THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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THE GOVERNOR LOSES THE FIRST ROUND.

There can be little doubt that the Mathers bill will be sent to Governor Bryan for his approval or disapproval. The first trial of strength in the house showed a majority of nine for the proposal to consolidate six state departments in four and place them under the charge of state officials already elected.

This measure, advanced on the legislative calendar to third reading by a vote of 54 to 45, has still some distance to go. It appears certain that the house will pass it, however, and then it will be submitted to the senate.

This plan for reorganizing the government of the state is essentially a compromise. In the house the choice lay between the complicated and unwieldy Bryan code and the bills drawn by Representative T. B. Dysart's committee and amended by Speaker A. N. Mathers. In the senate choice will lay between the Mathers-Dysart plan and the present system.

A spirit of fairness is evidenced by the house majority, which referred back both the Bryan and the Dysart proposals, outside of the key bills, so that the committee might choose the best features of each.

The situation is complicated by the possibility that the governor will veto any bill except his own. A few democratic votes would be necessary to give sixty votes in the house required to pass any measure over his veto. Public opinion, which is tired of this endless controversy, will not endorse democratic efforts to bring about a deadlock which would hold the legislature in session long beyond the usual time for adjournment.

M. A. Brown, who throughout the dispute has maintained an attitude completely devoid of partisanship, declares now in his newspaper, the Kearney Hub, that Speaker Mathers "has offered a perfectly simple, rational, constitutional and workable plan, without thought of political advantage anywhere and with no other end in view than cutting the state government entirely free from bureaucratic influences and tendencies." Although Mr. Brown up to this time had advocated the Bryan code, now he calls on both parties in the legislature to consider the Mathers plan without bias.

This same change of opinion is noticeable everywhere in the state. The postcard campaign of Governor Bryan in which the people were asked to buy a pig in a poke and endorse whatever plan he advanced, was not worth a cent. Some unknown persons even went to the length of having postcards printed and distributed for the convenience of citizens who were asked to mail them to their legislators insisting on blind acquiescence to the governor's will. But the whole machine-made propaganda fell flat, arousing little public response.

The governor, however, has gone ahead just as if his new code were certain to be put in operation. Within the last two days he has made three appointments, at a total expense to the taxpayers of $11,000 a year, to offices that would not exist if any plan but his own should be adopted. Roy Cochran of North Platte has been appointed deputy secretary of public works. Grant L. Shumway of Scottsbluff he made deputy secretary of agriculture. And now he has named George Hall, defeated democratic candidate for state treasurer, to be deputy secretary of finance.

Under the Mathers plan the secretary of public works would perform the duties assigned to Mr. Cochran, and without any addition to the payroll. The present state auditor would head the finance department, and the secretary of state would manage the department of agriculture. None of the Bryan appointees would be needed under the Mathers system. Moreover, the heads of these combined departments would choose their own assistants. The Bryan code would place the governor at the head of all departments and bureaus, and allow him to make all appointments without the consent of the senate or the advice of any one.

Such inexplicable movements by the governor add to the confusion at Lincoln. He appears to have adopted purely an obstructive course. The duty of the legislative branch is to clear up all doubt as quickly as possible, to consider the Mathers plan, as Mr. Brown says, "without partisan bias," to dispose of all other needed legislation and go home.

TRADE SCHOOL FOR "COPPERS."

Omaha is about to have a school for its policemen, in which they will be taught the finesse of their profession. A lot of folks feel that all the equipment a policeman needs is a strong back and a weak mind, but this is far from the truth. When a policeman is properly trained and equipped for his vocation, he is a pretty well informed citizen.

A good policeman ought to know most of the criminal code, so he can understand the nature of any crime with which he may come into contact. He should know human nature, too, for he is called upon to do more things for blundering humanity than any other member of the community. He must know the streets of the city better than the directory or the telephone book, and be an expert on traffic rules as well as the habits of the folks who live or do business on his beat.

When he gets these things down pat, and has become proficient in first aid and how to resuscitate the drowned, the suffocated, the electrically shocked, and can run a motorcycle, a fire truck, a street car or drive a team, he is ready for his master's course in the gentle art of being a policeman. This consists of keeping his temper under any and all conditions. To arrest a fighting prisoner without using undue force, to know how to quiet a drink or drug-crazed maniac, to do any one of the myriad of little things that fall to his lot day by day, and without giving any offense to any taxpayer or sojourner, is the real finesse of the policeman's craft.

