congress a decision is wanted neither by the president, by congress nor by the nation, any action that will mean agreement on the debt is unlikely before the end of 1923 or the beginning of 1924. Congress can and will act sooner, so much the better.

In London there will be a re-examination of the situation. The British commission will go over with the Bonar Law government such new proposals as Great Britain may be able to offer the Harding administration and congress. They may know how far England must go to meet American views, and certainly they will take home with them the knowledge that it is idle to talk about "cancellation" in Washington.

The debt negotiations have been suspended, but not broken off. There has been no "rupture." The British embassy will continue negotiations while we wait on congress and Downing Street. There is no good reason why there should not be an agreement within a year, for there is good will and desire for a just settlement on both sides.

These joint sessions were no more than preliminaries, but they were necessary preliminaries. Now the two countries can get down to the real business of settlement.

Back to Moral Suasion.

From the Detroit Free Press. William J. Bryan has been found a plan to improve the enforcement of the Volstead act. To start with he would secure pledges from one-holders that they will abstain entirely from the purchase and consumption of alcoholic liquors. This movement he would extend to leading people everywhere and, finally to the whole population. This is a return to the days when there was a great difference of opinion among temperance people as to how they should proceed against the evil of alcoholic excess. On one side were the prohibitionists and on the other the moral suasion party. They were not altogether friendly, but they worked at the same time in the same direction. The prohibitionists for law and the other party for exactly what Mr. Bryan now suggests—pledges.

At one time this movement to convert the people to a life of total abstinence assumed proportions that were entirely overshadowed by the activities of the prohibitionists. Temperance exhorters addressed audiences and treated furores comparable with the most spectacular accomplishments of the Rev. Billy Sunday in the religious field. The excitement died and the prohibitionists who viewed the movement with a skepticism that bordered on hostility, finally occupied the field alone and won to their cause some of the most effective orators in the moral suasion camp.

Now the complete political victory of the prohibition cause brings a revival of the old idea that the way to stop the consumption of alcoholic liquor is to persuade the people that it is wrong to use it. Doubtless there is merit in the suggestion. For experience shows that law enforcement will never get beyond public sentiment and there is no question that sentiment on the subject of liquor law enforcement stands in need of a strong moral tonic.

Another Bad One.

From the Wichita Eagle. One of the absurd proposals that the Kansas legislature is said to be about to be subjected to is a bill for placing the regulation of motor buses in the hands of a public commission, presumably the public utilities, or rate fixing commission.

Just another little scheme of the big public utilities to crowd out the newer intruders which tend to force themselves upon a community in spite of its well established old customs. The traction interests cannot bear to see the buses prosper, because the buses render a service quickly, in an orderly manner, and in a more modern way than the traction interests that are tied to tracks in the center of the street can render it. The buses prosper, anyway. Influences have been brought to bear.

Daily Prayer

O my God! confessing my guilt and with a contrite heart I kneel before Thee and implore Thee to look upon me according to the multitude of Thy mercies. I detest and am heartily sorry for all my sins, not only because I dread the loss of heaven and the path of hell, but also and principally because by them I have offended Thee, O God, to whom I owe all that I am, and do, and I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins and to amend my life. I acknowledge Thee, O God, to be the Supreme God, the Lord of all things with all my heart, Be merciful to me, a poor sinner. I beseech Thee, by the passion and death of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, to forgive me my sins. Amen.

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. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of January, 1923. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public (Seal)

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee.

Boys and Boys. Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: At a recent meeting of one of our large business organizations, there was considerable discussion concerning the Boy Scout work, and its worthiness of support. Some of the arguments that were raised against it were of a nature to arouse the indignation of thoughtful people. That anyone can be so narrow as to object to a thoroughly democratic organization of that sort, just because the sons of some of the wealthy men of the city receive benefits therefrom is deplorable, to say the least.

