

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY
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PUT THE LAZY, SANDY PLATTE TO WORK.

One action of the legislature is commendable, and will be given hearty approval of all who have taken trouble to examine into what is proposed, is the adoption of the resolution urging on congress the desirability of aiding in the project to dam the Platte river to enable the irrigation of land that does not now receive sufficient rainfall.

Thirty years ago The Omaha Bee pointed out the now admitted fact that the work of reclamation must be undertaken by the federal government. This was not solely on account of the interstate character of the rivers from which water was to be drawn, but because the undertakings, in whole or in part, were too great for private capital or even for state support. What then was a vision is now a reality. Hundreds of thousands of acres of what was waste and unproductive land now returns marvelously bountiful yields of all manner of things that grow from soil that only needed water to make it fecund. The proposed Nebraska project is in line with the general work.

The Central Nebraska Supplemental Water association has been formed in south central Nebraska, where four decades of experience have proved that natural rainfall is not always to be depended upon. Along the northern border of this region flows the Platte river, carrying water that can be used to ensure crop growth on acres that are fertile as any on earth when properly watered. As the name suggests, the association plans to supplement the rainfall with river water.

Consideration of water power to be developed must figure some in the calculations, but the real benefit will come from the assurance of regular yields of the two great food crops, wheat and corn. It is not without reason that congress is approached on the subject. In the last congress an irrigation bill failed because certain senators insisted on including the so-called Palouse project, which involved the expenditure of several times the greatest sum of money per acre ever put into irrigation. If that project were worthy of support, the Nebraska proposition is more worthy. The amount of money asked for here is comparatively small, the return is certain, the access to market more ready, and all other factors in favor of Nebraska.

Our congressmen will take notice that their neighbors are in dead earnest on this undertaking. It is not an idle dream, but a demonstrated possibility, endorsed by engineers of repute, and imperatively needed for the continuation of the prosperity of a section that can be made to produce annually several times the amount of foodstuffs it now yields. And the nation and the world needs the food—let's arrange to raise the crops.

"PLAY BALL."

This is the day they start. Western league baseball players have been tugging at the leash for many days now, getting ready to start the 1923 playing season, and from now until late in September the struggle for the pennant will be on. This morning it is an even thing. When the sun goes down some of the teams will have the start on the others. Only one team can win the championship, but eight can try to win it, and that is one reason why the opening day is looked upon with such interest.

Omaha begins the season at Tulsa, meeting the champions, and taking what may be the toughest competitor of the lot right at the start. Local enthusiasts are watching for the score, and sporting editors are getting their telephones all tuned up to tell the waiting customers who won, who pitched and other interesting bits of important information so eagerly sought for day after day. Here is a great field for the radio workers. Broadcasting baseball stories will give them ample occupation, and afford great relief to such of the devotees of the game as can not wait for the appearance of the morning paper, which they will read anyhow, to verify what they got from the wireless.

Games on the home ground will not begin until April 25, and by that time all here will be ready and waiting. For Omaha is known as a good ball town, where the team gets the loyal support of as fine a lot of home boosters as ever enthused over the prowess of players. It is well that this is so, for the baseball fan is always a live wire, and while he generally has room in his heart for the good of the community, and will always be found rooting for it as hard as for a favorite player located on third base with two out.

SONGS FROM NATURE'S CHOIR.

"I can't get 'em up," complains the bugle, but it ought to take a lesson from the robin, the blue-bird, the warblers who unite each morning in a chorus that may be competition or concert, but is of a character that is wonderful. No excuse for lying abed late in Omaha these mornings. Trees are not yet in leaf, but they are alive, and in all parts of the city the choristers of the air are pouring out ravishing melodies to delight the ear.

It is springtime, and the mating season, and wooer and wooed well know it. The primal impulse, the great link that holds all created things to their Creator, is awakened, and the answer to the call is spontaneous and marvelous. It is a song of love, universal and tender, enfolding all and uplifting all. Watch and listen, and you will learn much; maybe you know it now, but no harm will come if you go through it all again. The birds of the air are getting ready for the great work of bringing forth more birds, and they enter upon the job with zest and purposefulness that deserves admiration even from the lords of creation.

Omaha is happy in having a population of birds. One close observer lists more than 200 varieties, and thousands of these have their habitations in the trees that shade the lawns and streets in the residential parts of the city. Other thousands nest in the parks, and in the thickets along the river bluffs, and all find life worth while, for they are well protected. Welcome for their cheery presence, these sojourners of the spring and summer and something more than color and music to city life. They remind us of the freer ways, and bring with them something that soothes the grind of the daily routine. It is a genuine joy to be awakened by the birds.

MILADY AND THE BALLOT BOX.