Omaha has always been well served by her police force, quarreling politicians to the contrary notwithstanding. In the training school to be set up the men will be polished off, and made the more efficient because they will get a better understanding of their duties and the obligation they are under. It takes a real man to be a "copper" nowadays, and Omaha wants the best.

THE MAINSPRING OF PROGRESS.

How much wiser or better can the actions of a group be than those of the individuals who compose it? In the case of mobs hysteria reduces the general level to that of the worst members. It is doubtful if any organization, from a club to nation, ever rises above the standards set by individuals who compose it.

Herbert Hoover makes the point, in his articles now being published in The Omaha Bee, that the progress of America depends on the individual men and women, not on this or that organization or party. As each one develops within himself the spirit of democracy, tolerance and service so will the nation advance toward the ideal of democracy. This is a mechanical age, yet the people are not to be saved by their machines. Real human betterment begins in the heart.

So often people criticize the trend of public events without any thought that they themselves may be responsible in part. It is a good deal like the man who inquired from his minister why so few came to the Sunday evening services. The minister's reply was that one reason was that neither the anxious inquirer nor his family had ever taken the trouble to attend.

It is easy enough to suggest the proper course for other people, and for each person to outline a course of action for the nation and for the world. It is not so easy for each one to look after his own actions, study their effects and take thought as to how he can help, by raising himself spiritually and practically and thus make for a better world.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

President Harding is seeking rest and recreation by houseboating along the Florida coast. In the main people are respecting his request to be left free from official cares and the importunities of patronage seekers. But there are those who insist upon intruding, thus interfering with the president's wishes.

Mr. Bryan, whose home is at Miami, shows far more respect for the president's wishes than some of the president's own party friends. Like the splendid gentleman he is, Mr. Bryan called at the presidential headquarters, but upon learning that the president was taking a nap he would not let him be aroused, but left his card and departed. And it is safe to say that Warren G. Harding would rather have chatted for a while with William J. Bryan, even at the expense of a lost nap, than to have consulted a lot of patronage hunters.

Many of us differ with Bryan on matters of political economy and statecraft, but all of us will admit that Mr. Bryan always knows the right thing to do in matters of social usage, and that he never is forgetful of the rights and comforts of others. The spectacle of Mr. Bryan, one of the great Americans of the country, calling upon the president on vacation, and finding him asleep, merely leaves his card and retires—well, The Omaha Bee commends Mr. Bryan's thoughtful consideration of the weary and worn president to others, most of whom are of vastly less importance in the eternal scheme of things than is Mr. Bryan.

PROTECT OMAHA'S ELECTIONS.

As things now stand, when political gangs in Omaha wish to throw their strength behind one certain candidate above all others, they instruct the voters they control to mark only that one place on the ballot. They dare not take the risk of confusing their followers by asking them to remember a complete list of men for every office. Thus the decision is often left completely in the hands of informed voters who vote according to their own beliefs, and not to please some ward boss.

There is a bill in the legislature which would make it much easier to control and direct the deliverable vote. It was introduced by Senator Chambers, and has been hotly fought by Senator Saunders, both of Omaha. It must be noted with regret that this bill has been favorably reported by the senate committee on privileges and elections. This measure provides that any voter who is unable to read and write may go before an election judge with a printed or written list of persons for whom he wishes to vote and have the judge mark the ballots. Under the present law an illiterate voter in Omaha is required to tell by word of mouth for which candidates he wishes to vote. If he has any personal reason for preferring one candidate above another, he will not suffer from forgetfulness.

This requirement is not unfair, and it is limited to Omaha, since in the other parts of the state there are no great masses of illiterate voters. For the purity of Omaha elections, and for the preservation of the rights of citizens who vote their own judgment instead of taking orders from some slatemaker, this bill should be killed.

Definite notice has been served on the reparations commission that Uncle Sam is not going to scale his bill for troops in the Rhineland and expects to be paid in full, with no especial regard as to where the money comes from. When the statesmen over there get this into their program, a lot of other points may be dropped.

Omaha, with the new Intermediate Credits bank, the Federal Land bank and the Federal Reserve bank is a most satisfactory substitute for Wall street financing.

