

THE MORNING BEE

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CLOSING UP THE CAPITOL INQUIRY.

Architect Bertram Goodhue closed his address to the senate investigating committee with repressed indignation. Defending himself against charges that appear from the showing to have been unwarranted and without foundation, he was justified in exhibiting a little warmth. In the course of his talk, and probably as a result of the ordeal he was undergoing, he let the cat out of the bag. At least, it looks like a cat, for it gives a possible reason for a proceeding that has been mysterious in its every aspect.

According to the architect, the state engineer sought to act as general contractor on the new capitol building. This may serve to clear up in the public mind something of the puzzle. Members of the capitol commission expressed themselves as much surprised as anyone when the state engineer six weeks ago exploded his bomb. His startling charge of neglect and incompetence against the architect astonished everybody. Members of the commission, who had worked in close touch with the architect and the engineer, in examining plans, opening bids, and awarding contracts, have testified that they were totally unable to account for the charges.

So far as testimony goes, the state engineer has not made good his attack. His act has brought out fully the fact that the whole course of Mr. Goodhue has been for the protection of the interests of his client, the State of Nebraska, and for the protection of his own integrity. He has declined to accept Mr. Johnson's judgment in lieu of his own, and has declined to substitute inferior material because it was cheaper. In this he will be generally upheld.

To charge a man of Bertram Goodhue's standing with being both incompetent and negligent requires considerable assurance, and in justice to all, such charges should be supported by the soundest of proof. In this case the proof appears to be entirely lacking. Such points as have been made by Mr. Johnson are trivial when compared to the gravity of his accusations. A little money has been saved to the state on the stone contract, which could have been readjusted without any such hullabaloo. But the delay in the work has or will cost the state far more than the amount saved, so that in that way the proceeding has been unreasonably expensive to Nebraska.

The senate committee will deliberate and announce a conclusion at its convenience, but the public has heard enough of the affair to be ready to vote on the verdict now. It has been a case of "much cry and little wool" from the start. In time the animus of the whole proceeding may be made clear, and then it may come out that an apology is due the architect from more than one source.

POLITICS AND PROFITEERING.

Some of our mercurial democratic brethren are running round in circles, shouting a war song, the burden of which is that the republicans are responsible for the price of sugar. This is bad tactics on their part, for it compels folk to remember what happened three years ago.

In December, 1919, Woodrow Wilson approved the McNary bill, which was to re-establish the sugar control. However, the president then announced that he would take advantage of the law, because he believed the natural "iron law" of supply and demand would be sufficient to adjust the price of sugar, and all other commodities. Was the president's foresight good? Just look back to the old days of what well remembered spring, when Omaha users were paying from 25 to 30 cents a pound for sugar, and only able to get a pound at a time.

President Menocal of Cuba offered President Wilson the entire sugar crop of Cuba at 4 1/2 cents a pound. The offer was declined, and within a few weeks sugar was 11 1/2 cents c. i. f., Havana. Some still recall how speculators with headquarters at Omaha kept trainloads of sugar rolling between the Missouri river and the Pacific coast; how other trainloads were sent east, west, north and south, sold over and over again without stopping to discharge cargo; how local retailers were arrested and their sugar taken, simply because they were in position to supply their customers; how after a long inquiry United States District Attorney Allen informed Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer there was nothing wrong in the sugar situation in Omaha.

It wasn't the tariff then; it isn't the tariff now. It was the situation under control of the foreign sugar producers. Keep that in mind, and also remember they have it in their power to destroy the American sugar industry. This may help a little when considering the sugar profiteers.

OVER THE RIVER AT YANKTON.

Half a century ago Nebraskans were seeking a more direct route into eastern Dakota. Equally, the Dakotans were looking for an easier way to reach Nebraska. Ferries and such did not meet the requirements, but it took a long time for the people to reach the point where the decision to build a bridge at Yankton took on the form of action.

