

THE MORNING BEE

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PAINTING THE RED.

There isn't going to be any revolution. Nothing very sensational about that news, to be sure, but it may serve to put American life on a less hysterical plane. It begins to appear that a good deal of radical propaganda of the violent sort has had no actual basis, but has emanated from sources seeking only to make a profit out of the business of combatting it.

No need to place full credence in every detail of the confessions of Albert Bailin, the private detective who tells of being hired for the double duty of fomenting unrest and of stamping it out. Enough is constantly coming to light from other sources to indicate that the use of agents provocateur is not confined to Europe.

It is easy to see how men of wealth, if they could only be convinced that a radical plot were under way to deprive them of their rights and privileges, would spend lavishly for information on the progress of such a movement so that it might be headed off. It is easy to see how some other men, wanting money, would be tempted to bring in fake reports of bomb plots, kidnaping plans and various wild designs. The more frightened the wealthy clients became, the more they would pay the men who were supposed to be protecting their interests.

Very often private detectives become leaders among radical organizations. They have even been known to draw up incriminating documents and outline plans which otherwise would never have been contemplated. Then the police swoop down and take up the rank and file, while the man who may have stirred up the whole mess goes free as a state witness.

Even those who would justify such methods as providing a way to round up and get rid of groups such as the twenty-two communists who are facing trial in Michigan must have some reservations. This setting of class against class, this sowing of suspicion and distrust is not a thing to be encouraged. Anyone, whether he be a detective or an anarchist, who sets off a bomb, is a menace to American institutions.

This is a most interesting course of investigation that has been opened up. The reds are not entitled to any sympathy, nor are the wealthy interests who have allowed themselves to be duped. The private detective agencies need not be wholly condemned without a hearing, but they should be given that opportunity, whether they want it or not. Such unrest as might be stirred up by these means will never be dangerous in itself, though in exaggerating the lines of cleavage between different classes in America the influence is a bad one.

THE TELEPHONE GIRL.

A few instances are on record in which rural telephone operators have received special compensation or award for some act of service entailing sacrifice or danger, yet there are untold numbers who every day give their very best in true service for the public, without even receiving thanks.

Recently a call of fire came, in the middle of the night, to a rural telephone exchange, where the operator was ministering at the deathbed of the one whom she held most dear. At receiving the call, she resolutely turned her face to duty and remained at her post until the fire department from a neighboring town was secured to combat the flames.

Another instance, never recorded, is of the interest and help given by the telephone girls in the effort to save the life of an infant. This small mite of humanity, barely tipping the scales at three pounds, aroused the devoted interest and sympathy of these loyal girls, and no matter at what hour of the day or night the call was put in, those in attendance could turn their attention to the relief of the little sufferer, knowing the faithful telephone operator would lose little time in locating and notifying a competent physician.

During the seven months in which the little boy's life lay in a balance, the interest and ready response to a call did not wane, and when the feeble spark of life had gone out, the sincere regrets and sympathy expressed by one of these girls to the sorrowing parents, with the previous service, left a lasting impression.

No one should lose patience with those who are so willing and ready to serve the public. Delay in answering calls in rural communities is sometimes unavoidable. The hasty or irritable subscriber should spend a half day in the busy room where these calls are received. For the telephone girl has a heart, and impatient words are sometimes sharp and cut deep.

"NO GENTLEMAN."

Nowadays it seems that the well known human race is immune to all criticism that stops short of a term behind the bars. A man may amass a fortune by some series of shady deals, leaving the wreck of his victims strewn along his path. If anyone tries to criticize him, the devastating reply is always ready: "Well, he's enjoying the money, isn't he?" Another man conducts himself disgracefully, outraging the principles of morality and ending up in a domestic estrangement. As far as the world can see he is not particularly cut up by the notoriety that attaches to his name, but continues to lead a life of ease and pleasure.

In an older day, to remark that a man was no gentleman was the final insult, than which nothing could cut deeper. Such in effect is the meaning of the elimination of the names of the Stillmans from the New York "Social Register." Certainly some protest was due for the unseemly conduct of those concerned in this family squabble. The force of social ostracism may not be as strong as once, but it is good, for all that, to see it exerted.

