

THE MORNING BEE

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MIXED UP FIGURES.

No citizen of Nebraska need be alarmed over the statement from the governor's office that there will be a deficit in the state treasury of a million dollars at the close of 1923. The only trouble is that the governor has become badly mixed up in a lot of figures that he does not seem to understand.

He began with the claim in his budget message that the outgoing administration had left a deficit of more than two millions. This was based on the assumption that everything was going out and nothing coming in to the state treasury. That is to say, no account was taken of the fact that the bulk of taxes for the previous year is never collected until along in the spring. Property taxes for 1922 do not become delinquent until July, 1923, and a great many people take advantage of the opportunity for delay. In January the state treasury is always low, and this year it was particularly so because of the railroads delaying payment pending suit.

The legislature inquired for more light on this charge. The reply of the governor seems designed rather to confuse than to clear up the exact financial standing of the state. His itemized account includes at least two duplications. For one thing, he lists "bills payable" at \$640,000 and then apparently includes the same item in another item estimating state expenses. The good roads figures which include both federal and state money, are not analyzed or separated. The federal government does not pay its share of road construction until projects are completed. Accordingly, the state has advanced large sums to contractors that will later be repaid from the federal treasury. There are millions involved in this road building, yet the governor's figures do not distinguish between federal and state expenses.

The fiscal year ends June 30. Appropriations sufficient to run every department of the state until that time were made by the last legislature. As the taxes come in, these expenses will be paid off. The budget system makes sure of that.

The fact seems to be that Mr. Bryan is finding the business of running Nebraska is not a simple thing. It is possible that he is seeking for a soft place to light, aiming to place the blame in advance on other shoulders. His muddled up figures of state expenditures, past, present and future, do not prove anything. Much better would it be to cease this wrangling about what his political opponents have done and get down to real constructive statesmanship of the sort his friends expected.

KEEP SCHOOLS OUT OF POLITICS.

A bill pending before the house contains elements of danger to the public schools of Omaha. It is, H. R. 634 by George S. Collins, and proposes that members of the school board shall be elected from districts coterminous with the twelve wards as they now exist.

One of the first reasons for opposing this measure is the one that led to the adoption of the commission form of government. Seven commissioners are elected by the voters at large, and these are vested with control of the city's affairs. In like manner, twelve members of the board of education are chosen by the voters at large. The law which set up the Independent School District of Omaha, passed by the legislature of 1871, and adopted by the citizens of Omaha at the first referendum held under the state government, made the boundaries of the school district coterminous with those of the city. It also provided for the independent board of education to be chosen at large by all the voters of the district.

Many attempts have been made in the last half century to change the law, to provide for election by districts. That these have not succeeded is the best possible reason for continuing the plan. To argue that a certain section of the city is without representation on the board is not sound. The board represents all sections of the city. Members are so chosen, both at primary and at general elections.

The present board of education has had some difficult problems to solve, and has proceeded as in its judgment seemed better for all. Some sections of the city still are short on school accommodations. Their needs will be met in time, but their relief will not come the sooner through breaking down a provision of the law that has so much of reason to sustain it, and so little of sound argument against it.

Omaha's public schools are safely free from politics now; let us so keep them. Ward nominations will surely lead to the injection of ward politics into the school board.

AS A MATTER OF HEALTH.

It is not only because it is wasteful that the practice of returning goods ordered from the stores is to be condemned. In many cases the public health may be imperiled. In recognition of this fact many cities have adopted ordinances forbidding the return or exchange of certain articles as a sanitary precaution.

A good many of the articles returned to shops in Omaha are never used again. For example, a comb returned by a woman shopper after several days' trial was broken into pieces by the manager of the department before her eyes—an evidence of the waste and of the possibility of spreading infection if such a precaution were not taken.

Chicago has a very thoroughgoing law limiting the kind of goods that may be returned after use. Articles or garments that come in contact with the skin should not be subject to exchange. Who would want a mattress that had been used for a time in a home of which nothing was known? The possibility of spreading contagious diseases lies in the too liberal use of the return privilege.