Omaha is to have its new bank building, and if it will save the government money or aid in the solution of the employment problem, Omaha can well afford to wait.

At that, the snow outstayed its welcome.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davie

I MET AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

I met an old acquaintance. "Just dropped in," he
said, "to buy
A couple load of cattle, an' thought I'd say hello!
You're looking fat an' healthy an' jest as young an'
spry
As when you left the country them eighteen years ago.

"Seems like another neighborhood. There's only two
or three
Of them old-timers left; the rest have died or gone.
A young, new-married feller lives across the road from
me—
He bought the Berger eighty that Ike Moales was
livin' on.

"The Frazier boys skedaddled. I heard they moved at
night;
Nobody ever knowed jest when or where they strayed.
Belinda Maples married a son of Father White,
An' jolly old Bill Wilkins is sleepin' in the shade.

"My boys have growed to manhood an' farm the place
on shares.
I take it sort of easy, admittin' I ain't spry.
I travel some on bizness an' furnish the repairs
To keep the wheels a-turnin'. I'll stop agin. Goodby."

"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.

Favors the Mathers Plan.

Gothenburg, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Speaker Mathers is to be congratulated for the straightforward effort he is making for his amendment to the code bill. It seems to me that it is the best solution of the problem yet presented to the legislature. It also seems to me it is about time for the citizens and taxpayers to suggest to Mr. Bryan "that the governor shall" attend strictly to his duties as executive and let the legislators do the legislating to the end that "the governor shall" then be much more respected.

IMA YAN KEE.

The Theological Forum.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Is it necessary to believe in the virgin birth of Christ to accept Him as a Savior? Just for the sake of argument let us assume that it is not and carefully look into the matter. Luke is the only writer that gives us a detailed account of the incident. Luke was a gentile convert to Christianity, an educated man, evidently with a taste for investigation. He wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, and was a close friend and companion of Paul the apostle. He tells us that he wrote both of the above accounts for the benefit of a friend, also a gentile convert.

If we reject the story of the virgin birth, we must convict him of abusing the confidence of a trusting friend in a matter of vital importance. What possible motive could Luke have in doing this? Also we cast a shadow on every account of Luke's that is not elsewhere verified. This will include the birth and ancestry of John the Baptist, the announcement to the shepherds, the prophecy of those devout patriarchs, Simeon and Anna; Jesus taking part in the session of the Sanhedrin at 12, and altogether something over 50 incidents peculiar to the writings of Luke. Is it not evident that he made these investigations to supplement the two other Gospels already given to the church, and to give the truth for the information and guidance of his gentile friends so that they would not be confused by the flood of gossip, that the messengers of satan had sown broadcast, relating to Christ and His mission?

But to be logical, and it is much more important to the modernist to be logical than righteous, we must further discredit the account of Matthias, appointed an apostle in the place of Judas, Pentacost and the conversion of 3,000 in one day, Ananias and Saphira, the delivery of the apostles from prison, the entire career of Stephen, Philip preaching to the Ethiopian, the visit of Cornelius and the vision of Peter, the delivery of Peter from prison in answer to the prayers of the church, and the wonderful conversion and practically the entire life of Paul the Apostle.

But has Luke any confirmation? Matthew give us a brief, comprehensive practical account. Matthew was a Jew, a tax gatherer under the Roman government, a man of affairs, a cosmopolitan, right in personal touch with the question of the hour, a man qualified to decide, and he gives his unqualified endorsement. Matthew was no sentimental emotional youth, subject to auto-suggestion! He was a mature, hard-headed, shrewd business man; but as a convert to Christ he was steadfast to martyrdom, and he endorses the virgin birth. The Gospel of Mark does not mention it. Evidently it was so well known and of such common acceptance that it was not considered necessary to mention it. We have no account from John, but in his Gospel and in his Epistles John refers to the only begotten Son of God, which is ample evidence that he knew of and endorsed as a question not disputed the virgin birth. To the man of average intelligence, the man qualified to sit on the jury, the man who must have evidence that convinces beyond a reasonable doubt, the man who is morally bound to decide according to the law and weight of evidence, must bring a verdict to his conscience in favor of the Gospel account of the virgin birth of Christ.