Perhaps the world does not make as much use as it might of this standard. Social prominence counts large with a great many people, some of them cheats and blackguards. It would be interesting, and possibly worth while, to try the effect of saying, when some man oversteps the bounds either of business or social propriety, that he is "no gentleman," and then see how he enjoys his plunder and his prey.

"LAME DUCKS" AND THE COUNTRY.

The Norris resolution, proposing a constitutional amendment to bring the opening of congress in January instead of December, and inauguration of the president in January instead of March, has passed the senate. Perhaps its passage was expedited by a reasonable desire to get it out of the way of the funding bill and the ship subsidy measure, both of which have been passed by the house, and are included on the administration program as the items of prime importance. What really interests the public is that the long-mooted step is finally being taken.

When the Constitution of the United States was adopted, the making of laws was not so much a part of the life of the nation. Communication was not easy, and time was required for exchange of opinion and formation of policy between statesmen. What took weeks then may be accomplished in a few days, or even in a few hours now. No need, then, for an interim of eleven months between election and the taking of seats in congress, or four months of grace for a retiring president to leave and a new one to get ready.

A still more potent reason for the change is that it will not leave "lame ducks" in office after they have been reelected by their constituents. A large number of the gentlemen "under the dome" today are indifferent, because they are going out of office. They were judged by their records and rejected in November, and any record they may make now is ex post facto. Even those of them who are sincere can not have the same zealous interest they would show under different circumstances.

Also, it is not inspiring to see a congress endeavoring to round out and complete a program after it has been adversely passed upon by the voters. Not one of the big measures now pressing but could have been acted upon before election, had not time been squandered in futile debate, most of it for the very purpose of delaying decision.

So far as the executive is concerned, the office and prerogatives of the president will be little affected by the change. Perhaps it will be to his advantage to have a congress newly chartered by the voters to deal with, rather than one that is about to expire, and which lacks the incentive to work. Congress may still meet in December, following election, but will do so in full knowledge of the fact that it has but thirty days to wind up its affairs. A new congress will come on in January, instead of November, and "lame duck" legislation will cease to menace public affairs.

IN CASE AN AUTO BUMPS YOU.

An old engineer lay dying in the switch shanty, where he had been carried after being struck by the locomotive. "What hit me?" he gasped. "It was the big 248," answered one of the attendants. "Thank God," replied the dying man, "I didn't want to be killed by a dinky switch engine," and he went out happy.

None of us care to be knocked down by a ten-ton truck, or by a \$10,000 imported motor, but if we had to make a choice, it would be one of those rather than a flivver. Some stings have been taken out of the situation by the action of a group of thoughtful men down in New York.

Hereafter, when you have been nudged off the pavement by a flying auto, and you wake up in the hospital, you will have a little comfort. As the nurse says, "Here, drink this," you will be cheered by the recollection that you were not the victim of a careless chauffeur, but that you were put out by a member of the Society of Professional Automobile Engineers. This high-toned and exclusive society will not admit taxi drivers or any of that sort to membership. The latter will be compelled to unite in the future as they have in the past with the International Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers' union, or go without a "card."

If the bump is so hard that you do not wake up in this world, then it will not materially matter whether you were hit by one or the other of the groups. Either is sufficiently fatal. What we would like to bespeak in advance is that the judge make no distinction between a professional automobile engineer and just a plain careless driver.

Congressman Herrick of Oklahoma is to have a chance to tell the house all about his troubles with a Washington newspaper. Then the newspapers will help by broadcasting the story, and in the end he will have told the world, which is waiting with great anxiety to hear his recital. It's a fine thing to be a congressman and get \$7,500 a year and perquisites.

Turkey wants to make a separate treaty with the United States. That will be all right, but Kemal and Ismet will have to learn to deal above board and in the light of the day if they are going to negotiate with Uncle Sam.

It is extremely probable that the farmers of South Dakota will be much impressed by President Byram's defense of the railroads, but hardly in the way the latter expected.

Of course a man who admits he was double-crossing three employers at one and the same time wouldn't double-cross the one who employed him to make depositions.

Ash Wednesday begins a time of abstinence; the trouble most of the neighbors have is deciding what to abstain from.

Bum check writers are facing a dreary future. Score another bullseye for the weather man.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davis
COURTING.