It would be a good thing if the city council of Omaha would go into conference with the retail merchants on this subject. Perhaps the whole problem could be settled equitably by the passage of an ordinance. If people knew that it was against the law to grant these favors, the merchants would have some protection, and at the same time a costly feature of merchandizing would be eliminated.

A new way of making rain has been worked out over in Ohio, but it requires a cloud to start out

TAXING PUBLIC UTILITIES.

The success of Omaha's publicly owned utilities is due to their having been administered in a thoroughly businesslike manner. It is not for any man in the Nebraska legislature to cast aspersions on these institutions, of which Omaha rightly may be proud.

An undertone of unwarranted hostility to the Metropolitan Utilities district of Omaha marked the discussion of the municipal light bill in the lower house. Though the question at issue was whether the utilities board should be authorized to submit a bond proposal to a vote of the people, a good deal of the argument turned on other points.

Consider, for instance, the objection raised by one representative, that public ownership deprives the state of taxes. This line of thought, which has been industriously spread by the Nebraska Power company and other privately owned utilities, has not much real weight.

Certainly no one would consider taxing public schools, postoffices, court houses, city halls or public parks. The thing is so preposterous as scarcely to be entitled to discussion. It is true that the people who are not served by a publicly owned institution, whether a court house or a gas plant, receive no direct benefit and even suffer a small loss through the fact that if this had been privately owned it would have paid a certain amount of taxes into the state. These taxes, by the way, would first have been deducted, in the form of rates for service, from the people of the district. The corporation pays no taxes that it has not first collected from its customers.

THESE WILL BE OTHERS.

A dolorous story is sent out from Washington, the result of a tabulation that shows how, year by year, the young men who went into the American army of 1917-1918 are being eliminated from the roll of those who are liable to military duty under the selective draft law. What the writer of that yarn meant to say is that day by day those young men are growing older. They are not being put out of the race by disease or death, but simply by the ticking of the clock.

Also, it is well to bear in mind that as fast as one man comes to be too old to be drawn into military service, another steps into the list at the other end. It is self-perpetuating, and will be until race suicide or something as dire checks the birth rate in this country. We need not worry because the boys who went to France are likely to be too old to go again. If need comes, there will be others.

PALS.

Frequently a father and son can forget difference in age and experience and assume the role of real pals, but even though frequent, these instances are still too rare. A son loves his father and often considers him the one perfect specimen of manhood whom he hopes to emulate, yet, while in his presence will be diffident and unattractive. This causes him to hesitate to ask advice, fearing he will be misunderstood, so often he seeks counsel from the wrong person.

Others have seen the necessity of breaking down this barrier and, as a result, we hear of activities staged in different parts of the state, where the father enjoys the companionship of his son for an evening, and the son has the opportunity of becoming acquainted with a father who is altogether different from the stern parent he has previously imagined him to be.

Such a banquet was given in honor of the fathers and sons at the Albion high school building by the faculty recently, the domestic science class, under the capable leadership of Miss May Finch, domestic science teacher, serving refreshments. Invitations were responded to with such readiness as to gratify the originators of the idea and to verify the belief that those for whom it was planned would take joy from an evening together.

No better place could be found for such a gathering, which would have a tendency to turn the memories of the older men back to their own school days, and thus all become schoolboys together. In order to understand the temptations, hopes and aspirations of the younger generation, the older people must strive to be companionable to the young, in order that they may guide them safely past the many pitfalls that are always ready to receive the young.

An Unusual Interview.

Mrs. Fisher, who says her real name is Dorothy Frances Canfield, asked to tell about her life.

"A large order. Let's see. My people came to America in 1638 and settled in Connecticut. In 1764 certain of my ancestors came over the Indian trail from Connecticut to Vermont. She pointed to a tiny fountain that bubbled over the front lawn of her Arlington home.