S. J. WOODRUFF.

Daily Prayer

The Lord preserveth the faithful.—Ps. 31:23.

Almighty and Most Merciful One, we humble ourselves before Thee and adore Thy power as well as Thy love; Thy bounty, as well as Thy compassion; Thy sovereign providences as well as Thy forgiving mercy. Lord, give to us—Thou knowest better what to give than we to ask. Direct graciously all the affairs of each of us this day; be in the performance of the household duties and sanctify our home life; go out with those who go out to the business of life this day, and prosper their labors and their plans. Find some blessed helpfulness for each of us today, and let us also find it. Encompass in like manner with Thy gracious providence all our loved ones, in their homes, in preparation for life work, in their daily avocations, in their accustomed places or on a journey, in sickness or in health. Lift our eyes above the narrow little circle of our own horizon in life, to the great work of God, and to the Kingdom of God, of which we are a part. Lord, forgive us our sins; they are many, and they humble us to the dust. Guard and guide our ways this day, that we may go to meet temptation "led of the Spirit," and so shall "find the way of escape" and go safely forward in the way of faith and hope and loving service of Thee. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MELVIN GROVE KYLE, D.D., LL.D.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

The Spice of Life

The professor of Biblical literature at William Jewell college has been dismissed for his radical views. The college is situated in Liberty, Mo.—Life.

Mr. Tarr—"Doctah, whas de mattah wid Brudder Snoops? What 'zeas do he 'peah to be 'flicted wid, in you' humble 'pinion?"

Doctor Dingfold—"Chronic chicken stealin' complicated wid birdshot in de back, sah."—The Watchman-Examiner (New York.)

Fortune Teller—"What do you think I can foretell an American husband for only five marks?"—Meggendorfer Blaetter (Munich).

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B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of March, 1923.
W. H. QUIVEY,
(Seal) Notary Public

The Song of Three Friends

A Prize Winning Poem of Western Life

by John G. Neihardt

Continuing northwest from the Ree villages, we have a picture of our prairies in July. The progress of a month is recorded in 10 lines and indicated by the changes of the moon. This takes us back to primitive conditions in startling manner.

• • •

Out of a roseless dawn the heat-pale
sun
Beheld them toiling northward once
again—
A hundred horsemen and a hundred
men
Hushed in a windless swelter. Day on
day
The same white dawn o'ertook them
on their way;
And daylong in the white glare sang
no bird,
But only shrill grasshoppers clicked
and whirred,
As though the heat were vocal. All
the while
The dwindling current lengthened,
mile on mile,
Meandrous in a labyrinth of sand.

Now e'er they left the Ree town by
the Grand
The revellers had seen the spent
moon roam
The morning, like a tipsy hag bound
home.
A bubble-laden boat, they saw it sail
The sunset river of a fairy tale
When they were camped beside the
Cannonball.
A spectral sun, it held the dusk in
thrall
Nightlong about the Heart. The stars
alone
Upon the cluttered Mandan lodges
shone
The night they slept below the Knife.
And when
Their course, long westward, shifted
once again
To lead them north, the August moon
was new.

Early in August the company are plundered by the Assiniboines of the horses purchased of the Ree, and three of the men were slain. Some weeks later the hot weather passes away.

Then came the sudden breaking of
the year.
Abruptly in a waning afternoon
The hot wind ceased, as fallen in a
swoon
With its own heat. For hours the
swinking crews
Had bandied scarcely credible good
news
Of clouds across the dim northwest-
ward plain;
And they who offered wagers on the
rain
Found ready takers, though the
gloomy rack,
With intermittent rumbling at its
back,
Had mounted slowly. Now it towered
high,
A blue-black wall of night across the
sky.
Shot through with glacial green.

A mystic change!
The sun was hooded and the world
went strange—
A picture world! The hollow hush
that fell
Made loud the creaking of the taut
cordelle
The bent spar's groan, the plunk of
steering poles.
A bodeful calm lay glassy on the
shoals:
The current had the look of flowing
oil.
They saw the cloud's lip billow now
and boil—
Black breakers gnawing at a coast
of light;
They saw the stealthy wraith-arms
of the night
Grope for the day to strangle it; they
saw
The up-stream reaches vanish in a
flaw
Of driving sand; and scarcely were
the craft
Made fast to clumps of willows fore
and aft,
When with a roar the blinding fury
rolled
Upon them; and the breath of it was
cold,
There fell no rain.