Some folks are of the opinion that it is a matter of no special importance whether they affiliate with one or another of the several political parties. They contend that the course of government will be much the same whoever is in power, or whether none controls.

The answer to that question is obvious. Perpetuity of government, the safety of its institutions, depends on a continuous policy. It is true that in the United States the political divisions are somewhat hazy and indefinite, yet there is sufficient distinction to warrant an intelligent choice between them. On these differences in policy the great majority of citizens have opinions sufficiently well formed to enable them to determine which of the lines of thought they prefer and consequently which of the parties they will unite with.

Something of this is involved in the address made by Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton to the League of Woman Voters at Des Moines. It was suggested by some one who heard the address that she was trying to induce the league to endorse the republican party. That would be an admirable stroke for her, should she be able to bring it off, yet it can hardly be charged that Mrs. Upton, even in her enthusiasm for the great party she represents, would undertake such a movement. If she gave the women who heard her sufficient of a hint to induce them to join the republican ranks, we admit she has set them on the right track.

What Mrs. Upton did do was to impress upon them the importance of taking intelligent, active part in politics. Women long sought and finally secured the vote, and now should not neglect it. It is a privilege beyond price, for it is the dower of a self-governing citizen of the mightiest republic the world has ever known, a democracy wherein the people hold and exercise all power. No citizen should neglect to exercise that franchise in the fullest, and none should fail to keep informed as to the merits of the questions that decide elections, for the intelligent voter is the support of the nation.

Mrs. Upton's advice to the women is good. Study all political questions, weigh party policies, judge promises by performance, and act on the conclusion thus formed. Women should not allow their other duties entirely to absorb their attention. It does not so much matter which party they join, so long as they make the choice deliberately. It does matter, though, if they neglect to join any party, or if they fail to vote. The negligent voter disfranchises himself, and shuts the door on his own right.

MYSTERY OF A HALF-MADE LAND.

Lost in the Everglades! A theme for the writer of fiction, not the prosy efforts of the news chronicler, it would seem. Yet the news items contain more of real interest than any yarn or romance could give. Twenty-four persons, five of them women, are lost somewhere in the dense jungle and swamp land that is listed as "everglades" in Florida. They started joyously on the mission of exploring a new automobile road, leading across the state from coast to coast. Messages of greeting were borne from notables at one end of the route to others at the other, and the whole affair took on a gala aspect.

What happened to the party no one knows. It made its way far into the wilderness, and there a heavy storm was encountered. Indian searchers have hunted in vain for a trace of the excursionists. No sign of them remains, and the chief hope of their ever being found alive is that they sought and secured shelter on ground sufficiently high to protect them from the angry waters, and from which they will be later rescued. Meanwhile, they must be sustaining not only privation incident to their exposure, hunger and thirst and the presence of wild animals, but the unknown terrors of the combination of jungle and marsh.

Here is a chapter in real life as thrilling as any ever conceived by man's most active imagination. An automobile party, the height of luxurious achievement, swallowed by nature in a half-formed bit of the continent, where the division between dry land and water is not yet complete. The thought robs the tragedy of something of its terror, and yet the calamity is as real as such an event can be. The nation is watching, and with the hope that the Everglades will give up those that now seem swallowed beyond hope.

The visit of an Omaha business club to the municipal gas plant is worthy of more general imitation. Citizens generally pay too little attention to the activities in which their government is engaged. Little journeys to such other places as the county courthouse, city hall and state capital would make for better citizenship.

January imports show a continuation of the increase, noted for the last several months, the best possible indication of the improvement in business conditions.

Now that the motorists all are safe, let us hope that nothing happens to the bottle of grape juice Henry Ford sent William Jennings Bryan.

Uncle Sam collected \$70,000,000 more in revenue last month than he did in March, 1922. The old boy's business is looking up.

Nature has been known to fool the government estimators, so it is too early to begin worrying about a famine.

A woman authority says men are better dressed. At any rate, they look less conspicuous in trousers.

The lady bootlegger says she talked to much. The world may have noted this already.

Omaha clearing house totals show how the wind is blowing.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davis

THE BECKONING.

Where the cattle graze and mosey
Quite at home across the lea;
Where there's many a pretty posy—
Something strong is calling me;
Where the world is wide but cozy,
I am hankering to be.
Where the grasses, nodding, bending,
Seem to give a welcome true;
Where the thoroughfares are winding
To a shady rendezvous;
And the atmosphere is blending
Mellow essences with dew.
Where the humming birds are flying,
Clad in brightly hues and bright;
Where the whippoorwill is crying
In the emptiness of night;
Where the balmy winds are sighing,
I am beckoned with delight.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

A New Tax Remedy.