I have a friend who goes a-courting—as the phrase was wont to be.
Nearly every evening regular down the long, long trail goes he,
And a truly pleasant mem'ry brings a picture back to me.

I behold the erstwhile meetings and the rapture that was true,
When I dressed to go a-courting as I often used to do,
And sublime is retrospection even though the days are through.

Autos then were not in fashion. Dobbin led me on my way—
In the summer in a kerriage, in the winter in a sleigh—
But my dreams were just as charming, and my heart was just as gay.

I believed I was as handsome as the Maker could allow,
And my kerriage was as princely as the auto is, I vow—
But the might have been illusion, for I'm old and married now.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Old Age Pensions.
From the York New Times.
State Senator McGowan of Madison county has introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a board to oversee the payment of old age pensions in Nebraska.

Probably the bill will be killed in committee or by the senate, but, just the same, it points to a growing sentiment in favor of payment of old age pensions.
Lending countries have paid old age pensions for many years, but the newer countries apparently have been loth to inaugurate the system.
The bill by Senator McGowan does not provide for the payment of stated amounts, but does provide that the beneficiaries must be selected by the county boards and must be 70 years of age or over and have an income of less than \$400 a year and a capital investment of less than \$3,000.

No person who has been in jail or prison more than four months can participate in the old age pension fund, and no one who has not lived in the state fifteen years or more will be eligible.
It is alleged by economists that the counties and state could save money by paying the aged poor a pension and have them live in their homes rather than support them in county poor houses. There is no reason why people feel better to be in their homes and they usually can work at something that will help out and make the amount to be paid as a pension that much less. There is great merit in the plan and it will not be many years, it is predicted, until the alms houses will be abolished and all poor will be provided with pensions under the best regulated pension system.

There is one feature to old age pensions that is objectionable, and that is the tendency of some people to be thrifty when they know they will be taken care of in their old age. But this objection will not suffice to prevent the establishment of old age pensions. The bill by Senator McGowan has started something that eventually will result in old age pensions in the state of Nebraska.
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America's Sweet Tooth.
From the Houston Post.
For further evidence that prohibition diverts, if it does not prohibit, consider the report on sugar consumption in the United States last year. The American Sugar Bulletin reports that all records were shattered, the per capita consumption going to 102 pounds, compared with 82.2 pounds per capita in the previous year.
Some of this increase has been accounted for, of course, by the more prosperous conditions among the people last year. With the end of the dust and relief from unemployment, they had more money to spend on sugar as a staple food.

A large part of this increase in sugar consumption, however, is accounted for by the increased demand for candy and soft drinks. The tendency of former drinkers to turn to sweets was noted as soon as prohibition went into effect. It has been more noticeable as the saloons have vanished into history.
Perhaps, the whole population, and not solely the former moderate drinkers of intoxicants, are consuming more soft drinks and sweet goods. When the saloons went out, there was a great increase in soft drink and confectionery establishments. Many of the former saloons were turned into respectable places of this sort, and have done a flourishing business.

The traffic in liquor continues to a certain extent, but it is a mistake to assume that more liquor is being drunk than in the days of the saloon. The sugar statistics help to disprove that contention.
Why Our Exports Are Falling Off.
From Cappers Weekly.

Strong reasons for substantial freight reductions on agricultural products, as well as for restoring the American farmer's export outlet in Europe, were given the other day in an address to the Kansas City business men by Julius H. Barnes. "For instance," said Mr. Barnes, "the grain raising territory of the southwest lies hundreds of miles from a deep water harbor, it is a long haul to its competitor, the Argentine, are rarely more than a single hundred miles from ocean carriage. Kansas City is farther from the coast than any city in Europe until one penetrates the interior of vast Russia as far as Moscow."

Mr. Barnes deplored that Germany, France and Italy, which require more than half the overseas movement of food grains, had through their unsettled condition become hesitant and doubtful consumers for the products of the United States.

Common Sense
Wives—Don't Be Grumpy.
In many homes where it is necessary for husbands to make business trips to other cities, wives complain and become grumpy because they are not taken into consideration.

Sometimes it is convenient for a husband to take his wife on such trips—usually it is not.
On trips of this kind, it is necessary for the husband to make every hour count; he makes no allowances for pleasure, he attends to his business and takes the first train for home.