"Did you drink?" she asked the reporter. "Then you noticed perhaps that the water is soft. That is unusual about here. Well, my great-great-great grandfather, descended from his horse on the trail there 157 years ago and found that the water was soft. 'Here is where we stop,' she announced. 'The Canfield family has been here ever since. My father was James Hulme Canfield, an educator, a college professor and president of several state universities. 'What is Mr. Fisher's profession?' 'He just lives here and tends to things. We have a saw mill, you know, and cut timber here—no small timber. Mr. Fisher is very strict about that. Mr. Fisher is of an old Philadelphia family of doctors and lawyers. His great-grandfather founded the Logan Library there. 'Is Mr. Fisher a doctor or a lawyer?' 'No. He was captain in France with the American ambulance corps. He was captain, too, of the last football team at Columbia university. Now he is interested in lumber lands and reforestation. We have put out about 50,000 young pines on the mountain side here. 'Does he write, too?' 'He is the remarkable critic of what I write,' she answered.

Threatening the New Freedom.

The O. D. costume which was regarded as the height of fashion during the period beginning with the spring of 1917 confirmed a strong premonition of the youth of no country that a belt was a lot more convenient than the old-fashioned gal-luses which grandfathers still wore.

Back in "civilized" again the reporter found his war-time discovery in practice. He found, among other things, that with the leather dress accessory a coat could be done away with on a hot day. Sport shirts which had recently returned from the laundry became quite the proper thing in any loop office when the thermometer hit the 90s.

It was possible to go from work to

Maybe the cold snap will clear the air of the flu bug, that has been having such a lovely time in and around Omaha for the last few weeks. If so, the populace will be the gainer.

A joint debate between "Billy" Brady and Rev. Harry Bowley may be of much interest in New York, but the country at large will observe it with but mild concern.

That Nebraska boys home from the Rhine ought to be returned to his native state long enough to again acquire a taste for the U. S. A.

Nevada has repealed her dry law, but that will not bring nearly so much discussion as if it were the divorce law.

Mr. Harding will see his debt settlement program carried out if he gets nothing else from the dying congress.

Los Angeles announces the latest accommodation for tourists, a hotel for visiting dogs. This is hospitality.

How will Washington men like an inauguration in January; that point ought to be considered.

Wienie roasts are all right, but not on the scale staged at the Armour plant.

Baseball schedules are reappearing. Spring surely is not far away.

To Old Boreas: "Kamerad!"

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davis
SUBLIMITY.

A rose is in the garden of my dreams,
My daisies are in bloom across the way;
The essence of my magic flowers seems
As genuine as May.

And yet they are but memories to me—
Fond recollections of a sweetness dead.
Of beauty, truth and sublimity
Within my presence—faded.

Thus do the noble deeds of men
Rise from the secret vaults today,
And blossom like my flowers when
The snow is on the clay.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Nation of Elemenosaries?

From the Rocky Mountain News.

From a rather unusual quarter comes a warning to the United States to look carefully into the mouths of its gift horses, despite the amount maxim not to do so, before taking them over, for fear of their turning out to be Trojan horses. The dangers attendant upon large scale giving are stressed in a new content and the unprecedented fortunes that have resulted therefrom have led to foundations whose combined endowment is in the most active way more than half a billion dollars. The full amount for the nation is not given, but it must be very large, when one city has so much in itself. There are Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, San Francisco and the universities of east and west to be counted in.

The Carnegie foundation is probably the second largest in the country. The assets of the New York corporation are given at \$125,000,000. The Rockefeller foundations cap the list. They are doing good, undoubtedly, in different fields. Wonderful work in the medical field is credited to the Rockefeller institution, and the Carnegie foundation has done a great deal toward the cause of scientific investigation and discovery.

And yet it is set down in the Carnegie report, credited to Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, acting president, that "it is fair to assume, if there is to be a true function for the trust established by accumulated wealth which may justify its continued and indefinite existence, that the program is now being tried out in the United States on a scale never before attempted in any country of the world. Even in the short experience gained in the last two decades, it is clear that some of the dangers pointed out by Turner and others are not wholly imaginary. It may be fairly assumed that under any organization which is effected for the administration of such trusts the ultimate success will depend, in great measure, upon the leadership of those charged with the administration, and that the trust itself is the inspiration of their association and their discriminating judgment upon the proposals that may be made. . . . It is not possible to make a grant of considerable size to any agency without complex effects, some of which can scarcely be anticipated. All giving, like all accomplishment intended for human benefit, is certain to have one way. Oftentimes the by-products of giving, even of giving to a good cause, result in more social toxins which do enough harm to more than counteract the benefit that may come from the original gift."