Boys are boys the world over, and as such, they hold within themselves all the potentialities of coming citizens and business men, regardless of whether or not their fathers have plenty of money. That a man of today should refuse to contribute to an enterprise which has for its object a proper guidance of the energies of youth, and wholesome instruction in ideals of truth, honor, purity and courtesy, simply because, maybe, some one or another of the group has a rich father, seems to be a deliberate and reprehensible shutting of eyes to the responsibilities of one generation for the proper nurture and preparation of the next. Should not parents have the right to expect a wide and more neighborly care and interest, insuring them their best development, in order that tomorrow's men and women shall be altogether worthy ones? Truly did Christ say, "No man liveth unto himself alone." The sons of the poorer citizens, those from the middle walks of life, and those from the more fortunate circles (as the world counts fortune), meet and mingle, in play, at school and, later, in business. Is my care for my son to be so short-sighted that I shall fail to take into account the fact that his associates determine, in large measure, what he is to be? And is my duty to him done when I provide for him alone, give him, only, opportunities for education, for wholesome vigor of body and mind and spirit?

Nay! For shame! Let us see farther into the meaning of life and opportunity than that! Let us understand better the spirit of parenthood and of "big brother"hood. Let us recognize that the son of the wealthy parent needs exactly what the Boy Scout organization, with its ignoring of social and monetary standings, its perfect democracy and high ideals, can give him. Let us realize that the need is more desperate than that of the son from the humbler home. Too much idleness, too many indulgences, too much luxury and spending money are all more dangerous to the proper development of our young people than the necessity for labor, for running errands or throwing newspapers. The lad with too much spare time, however, is just as well worth saving as the one with too little, and his chances for that salvation may not be nearly as great.

Let us come out of our old, entrenched selfishness, and bask awhile in the sunlight of a more nearly universal love, a love that will go freely out to all who may need, whether the need is for money, comfort, counsel, encouragement, or the rigid, but just, discipline of a Boy Scout camp. Let us regard every boy in the city as a valuable unit, which, in the true and doubtful forces of the future, will eventually rule, shape and direct the activities of this metropolis of the west. With that viewpoint, let us not withhold our unhesitating support to every worthy enterprise whose efforts are directed towards helping to shape the lives of our boys and develop them into noble, healthy, useful and intelligent citizens. MOTHER.

Common Sense

Think in Terms of Truth. There is always a day of reckoning, so set your sails with that idea firmly fixed in your mind. The more you can get this idea into your mind and let it sink into your balance somewhere and somehow, the sooner you will be careful not to stretch things too far in the wrong direction on account of the reflex action. The balance is bound to be struck. Are you going to like the result when the pendulum rebounds? Think seriously and honestly in terms of truth and you have nothing to fear. The minute you take a step in the direction of anything less than truth and justice you may be sure that you are breaching trouble for yourself. Do not delude yourself with the notion that you have an excuse which possibly justifies your digression. No end is ever justified when an unlawful act is the policy upon which it rests. The evasion, the criticism, the loss of faith, follow in just that order. If you want the respect of men be open and above board. (Copyright, 1922.)

Gun Toting.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It seems there are a number of people who are trying to make the world safe for the holdup man by making it little less than a capital offense for a man to carry a six-gun, or even own one. Mr. V. Hobson says to make it a "penitentiary offense" for a man to carry a gun. It is now a penitentiary offense to rob a man at the point of a gun, or to burglarize another man's home. Is that law, or all the laws, lessening the number of holdups and robberies to any appreciable extent? We have a law against carrying concealed weapons, framed to as far as possible prevent the carrying of guns by youths and other irresponsible persons and to serve as a handle by which to hold suspicious characters, for which purpose it is plenty good enough as it stands. It was not intended to be used, and seldom is, against the responsible person who, on occasion, "totes" a gun for self-defense, which is as it should be. "A Reader," Bassett, Neb., is on the right track, but goes a mile too far. I believe, when he says let anyone carry a gun who wishes to. Some regulation is needed. I say the police department of each

