

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BILL.

More heat than light is being developed in the hearings on the Omaha municipal light bill before the legislative committee at Lincoln. In order to understand the controversy it is necessary first to read Section 1 of House Roll 205, which is as follows:

"Any metropolitan water district or metropolitan utilities district now operating an electric light plant in connection with a water works system is hereby given paramount authority to enlarge and develop said electric plant and extend its lines so as to supply electric energy for light and power purposes and for public and private use throughout the limits of such metropolitan water district or metropolitan utilities district; provided, and provided only, that the people shall vote bonds for such purpose."

The difference between this bill and the present law lies for one thing in the fact that the board of directors of the utilities district would be given power to submit a bond proposition to the voters for the purpose of establishing a power plant, whereas as things now stand the first move is either up to the city council or to an initiative action of the people themselves. It is possible that public ownership might come more quickly by giving this additional power to the utilities board. It would also be made easier to vote the necessary bond issue, since under the proposed law a majority vote would be sufficient, while under the present law a three-fifths majority would be necessary. The question of whether a bare majority should be able to decide such a momentous question is variously answered.

Those who oppose any change point out that the people of Omaha, through their city commissioners or through their own initiative petition can construct a municipal light and power plant, purchase any existing privately owned light and power plant or acquire by condemnation proceedings any existing light and power plant. These objectors point out that under the terms now proposed there is no provision for the purchase of the privately owned power plant, but only for the erection of a competing plant. The Nebraska Power company, which has a heavy investment here, has visions of being ruined by such competition, which might skim off the most profitable light and power contracts. If public ownership comes, it desires the city should buy its plant at a price to be set by three district judges.

To this R. B. Howell, the retiring manager of the public utilities, replies that there are several million dollars in watered stock in the capitalization of the power company, and that this, with the alleged possession of a perpetual franchise, would make the cost of purchase almost prohibitive. He declares that the owners of the water and gas plants obtained an excessive price from the city and that this course should not be repeated in the case of the electric plant.

There is in its essential details the question at issue in the legislature. Neither under the old law nor the new bill can the city enter into the business of producing electric power without the approval of the people voiced in a vote for a bond issue. As long as the people of Omaha are convinced that they are receiving reasonably low rates from the private corporation, they will feel no great need for public operation. It is not to be believed that they desire to confiscate the property of the corporation or to be unfair in any way. The whole matter is one of a business nature, and the less politics is injected the better, all around.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A great many things are going on in the world today that deserve comment. Some of these, if brought to pass, will exert great influence on the progress of affairs—will affect the destiny of nations alone, but of humanity.

What do you think about them, all or any one? If you have an opinion to express, will it not be well to give it utterance. When the prohibitory amendment was passed, it went over on a great wave of enthusiasm, yet, when people caught their breath, thousands rose up and protested, but it was too late. If some of the discussion now being had were presented in 1917, maybe the amendment would not have been adopted. Postmortems are interesting, but futile.

Your views of European affairs, for example, may be helpful to others. At any rate, it will do no harm to give them to the public. So also with reference to what is passing in public life at home. Congress is considering some very important measures, the ship subsidy, rural credits, rivers and harbors appropriation, all matters that concern the entire nation. Surely you are not indifferent as to them. In Nebraska the legislature is dealing with tax laws, school laws, road laws, criminal laws, everything that has a bearing on the life of the state, form the top to the bottom.

Are you willing to let these things pass without giving your own thoughts expression, content to allow the laws to be made and then to criticize them after they are passed?

What do you think about what is going on in the world. Clear the matter up in your own mind, come to a conclusion, and then tell the world.

SNOBBERY AT THE YALE PROM.

A tempest in a teapot is raging at Yale, because one of the students chose for his partner at the "prom" a girl who is on the stage in New York. In behalf of the committee that was in charge of the function, it should be stated that when a New Haven newspaper published a statement that objection had been raised against the young woman's attendance, it promptly sent her a special invitation to be present.