Further on in the report it is admitted that time, the greater test in such things, has yet to make report on the "efficiency of the trust given the last score or thirty years toward education, scientific experiment, medicine and the general amelioration of mankind."

"Good Farmers."

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

The French minister of agriculture, decorating "good farmers," descended from families that have tilled the soil for more than 100 years, calls attention to the steadfastness of French tillers of the soil.

Mathurien Desbois, 83, and still active, has farmed 160 acres for three score years, land that his father tilled in 1823.

Michel Botte works a farm in the department of Creuse owned by his family 72 years before Columbus landed in America.

For 600 years the forefathers of Jean Guais of the department of Maine-et-Loire have tilled the ground he cultivates.

Since 1515 Felix Berrand's forbears have worked a farm in Deux Sevres which he is happy in tilling today.

In 1540 an ancestor of Prosper Chailion farmed, at Bagnaux, the farm upon which he works, as a laboring proprietor, at 32.

Profitable agriculture in the broadest sense, agriculture profitable to the proprietor, to the land, to the state, and that which is prosecuted by owners who expect to remain for life upon the farms.

Large areas, much of the land lying in river valleys—the James, for example—reflected by ruin, and unproductiveness early in the history of the United States as an independent country the soil mining that was begun in colonial days when the virgin soil of America was believed inexhaustible.

Chinese and Egyptian farms under continuous tillage 5,000 years remain in a fine state of tillage.

The French farmer knows that maintaining the good condition of his soil is as necessary as feeding his stock. Many Americans who are fully aware of the value of constructive farming practice destructive things because they are tenants, and in many instances owners, who do not look forward to getting a living for life from the farm, unimpaired, or improved.

"Good farmers" are long-term farmers. Lifetime farmers are best. To the end the lifetime farmers may become more numerous, farming in America should be made less precarious than it has been.

Fortunately the improvement of agricultural education by college and experiment stations, the increased interest of city bankers and business men in improving farming as a business, the increased recognition of transportation lines of the bearing of farm welfare on general welfare, is moving the business of farming, in America, toward the point at which there will be greater compensation and a more widespread disposition to stick to one farm for life.

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"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.

We Are Not Teaching Women All Wrong.

Falls City, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It has taken several centuries of civilization to teach the world that woman is the equal of her mate and entitled to the same privileges; the right to a career of her own choosing if circumstances and her inclination make it necessary and to be desired.

We deplore the social conditions existing in countries where women are kept in seclusion; when their only education pertains to the affairs of women and the home.

If our co-educational schools were abolished, would we not soon be living under the same regime?

It is true that the ultimate place for woman is the home, but suppose she happens to be one of the many who do not marry as soon as their school days are finished, if at all, and who have no visible means of support.

To enable her properly to cope with the world she needs the broadening influences, and the calm self-assurance that are to be obtained only in a modern co-educational institution.

The world that the business woman of today meets is not a world that has been educated in a girl's finishing school and, in order to fight a victorious battle she must have at least a part of the training that her competitors have had.

Suppose the dear girls do forget their mathematics and their Latin. So do their brothers, with the rare exception of a few who teach those particular subjects, or use them directly in their work. But the character formation and the ability to think clearly that were the result of mastering the physics and political economy remain.

The measure of a woman is the sons she rears, and if those sons are brought up under the influence of a mother whose only education was gained from the narrow seclusion of a girl's finishing school, what manner of men will they be?

When seeking advice as to whether their shall be the career of architect or lawyer, soldier or physician, would you have their answer be: "My son, I can advise you as to the relative merits of china painting and literature, but I know nothing of the things of which you speak."

Would those sons be able to say, as so many of the world's greatest men have said: "All that I am, and



all that I hope to be, I owe to my mother. The education that we give to our sons to prepare them to carry on the work of the world, let us give in a large measure to our daughters, and overstraining others, but let our boys and girls share in its advantages.



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VERN A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3d day of February, 1923.
W. R. QUINN,
Notary Public