Now that the structure is well under way, it is up to Nebraska to complete its part of the undertaking. Money is lacking for the construction of the approach on the Nebraska side, and this the legislature is asked to provide. A bill making the appropriation is well under headway to its final passage, and should be delayed no longer than is absolutely necessary.

The Yankton bridge means a great deal to the people of both states, for it affords direct communication now interrupted by the Missouri river. Better trade relations will result; Dakotans can reach the Omaha market more readily, and a great volume of business will flow in this direction. Other advantages are obvious, and benefits that will arise from the existence of the bridge will be shared in by citizens of both states.

South Dakota's part is performed, and Nebraska will come right along with her share, so that a great public work will be completed for the service of all.

Mr. Harding resumed his cabinet meetings without delay and without firing anybody.

WHEN A WOMAN TAKES A JOB.

Those who have relied on statutory law for the adjustment of various economic problems will be disturbed by the decision of the United States supreme court, holding the District of Columbia minimum wage law to be unconstitutional. In the very nature of things, this opinion will affect all such laws. Five judges concur in the majority opinion, read by Justice Sutherland; Chief Justice Taft dissents for himself and Justice Sanford, Justice Holmes dissents independently, and Justice Brandeis did not take part.

The majority opinion takes the ground that a minimum wage law affects the individual right to contract. Adult women in the District of Columbia were deprived of that right under the law, and that they may in all matters exercise every possible liberty, they should also be permitted to bargain as to wages. The minority opinions hold that wage bargainers are on a level with agreements as to hours and other working conditions, and as the law-making bodies have a right to regulate these, so they should be allowed to fix minimum wages.

Minimum wage laws have been enacted on the belief that those who came under them were at a disadvantage when it came to making agreements of employment. Almost exclusively, they have been for the benefit of women and girls, the class that, if protection of the sort is needed, needs it most. We are pleased that Justice Sutherland took occasion to defend the girls, saying that the relation between wages and morals is not a fixed point.

Conditions exist that must be dealt with in a practical way, and some of these have to do with the employment of females. The right of liberty of contract is sacred, but it is not of especial service to one in urgent need of money to purchase food and clothing, and such instances are not rare. A way will have to be found to relieve such conditions. Methods so far adopted have not proven uniformly beneficial, and in some ways have been as bad if not worse than the evil sought to be corrected.

Woman in industry will find her way a little more difficult, maybe, in the absence of the minimum wage laws, but she will surely be vigilant in protecting her own interest as far as she can, and probably in the end will strengthen her position because of her greater experience and consequent solidarity of purpose. Our women folks have shown a noteworthy capacity for managing their own affairs and solving their own problems, and they will surely bring to this the fullest of their powers.

A minimum wage law was more of an expedient than a remedy. If the court has now compelled women and girls to go to the root of the employment problem, they may be depended upon to do so.

LOOKING FOR THE STRAYING SHEEP.

Somehow we sympathize with that group of devoted women who have accepted the challenge of a city prosecutor, and attended police court. The prosecutor, stirred by some impulse, declared that "club women would rather play bridge than interest themselves in helping the unfortunate." He spoke in his haste, as David did, when he said "all men are liars." Like David, he is finding out his mistake.

Club women are intensely interested in all the problems of community life. Of course, many of them like to play bridge; so do a lot of other good people, who are concerned in all manner of projects for the betterment of humanity. At any rate, many of the women who are members of the committee of 5,000 journeyed to the central police court Monday, and saw the wheels go around.

Just how they will apply what they learned, or if they saw enough to give them definite notions of practical value, is not here to be considered. The fact is they saw something that not many of them ever had witnessed. It is an everyday experience to the judge, to the prosecutor, to the police, and to reporters. To most, if not all of these women, it was revelation, for it gave them their first glimpse at the seamy side of life. They saw culprits haled before the court, to be dealt with according to the weight human justice puts on their varying offenses. Drunkards and bums, petty thieves and some of more importance, the dissolute woman, and the one who is taking the first steps on the downward path, all are the grist that pass through that mill of the gods.