Persons who are described as "mothers and socially prominent women" at New Haven are quoted as saying that a principle is at stake, that the unwritten law that no actress should be invited to attend the "prom" was being violated. And why, pray, should not an actress be invited to a Yale dance? Many men have gone from Yale to the stage; girls have gone from Vassar, from Barnard, from Bryn Mawr, and from other schools of high standing to the stage, and have started in the chorus or other lowly position, to work up, just as they enter college as a freshman.

WHERE TRUST MIGHT HAVE HELPED.

A doctor is on trial for murder in Omaha; a young woman has been laid to rest, the victim of a forbidden operation, and a father's cup of sorrow, already overflowing, has received a fuller measure, because two young persons erred.

Was there not a way through which the effect of the mistake might not have been lessened, without resort to the danger incurred through adding crime to misfortune? Moralists have debated this subject for ages, and without definite conclusion.

"When lovely woman stoops to folly,
And finds too late that men betray,
What charm can soothe her melancholy?
What art can wash her guilty awe away?"

Here was a plain case where a bewildered girl added one mistake to another, by failing to confide in those she should have trusted. "Don't tell dad," she whispered, when dying. Yet, would it not have been better if she had told dad at the first. Who is more likely to sympathize with a girl in trouble than her father? The stern, unrelenting, "out of my house" sort of a father exists more frequently in story books than in real life. Most fathers love their children, and would die to shield them. Knowledge of that very fact, coupled with love and respect, may make the child reluctant to tell dad all, but much of trouble can be avoided if the trust is as frank as it is deserved.

Dad has stood between his daughter and the world on many an occasion, and will do it again. We pray to our Heavenly Father; is it not well for young folks to go to their earthly fathers when in trouble? Such trust is rarely misplaced.

WHY A SHORTAGE OF LABOR?

A young man, working as a bell boy in a local hotel, was arrested for violating the Volstead law. In defense he said:

"We almost had to sell liquor. We only get a few dollars a month salary, and part of that is taken out to pay for our uniforms. But I'm through."

Another young man who was acquitted on a murder charge, he having shot and killed a man he believed was about to do him bodily harm, said he was acting as a prohibition spy because he needed the money.

The man who makes the vile bootleg liquor, and the men and women who vend it, do so to get the money. It is possible that the men who are engaged in running these down and bringing them to face the law they have violated are actuated in some degree by a desire to get the money and not entirely by the laudable purpose of upholding the law.

These individuals are looking for "easy money." The cry sent up by industry for more workers goes unheeded, because the game of hide and seek between law breakers and law enforcers over illicit liquor offers the temptation of quick profits with little exertion. That is ever the lure to the criminal. The slow and arduous method of accumulation by practicing industry and thrift does not appeal to him. He wants his money quick, and with as little effort as possible. Whatever of risk exists is assumed blithely enough, on the remote chance of evading the penalty, his main thought being to avoid work.

Whatever of labor was displaced by the closing up of distilleries and breweries is more than offset by the number of men who are engaged in the illicit trade or endeavoring to suppress it. Prohibition has thus brought with it an economic problem that is not readily solved.

If some one could teach the young men who enter the bootlegging traffic that it is not a disgrace to work, that honest effort does have a reward, and that crime does bring a penalty, much headway would be made toward solving any shortage of labor. If the bootleggers would only turn to honest employment, jobs that are now going vacant soon would be filled.

Representatives of all the social welfare bureaus of the city have been invited to attend a conference next week to go over the details of the community chest proposals. All that the public can ask is that they consider the plan with the same unselfish spirit with which they perform their valuable functions in the city. No good cause will lose from co-ordinating its activities with the rest, and with full co-operation, the community chest could actually produce better support for charity than it is now receiving.

"Red the Rough" will not be with us for the next two years, and he will do well to follow the advice given him by the judge who sentenced him to prison. If he behaves himself in prison, he may get into the habit, and be able to behave himself when he gets out.