That night the calm was clear:
Just such a night as when the waning
year
Has set aflare the old Missouri wood;
When Greenings are beginning to be
good;
And when, so hollow is the frosty
hush,
One hears the ripe persimmons falling
—plush!—
Upon the littered leaves. The kindly
time!
With cider in the vigor of its prime,
Just strong enough to edge the
dullest wit
Should neighbor folk drop in awhile
to sit
And gossip. O, the dear flame-painted
gloam,
The backlog's splutter on the hearth
at home—
How far away that night. Thus
many a lad,
Grown strangely old, remembered and
was sad.
Wolves mourned among the bluffs.
Like hanks of wool
Fog flecked the river. And the moon
was full.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

Start at Home.

From the Nebraska City Press.

If any man in Nebraska is competent to discuss youthful delinquency it is Superintendent Clark of the Kearney industrial school. In an address given recently in the state Mr. Clark declared the cause of childhood delinquency is found in the home. Parents, he says, have neglected their responsibilities, permitting their boys and girls to roam at large without let or hindrance, paying no heed to their hours, their habitats or the quality of their companionship. Delinquency, under such conditions, the industrial school head says, is not surprising, but the eyes of the parents are usually opened too late.

For a long time newspapers have preached parental responsibility, but the plea has fallen on deaf ears. We are on the road to paternalism in this country and every recurring session of the legislature and congress is filled with bills designed to remove responsibilities from the individual and place it on the state. In Nebraska we have a plea for movie censorship to protect the child, because we are too busy to censor as a family unit. We have bills to provide for the teaching of sex hygiene in the schools, because as parents we refuse or neglect to talk plainly on a plain subject. The state is unable to play the role of father and mother, but we refuse to believe it. The family in the United States is breaking down. It is a distasteful thought, but it is undeniably true. Complexities of the state of mind we call civilization demand more attention to extraneous affairs and less to the important details of home life. What are we to do about it?

John G. Neihardt.

From the Spring Midwest.

The proposition that John G. Neihardt, the Nebraska poet, be made a member of the faculty of the University of Nebraska, and thus be given full opportunity to develop his remarkable genius, is worthy of more than the usual consideration. Mr. Neihardt is a genius. He is one of the great poets of modern times and gives promise of being one of the greatest the world has known.

There will be those who will oppose any move to recognize Mr. Neihardt if it promises to cost them a penny. Sordid of mind and unappreciative of genius, they are like the man described by the poet—

"A primrose by the river's brim
A yellow primrose was to him,
And nothing more."

But men and women who love beauty, who want to see something more in life than mere dollars, will approve of any movement, no matter what they cost, that promises to develop artistic genius and make the world brighter and better. As member of the university faculty, Mr. Neihardt would doubly earn far more salary than would be paid him. He would earn it by imparting to the student body some of his own genius and poetic fire. He would earn it by being thus privileged to devote his wonderful talents to the creation of literary work that would lift the world higher and add undying fame to the state in which he has lived and worked.

The world needs more of the artistic and less of the sordid; more of beauty and less of mere use, more of the poetic and less of the prosaic. And now that Nebraska has an opportunity to show the world that it appreciates real artistic genius in one of her sons that opportunity should be seized without delay.

The Bill for Our Rhine Army.

From The New York World.

It is not likely that Secretary Hughes is so simple-minded as to suppose that the allies will either collect a quarter of a billion dollars cash from Germany for the United States, or that they will turn over any part of that which Germany has already paid and they have already spent.

Whatever the legal formula, our only chance of payment is out of Germany's future payments. It is, of course, allied policy to tie up our government with the future German payments so that we shall give our moral support to the business of collection. If our government refuses to be tied up, it can probably say goodby to this quarter billion for a very long time to come.

There is no reason, in the nature of things, why the United States should not share in the collection of reparations. The French wish us to do that. Mr. Hughes might well reply that if we are to pool our claims we shall have to be consulted about terms imposed on Germany, for if we are to be paid, the terms must be such that Germany can meet them. The United States cannot lend itself to the game of trying to get golden eggs and pate de fois gras out of the same goose.

A Strain on the Family Tie