Maybe the women found out some opportunity of service to those who need it most. We hope they did. It is for them to determine if their first visit is to be their last, but they have seen enough to know that the great problem is not easily approached, nor readily solved. Yet, if it ever is solved, it will be through bringing the two edges of society a little closer together, and letting the upper and the lower fully understand that men and women are human beings, wherever placed.

Nebraska is soon to have a new state seal, having "outgrown" the old one. This opens the way to the suggestion that the seal be changed from time to time, like the bill at the movies.

Brazil has a revolution, but it is such a large state and with such unfilled spaces that a band of rebels might easily be lost. One revolution more or less in Latin-America counts for little.

Local churches are showing outward and visible signs of prosperity, while spiritual progress is noted in the number of accessions to membership. All of which is entirely as it should be.

New York is going to teach school by radio. That's one way of solving the shortage of teachers.

Life in Chicago is interesting; when not dodging taxicabs, the wayfarer is kept busy with bombs.

Frank McIntyre now has a chance to spring that old classic of the stage: "One of us is rotten."

"Sunny Jim" McCandless brought it with him.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davis
VIRTUOUS WEALTH.
'Tis not the wealth of them who hoard till death their efforts close
That gives the rich a place on earth as gracious as a rose
Whose opulence is meted out for things of joy and worth
As monuments to memory when they are gone from earth
For they who hoard and put away inspired by naught but greed
Take nothing with them to the clay, nor do no worthy deed
For which they may be idolized and given lasting praise,
And make the world a beauty spot of psalm and paraphrase.
But others who by wealth are blessed, with motives wise and kind,
Go to the golden land of rest and leave a mark behind;
To them the world supplies her thanks for kindness which gives
Material gain a virtue that instructs, and lifts, and lives.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee.
Readers of The Morning Bee: The material in this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Bibles and Miracles.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Rev. F. G. Smith describes the story of creation and the Garden of Eden as related in the first 11 chapters of the Bible as "a mythical narrative of great, eternal, moral and spiritual truths." He emphasizes his definition of legend or myth as a "non-historical narrative based on fact, but handed down by word of mouth so many generations that it has accumulated so much that it is romantic and fictitious that it is difficult to separate fact from fancy."

If the story of creation and of Eden is so romantic and fictitious, how may we distinguish fact from fancy? Why not go a step further and ignore the whole story? Consequently we must consider as fancy what Jehovah speaks through Moses in Ex. 20:11. "For the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, etc.

Dr. Smith discusses also miracles. "Is a belief," he asks, "in the literal historicity of all the miracles necessary to a sincere acceptance of that Bible as the word of God and to a genuine Christian life." He defines "miracle" as "something that cannot be explained and ascertained as that his intention is not to tear the miraculous out of the world. He tells us not to get scared about miracles. They are not things that are a miracle of God. Every man's life is a miracle. No man understands it.

There is something about the miracles of the Bible that Dr. Smith would like to understand, something that ought not to be there. He warns us for reading into some Bible stories things which are not there at all. There he tries to read into the story of Elijah and the widow that the meal in the barrel and the oil in the cruse were replenished, which is outside of the Bible story. Why is it that matter with this miracle? Did Elijah do it in his own power or in the power of the Lord? And the miracle when Christ fed the 5,000. How much shall we add or subtract from the story? Had not Jesus power to multiply the loaves when necessary?

What have we if we take away the miracles from the Bible? If we do not believe in the Bible as the word of God, how shall we know what is the word of God and what is not? All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction, for instruction in righteousness. Two Tim. 3:16. "Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust; because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One in Israel. Isaiah 5:24. "The duty of a minister of the gospel is to 'Preach the Word' (2 Tim. 4:2), which abideth forever. We shall not escape if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven." Heb. 12:25.