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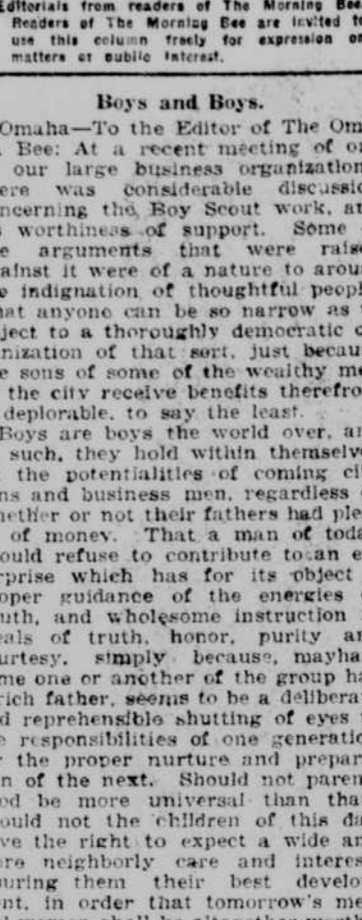
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Among the Folks in History



THE GROCERY MAN WHO SET UP THE CIGAR AND THE MIXED CANDY WHEN THE WEEKS BALL WAS SAID.

Marriage and Divorce.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I note Senator Capper of Kansas has introduced a bill in congress to the effect that no one can get married who is feeble-minded or afflicted with epilepsy, insanity or communicable diseases, and forbidding all interracial marriage. I for one second the motion. But I believe none of its provisions should be acted upon, or any "busting" averages taken, until after the marriage has taken place. It is not before marriage takes place where the mischief enters in. It is afterwards when your neighbor-in-law arrives and the pettifogger has a talk with your wife, especially if the husband has a few hundred laid away. I hope Capper's bill will have a clause in it to give them the "air."

What's What in a Name.

They call prices prohibitive because they never take a drop.—Philadelphia North American.

You Never Can Tell.

England will never go dry, declares a British criminologist. It hasn't been long since a similar delusion was being nursed by several million Americans.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

He Knows.

Mayor Curley of Boston says nothing will ever persuade him to sit down at the same table with Admira Sims. There's one good thing about the Boston mayor: he knows his place.—Philadelphia North American.

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The "Vose" Small Grand. If you have the impression that a grand piano must be large in size in order to give the largest amount of volume and a perfect tone, you have but to hear the "Vose" Small Grand to be convinced that everything you expect of a grand piano is incorporated in the Vose, though it is small in size. Price \$885. Convenient Terms. A. Hospe Co. 1513-15 Douglas Street.

Bowen's THE VALUE GIVING STORE. Closing Out Sale. Plain Figures, Big Reductions. CASH OR TERMS. Rugs, Stoves. FREE—Wednesday, January 31st, we will give a handsome three-piece Walnut Bedroom Suite away free, and 45 other useful household articles. Come in and register, as you will not be required to make a purchase by so doing.

FREE! WHITE'S WALLPAPER STORE. Paper Being Sold for Less Than Wholesale Prices. WONDERFUL PATTERNS for every room at the unheard of price, per roll. 5c, 10c, 15c. Don't lose this chance to get your spring wall paper. 307 No. 16th St. This advertisement is worth 2 rolls of paper on your order. Cut it out and bring it in Saturday before noon and receive credit. Only One Coupon Accepted for Each Customer.

Men's Hose A Final Clearance 75c to \$1.50 Values. At 55c The Pair While They Last (2 pairs for \$1). So great was the response to our last 55-cent sale—many late customers failed to find their size requirements. But for Saturday, an entire new lot goes on sale in sizes for every man. Winter weights, dressy silks, wool mixtures and the finest cotton lisle hose, are included. Many grades represent value—better than two pairs for the cost of one. Fadden & Bittner Sixteenth St. and Harney