Wray, Colo., is the latest town to pay Omaha the compliment of copying the Ak-Sar-Ben idea. Any town is welcome to try it, and if it works as well as it has for Omaha, it will do any of them good.

Familiarity with the Scriptures saved a man in the federal court. If a little more general attention were paid to the Bible, fewer men would be arraigned in any court.

A visiting spiritualist from England tells us there are no check books in heaven. That will be slight deprivation. Lots of people do not have them on earth.

Twelve thousand victims of automobiles were buried in 1922. This is too great a toll to pay to carelessness.

Come on with your snow, Mr. Weatherman; it is far more welcome now than it will be in March or April.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davie

THE DAY IS DONE
"The day is done," so often said with an expressive sigh—
A phrase to fit reality when eventide is nigh.
We speak about and glance upon the dreariness we meet—
Why can not fate be kind to us, why isn't life complete?
A fair reward is not received for true attention spent
On honest deed and noble thought and effort dignified.
We are depressed—it is not strange! But why is pain denied,
And nothing given for our grief and nothing for our pride?
A simple truth it is and this: (though dismal it may seem)
We watch the days and not the deeds of realism's dream;
We're glad to welcome eventide because the day is through,
And not because we count the deeds the day has let us do.

"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"

Editorial forwarded to The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Love for Good Literature.

Fullerton, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Art is to convey to one soul the feeling experienced by another soul. The artist finds himself thrilling with an inspiration. This feeling clamors for expression. The one inspired applies brush to canvas, bow to string, or pen to paper, and the world is made richer by a masterpiece.

It is for women to decide whether our beloved motherland shall have literary artists to celebrate her greatness or shall fade into obscurity for want of an epithet; for without a vision, poetry perishes. Every mother must start at her own heartstone. She must be able to recognize the beginnings of genius in her own child and to cherish them.

Is it not true that the general public have been doing about all they could to kill every vestige of poetry in our country. Teachers turn the ballad, which should be an ecstasy, into a hated task. By the community at large the would-be poet is classed with weaklings and defectives. If a poet gets by a dead-headed mother, a story-hearted teacher, a cold-hearted public, his genius actually starves and becomes a full-grown poet, then America proceeds to starve him by a deadly lack of recognition and a blank refusal to assist in a better conservation of the guaranty fund. Under the present law, all state banks are made partners to the extent of insuring deposits. As such, they are made financially liable for all losses due to incompetency or dishonesty. Since the going banks have to pay the bills they should have some voice in determining the manner in which the business of their partner banks is conducted.

To Make Marriage Sane.

From the Nebraska City Press.
The bill which the General Federation of Women's Clubs shared in drafting, and which the association approves, "to prevent hasty and foolish marriages and to make divorce more difficult" has been introduced in congress by Senator Capper of Kansas, with a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to vest authority for this legislation in congress.

Marriage license would have to be applied for and posted in a court two weeks in advance of the ceremony. The intent is, obviously, to give prospective publicity. Applicants would have to tender health and mentality certificates. Boys and girls under 18 years would have to obtain parental consent. Possibilities of persons, those closely related, and those of different races would be prohibited from marrying. Cause for divorce would be misconduct, physical or mental cruelty, abandonment, or non-support for one year, incurable insanity, or commission of felony. No divorce would be effective for one year.

It sounds platitudinous to say that the home, the family, is the bulwark of the nation, and the sanctity of the marriage bond is the security of the home, but it is a truth which all sincerely feel and only a few deny. The contemplated law would not only standardize principles as to marriage and divorce for the whole nation, but it would compel a more thoughtful and respectful, a more serious and even a more patriotic viewpoint among young and old for the most solemn contract, one of affection, between two partners lighting truth and devotion to each other.

More Sleep.

From the Sioux Falls Press.
If you feel a reluctance toward getting up when the alarm sounds these dark mornings and are inclined to turn over and take another hour's sleep, it may be due to not allowing yourself more sleep in winter than in summer. The custom of taking in other seasons of the year.