Some wives cannot understand this. They think that with every business trip a man makes he manages to fit in a certain amount of pleasure. They resent not being allowed to enjoy this imaginary privilege.
A man on a business trip has much to think about on the way to his destination, much to study.
A train ride affords him an opportunity to do this if he is not compelled to accede to the wishes and desires of some other person.

As many business trips should have demands on his time and attention exceed the business in hand.
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Daily Prayer
I have loved thee with an everlasting love.
We thank Thee, our loving Father, for Thy watchful care over us through another night. Thou dost neither slumber nor sleep, and Thy everwakeful eyes are upon us in our most anxious moments, and Thy protecting and upholding hand has been underneath and about us. Thou art setting before us a new day, with all of its opportunities and possibilities for good or evil. This is one of the days concerning which Thou hast promised, "As thy day so shall thy strength be." Be not the one of the days for which Thou hast made such beautiful provision? Let us not venture forth upon the day's duties or difficulties without Thy guiding, upholding, protecting hand. Thou art able to do for us exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think. Give us strength to conquer every temptation. Surround us with Thy gracious presence as a shield from every danger. Bless with us all whom we should specially remember at the Throne of Thy Grace. Wherever we cast our eyes, Thy hand is ready to send a blessing. Let Thy blessing be suited to the capacities and needs of every one of them. May every heart be turned to Thee as the morning glory turns to the light, and may their souls and ours be enlightened, purified and strengthened by the light of Thy health-giving countenance. Amen.

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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 (Seal)

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

From an Old-Fashioned Man.
Gibson, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Mr. Maupin's excellent article, "The Old Songs," in The Omaha Sunday Bee should be read by everyone. In our eagerness to accept all the new-fangled fads handed out to us, we are apt to forget that the ways of our past generation could in any way have been as good as ours are, and anyone who dares to suggest such a possibility is called "old-fashioned" or an "old fogy."

We spend large sums of money for old reels and we dearly treasure heirlooms and mementoes left us by those who have passed on, but many of the ways of life, that in some cases were almost sacred to them, we cast aside as unworthy of the age in which we live.

Who will contend that our country does not owe much of its greatness to the old-fashioned thrift that today is so sadly lacking? Who will say that the movies, with their suggestive pictures, provide more wholesome entertainment than did the old singing school, the spelling bee or the literary or that midnight joy rides are more elevating than was the old-time hay-rack ride or sleighing party; or that the popular songs of today, with their oft-times suggestive lyrics, are better than "Silver Threads Among the Gold," "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton," or other old-time favorites; or that an education secured in the public school of today is more conducive to the development of self-reliance and strength of character than was that obtained in the "little red school-house" or in "the old log school-house"?

And a greater crime than our opinions may be concerning the church or religion, who will say that it would not be better if we would all, occasionally, pause in our efforts to do good to visit our neighbors, and sing a few of the old songs of which Mr. Maupin so feelingly writes, and try to keep fresh within our hearts the beautiful sentiment and inspiration that is found in them?
GEORGE LUKENBILL.

"Day by Day."
Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The authorities tell us that "auto-suggestion" is self-hypnotism, and that hypnotism is a form of somnambulism brought on by artificial action on the nerves of persons of very feeble organization. It is one of the wanton crimes of the times that a syndicate will endorse and distribute for profit such cheaply made "auto-suggestion" as a medical science in "Peruna." It has nothing whatever of optimism or progress. It is an intellectual narcotic that may give a passing soothing thrill, but always a rude and painful reaction.

There could be no greater blasphemy than to suggest that Christ used such a fraud in performing His miracles. Christ lived by Divine power brought from the Throne of God by the Holy Spirit. This power is not the skill of the surgeon, nor the care of the nurse, nor the science of sanitation, it is a power above and beyond the common attributes of man that is only given to man as a reward of and to promote righteousness, to demonstrate to man that there is a supreme power in the universe.
S. J. WOODRUFF.

Health Menace in a School.
Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The school patrons of Farnam district, who are preparing a petition to the board of education asking that a school building be erected upon a new and less noisy site than the old one, are indignant over the manner in which the school needs of this district

are blocking our remodeling progress. We are now moving them by making such prices and terms as will bring you to our house and get your order.

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