Two men who sign themselves as the school committee of the Hamilton County Taxpayers' league, have issued and made public a most remarkable document; outlining their proposals to reduce taxes for schools to about a third of what they now are. We lack space to reproduce in full this curious contribution to an already full and complicated discussion of the tax problem, but the closing paragraph of the resolution will give an idea as to the contents of the report: Thereafter, be it resolved, that schools should begin at 8 o'clock in the morning during the winter and close at 7 p. m., and during the summer begin at 7 o'clock in the morning and close at 6 in the evening; the schools be taught six days in the week, four weeks in the month, and 12 months in the year; that the school board may employ any person or persons to teach who in the judgment would make good teachers; that the teachers should pay taxes on their yearly salaries; that school districts should not furnish conveyances to take children to and from schools; that parents pay tuition for children in their districts to attend schools outside of that district; that the public schools should only educate the children up to and including the eighth grade; that the state university and state normals should be abolished.

Of course mothers may have something to say about starting the school at 8 o'clock in the morning, but their objections are not insurmountable. The report proposes that the children report in relays to teachers who would be required to put in 10 hours each day in the classroom, instructing their classes. The report might have gone further than this. Freed from the classroom at 6 o'clock in the summer and 7 o'clock in the winter, the teachers could be paid a couple of hours free before bed time. Why does the committee propose to permit this uneconomic waste? With a tax on her salary, the average teacher could easily earn 15 minutes all that she could pay for. Why not provide for a night session to drive away the tediousness of an evening class? The report also proposes to permit still further a reduction of the teaching forces? The committee has overlooked a bet here. It should call back its report for amendment.

As a service in the cause of economy the Hamilton county committee is a failure. If its purpose is to make the taxpayers' league ridiculous it has decidedly succeeded.

What Are Riches?

From the Nebraska City Press.
A Nebraskan died the other day. He was prominent in his community, in all that prominence denotes. For years he had been active in philanthropic and community welfare, earning the well-deserved commendation and approbation of his fellows. He was a great business enterprise and directing its multitudinous affairs, his closest associates naturally expected that when his estate was settled there would be a sizeable fortune to be distributed among his heirs. They were somewhat surprised, then, when it was learned that less than \$100,000 remained to be distributed among his relatives.

All during his life, these friends declare, his income had been large and steady—what, then, became of it? It really doesn't make much difference why in the world he died, but the value of his estate to himself or his town, but it is suspected that he spent it freely and without ostentation in behalf of those whose qualifications appeared to him as worthy of his bounty. His wealth, for that matter, cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents. His record in his home city, the impress he left on the minds of his people, is the wealth he has amassed.

Gold and silver and negotiable bonds are very well, but the world has not put the seal of its approval on the mark of its appreciation upon any single man who gained a foothold solely because he garnered lucre and piled it in well-guarded caverns or safety deposit vaults. On the other hand, those whose world has honored in every case worthy of commendation, have won fame, distinction and the right to live in the memories of mankind because they lived in a way that made the lives of their fellows brighter or more useful.

Riches are of little value except for what they will buy temporarily. Money

Daily Prayer

These Lord art good and ready to forgive—Ps. 104.

—Our Father, Who art in Heaven, we come before Thee in the Name of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord and Savior. For His sake have mercy on us and hear our prayer. We bring Thee our offering of thanksgiving for all Thy loving kindness and tender mercy toward us. Thy goodness has never failed us, nor will it fail us now. We confess that in many things we have offended and come short of Thy Holy Will. But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. Deliver us from the power of evil. Let not any sin have domination over us. Shield us from all that would hurt us in body or spirit. Order our future, make our plans, choose our way, and suffer us not to lead selfish or useless lives. May we do good as we have opportunity, and serve our generation according to Thy Will. We commend to Thy fatherly care our loved ones who are absent from us in the flesh. Protect them from evil, and do them all the good that they need, both for this life and for that which is to come. We pray for the coming of Thy Kingdom! Pour out Thy Holy Spirit upon all Thy churches. May they bear faithful witness for Thee, and through their testimony, Thy merciful graces be brought to know Thee, and accept Thy great salvation. We humbly ask all in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

JOHN F. CANNON, D.D.,
St. Louis, Mo.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for MARCH, 1923, of

THE OMAHA BEE

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Sunday 80,029

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of April, 1923.

J. H. QUINCY,
Notary Public
(Seal)

We Nominate— For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



EDNA WOOLEY-LEURANCE of Lincoln, wife of Thurlow Leurance, the composer, is unique among American singers for the dramatic character which she gives to her interpretation of her husband's Indian songs. Indians themselves have shown the strongest appreciation of Mrs. Leurance's power to show the significance of their own musical idiom. She was adopted by the Chipewewo tribe in March, 1915, and given the name of Nah Mee, "Little Sister," an indication of the Indian's affectionate appreciation of her work. Mr. and Mrs. Leurance have a rare collection of Indian musical instruments, costumes and artistic accessories.

has only a transient power. But the riches of the heart, the garnered treasures of intellect! This world has never yet failed to pay its homage to the man who has used his power, his brain and his money in the furtherance of humanity.