O. W. NELSON.
Politics and Women.
North Platte, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Can the modern women with their new ideas of the century, culture and charm the century's monster, politics? Can vanity cases and politics go hand in hand? Proverbially women gossip and men do not, although women steadily deny this accusation and retort that men's clubs and bachelors' apartments are private gathering places where they can peacefully fill the air with scandal. But as corrected by the fact, this subject are difficult to obtain, we will simply admit, as a fact, that women possess a greater love of personalities in conversation than do men.

One may find a thousand women who will discuss divorce laws and 10,000 who will discuss life and love for one who will take even an iota of interest in the subject. More men prefer women that way. Imagine the dinner conversation being devoted entirely to the senate or American and foreign relations. Men are usually really bored by argument on public questions or material business. But if women are to successfully capture politics, they must adopt this general detached point of view. Women are also governed by prejudices. Even if as they claim, they were the instigators in the putting over of prohibition, it was due to personal prejudice, not by the friends or their own relatives drinking too much. High-minded women have been known to change in the past two years from voting fervently for prohibition to voting for it not because they had studied the question at hand, but because bootleg gin did not agree with some member of their family. Statistics testify that women are less broad-minded than men. Politics are based upon broad-mindedness and unprejudiced opinions, and in these things which lead to politics, women are hopelessly evened out.

A well-known young man of Fremont indulged in a healthy bit of self-analysis the other day and brought forth this startling statement: "I have been wondering for a long time why it is that at the end of the year my bank balance is conspicuous mainly by its absence, although when I come to make out my income tax return I find that I have earned and received a very respectable amount of money during the year. Every time I have to pay last year's income tax, I am forced to dig into this year's receipts to meet the bill."

"I had promised myself that if I ever got back to God's country and out of the service, I would make up for lost time. I would have the best of clothes, the finest food, good quarters, and the like. Well, I got all these things all right. It took all my money, but that didn't worry me, because I wasn't used to being so heavily burdened with cash anyway, and besides I was an optimist and figured on getting rich (out suit). And then I got married. My wife was the finest girl in the world and she was entitled to the best I could give her. We maintained about the same standards of living as I had

What is a Piker?
From the Fremont Tribune.
It may be that the days of extraordinary extravagance, the so-called "silk shirt era" of 1919 and 1920, have been replaced by a great part by more sane appreciation of the value of money and its purchasing power on the part of Americans, but we are still harboring among us a relic of former excesses which is seriously disturbing our economic equilibrium. Not enough of us are pikers! Remember the popular conception of a "piker" as a person who is cheap, selfish and generally disreputable. This may sound quite paradoxical. But the word has taken on a new meaning in recent years. It has come to mean a man who is so mentally disposed that he can permit a coin to rest unmoored in his pocket without itching to spend it. Under the modern interpretation, a piker is a man who lives within his own income.

Daily Prayer

For the Father Himself loveth you—John 17:27.
Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the peace, the rest, the comfort of the night through which we have come. We surely have reason to be grateful for Thy increasing care. Thou art ever thinking of us, and we sleep in safety under the shadow of Thy protecting presence. May we be Thy children under the light and blessing of another day. May it be a clean day, a glad day, an undeluded day! May no dark, impure thoughts obtain possession of our hearts. May we be able to speak words of gentleness, and to remember especially the poor, the wayward, the unfortunate, the sorrow-stricken. Be all us with Thy Spirit as to make us joyous, radiant, eager for service, anxious only to do Thy Will. We ask all these favors in the Name of Thy Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
REV. J. WESLEY JOHNSTON, LIT. D., Brookline, N. Y.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for MARCH, 1923, of
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Daily 73,997
Sunday 80,029
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B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of April, 1923.
W. H. QUINCY,
Notary Public

We Nominate—

For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.

The Battle Over the Code.
From the Gordon Journal.
The legislature has spent a good deal of its time arguing over the code law and Governor Bryan seems to be spending most of his hours in trying to get through his pet scheme of running the government. Not that they seem to be greatly enthused over what they are trying to accomplish. They are both simply trying to write a party platform on which to run next year.