Nebraska Ideas

The Eastern Star tells of an Italian laborer in an Americanization class. He wanted to give the definition of the word "stars." His reply was: "Stars are the flowers of the sky." Can you think of a more beautiful definition?—Pierce County Call.

An Idaho pastor, snowbound, performed a marriage ceremony by telephone. Let us hope he got the right number.—Norfolk News.

Common Sense

Hold Fast to the Joy Within Reach.
There is a certain crowd of people with whom you would like to associate, but you have neither the means nor the time to do so—and you are unhappy.

A Real Heroine.

From the Greeley Citizen.
A few weeks ago the big newspapers of the country sought to make a hero of an aviator who was forced to descend in the Rocky mountains and walk a few miles to obtain shelter from a snowstorm. We were unable to see anything heroic about the aviator's deed. It was only natural that he should do what he did.

HOSPES'S RADIO - SERVICE

Lowest prices on everything for the expert and the amateur. Every improved part—Battery, Tube, the most up-to-date outfits, sets, everything that is needed of the most modern type.
Bring your problems to us—use our workshop—consult our expert. If out of town, write us.
Inspect our laboratory-tested and guaranteed Receiving Sets.
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The "Amrad" Radio Frequency Receiver at a popular price.
The "Zenith" Receiver De Lux for exacting tastes.
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1513-15 Douglas St. Omaha, Neb.

Daily Prayer

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid—Isa. 12:2.
Oh, Lord God, help us to pray that this day we may come nearer the Christ ideal than ever before. Grant that by every thought and act we may bespeak His character to ourselves and to those with whom we shall come in contact. Forgive us when we should neglect any opportunity that may come, to be living witnesses for Him.
Through the dangers and temptations, seen and unseen, which confront us about bring us in safety to the close of day and to the close of this earthly pilgrimage. Bless those who are near to us by word of home or friendship; and especially those who know Thee not, manifest Thyself in power today.
May the Gospel note of love ring out more clearly this day than ever before, and may the sunshine of truth enter all hearts where ignorance, superstition and sin hold sway. May it bring cheer to the desolate ones, and hope to the despairing ones who may be near us, and yet who seem beyond our power to help. We pledge ourselves anew to the work of lifting the burdens of men and the upbuilding of Thy Kingdom on earth.
REV. W. M. GROSS, (Cincinnati, O.)

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for JANUARY, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 71,555
Sunday 78,845

B. BREWER, General Mgr.
VERN A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3d day of February, 1923.
W. H. QUIVEY,
(Notary Public)

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Resinol is never sold in bulk

BE WANT ADS BRING RESULTS.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

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Our Secret Ambitions



Information Wanted.
We often wonder whatever became of those great minds who used to hear so much about in 1920.—Ohio Star Journal.

Goodyear Better's Its Best

The New Goodyear Cord with the Beveled All-Weather Tread

That wonderful tire, the Goodyear All-Weather Tread Cord, is now made even better by an important development in its tread. This new tread is semi-flat, instead of round; the rugged blocks of its design are buttressed at the base by rubber ribs; the design itself is beveled at the outer edges.

GOOD YEAR

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As Goodyear Service Station Dealers we sell and recommend the new Goodyear Cords with the beveled All-Weather Tread and back them up with standard Goodyear Service.

Still Making Progress

FROM time immemorial we have had prophesies of calamity—pictures of dark days ahead and solemn warnings as to dangers that would probably scuttle the great ship of state.

Yet we have consistently made progress, swerving from the path on occasion, but still going forward. Today the nation is great, the people enjoy more comforts than ever before and prospects for the future are bright.

First National Bank of Omaha

The prudent man of today is building his bank credit by frequent consultations with his banker and is providing a surplus by laying away something regularly in a Savings Account.

Let us explain the details of our straight, downtown animated film advertising service in the World, Sun, Moon and Muse theaters.

Hallgren Film Advertising Service

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