The code law has always been misunderstood. An example of what the code law really did is about as follows: We might take the different county officials. Change the county clerk to county recorder and then place the county assessor's work under that office. Make the county judge also clerk of the district court and give the judge a deputy to do that. Centralize the county auditor's and assessor's title to secretary of county education. You see the county would largely be where it started. No new laws would be enacted. There would simply be a rearranging of the county's activities. The code law re-grouped the state bureaus and commissions in the same manner and we think it was an improvement, as it centralized the governing agencies so that the public would know whom to hold responsible.

But certain newspapers and politicians hold the code law and are blaming everything that happens since they worked up a political issue. Lots of people think that every law which has been passed in the last four years is the work of the code law. They blame it for salary increases which were voted by the people themselves when they adopted the new constitution. They blame it for dry weather, whatever happened. In other words, seem right was caused by the "code."

We do not think the legislature is apt to pass any law which Governor Bryan thinks is not in the best interests of the state. He will pass any amendments, but the governor is very likely to veto whatever the republicans present. The outcome then will be that the state will continue to run under the same system of administration under which it has been operating. If this happens, it may be that people will believe it is a poor system of government which would not be improved by all legislation. But we feel that when the people of the state come to understand the code law, they will approve of it and it may be that the present tie-up will turn out to be for the best interests of the state.

Selecting a Newspaper.
From the Chicago Journal of Commerce.
Even the highest-priced newspapers are so cheap that no financial consideration enters into the selection of one for daily reading. What should the one chosen yield to the buyer? An important news of the day, of course. That is the first requirement in which accuracy, truthfulness and careful editing play star parts. So much of the news printed is frivolous and worthless, improper and degrading, that papers which weed it out to make room for matter of value and significance, render their readers a great service.

If a man can say, after reading a newspaper, that he has a better knowledge of world, state and city affairs of moment than he had before reading it, that his thoughts have been turned to subjects which have strengthened his hold on general intelligence; that he is intellectually refreshed and better equipped for his day's work, he may be sure his selection was wise.

Newspapers are potent influences in molding a man's thought. They are scattered after reading a worthless paper, exactly as they are when a garrulous bore has got admission to his office on a busy morning. He is just one thing better, and the right newspaper will give him consciousness of fitness for the day of a righteous impulse to do his best, and a sense of being equipped for his work.

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From the Fremont Tribune.
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Death in the Hour of Triumph.
From the Kansas City Star.
It was one of those chances of fate that ended the life of Lord Carnarvon in the hour of his long deferred triumph. For 12 years he had been engaged in Egyptian exploration, always hoping for the reward of finding some great treasure of the life and industry of the remote past. Then came the discovery of Tutank-Amen's tomb in the rock of the valley of the kings.

The tomb, with its contents, proved one of the richest finds in archaeology. Through its furniture and objects of art the life of a distant age was recreated before our eyes. For weeks the world read with eager interest of the doings of the excavators. Lord Carnarvon had the satisfaction of feeling that Europe and America was going to school to him. It would be difficult to estimate the advance in the general knowledge of ancient life and history that came from the uncovering of the burial place of this boy king of 3,000 years ago.

So, at death, contentedly, it still deferred its coming until a great ambition had been fulfilled. Lord Carnarvon might have said with Walter Savage Landor:
I warn'd both hands against the fire
Of life;
It sinks, and I am ready to depart.

Just an Ordinary Man.
In a book written by somebody at Washington a thrifty man is depicted as one who saves 20 cents of every

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True in Ohio? Same in Nebraska



School days are about over!
From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.
Let It Sleep and Dream.
The suggestion that the League of Nations settle the Ruhr dispute now comes to disturb the quiet of Geneva. Why can't they let the League enjoy a little peace—in that what it was organized for?—Kansas City Star.

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