Civil Service Annuities.

From the Washington Star.
The civil service retirement fund built up by the percentage payments of employees having reached the sum of approximately \$1,700,000, it would seem practicable to increase the annuities of retired employees and the annuities to be paid employees when retired. The matter has been brought again to the public attention by Senator Sterling, chairman of the senate civil service committee, and it is the understanding that he will introduce a bill in the next congress to increase the maximum and minimum annuities to be paid civil service employees on retirement, and to increase the annuities now being paid retired employees. The contribution by employees of 2 1/2 per cent of their salaries since the act became operative in 1920 has built up a retirement fund considerably larger than was calculated. It was computed that the contributory system would at the end of two years result in a retirement fund of between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000, and the annuities to be paid were based on a fund of that size. The fund has grown faster than was thought it would, and is now about \$17,000,000. It is, therefore, capable of providing higher annuities. The annuities are low. At present the maximum is \$720 and the minimum \$150. These are small figures when one takes into account the range of rents and the cost of food and clothes. The plan that is being put forward by Senator Sterling would raise the maximum annuity to \$840 or \$1,000 and the minimum to \$240.

Another matter which the senator has in mind is that in future an annuity should bear some relation to the amount to the salary paid the employee before retirement, the man with a salary of \$1,800 having contributed to the retirement fund twice as much as a man drawing a salary of \$900. However, these are matters to be thrashed out at the proper time and in the proper place. Two things seem clear. The first is that the annuities are very low and should be raised if this can be brought about, and, second, that the fund raised by the 2 1/2 per cent salary deduction of employees is large enough to provide for higher annuities.

CENTER SHOTS.

Without Utah's tight anti-cigarette law, many a poor Mormon would probably be smoked out of house and home.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

If spring is in the air, it must be one of those recoil springs.—Philadelphia North American.

The Japanese, says a United States engineer, are the coming people. That will be bad for California.—Detroit News.

There is a town in Wyoming so far out of fashion that women don't begin wearing their spring hats till the middle of January.—New York Tribune.

"Home Sweet Home" has lasted 100 years. Can you imagine a song about the "dear old flat" that would survive that long?—Detroit Free Press.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee, readers of The Bee, will be published in this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Let Farmer Speak for Farmers.

Herman, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Why will Mr. Roy M. Harrop, president of the American Economic League, pick such men as Henry Ford, Thomas A. Edison and Harvey S. Firestone to speak at the Economic League and figure out a plan to save the farmers, when I don't suppose any of them ever lived on a farm in their lives and therefore know so little about what a farmer needs.

When we consider that the entire farming area of the United States, valued at \$77,000,000,000, is mortgaged to the amount of about \$55,000,000,000, and that the United States is bonded for \$27,000,000,000 and is paid by the farmers, directly and indirectly, when added to the \$55,000,000,000 mortgage makes a grand total of \$82,000,000,000 indebtedness, which is more than we are worth.

Your paper of March 7 states that the American Federation of Labor and the Big Four brotherhoods have been invited to speak at this Economic League, all labor organizations. Now, why not invite the president of the farmers union, Mr. Osborn, or some of the farmers from the rural districts to speak and at least tell his experience as a farmer and some of the things he has been up against. Even though his grammar might be as good as it might be, he might let his wants be known, and then Mr. Ford, Edison and Firestone might be able to figure out some way to satisfy the farmers' wants and needs. JOHN OBERST, JR.

Citizen Makes Protest.

Council Bluffs—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Sunday afternoon I had occasion to be in Omaha as I have at numerous times previous in the last 15 years, and as I have always done, I stopped at the street corner where the street cars receive and discharge passengers, and proceeded to wait for the proper car to take me where I was going—it happened I went to take a car to Council Bluffs—so I stopped on Douglas street at Fourteenth and waited, as I have times too numerous to mention, and I didn't take it as it went the wrong direction. But before it got under way, after loading, one of the Omaha policemen who patrols that beat came over and I heard him order some one or a bunch of people to keep moving, and as I was watching east for the Main street car, I didn't pay attention to him until he came up and looked at him and smiled for some other man had gone on as he told them, but he got real hard and asked me if I could understand English, and I told him I might be some murderer or other, so I told him what my business was there and I insulted his intelligence (I was saying I was waiting for a Council Bluffs street car, but he ordered me to walk around without telling me where I might walk with his consent; so I started and put in the time till the car came moving along, as per command. If the new police administration has issued orders for no one to stop on the corners where street cars stop, I would like to know where I could take one at, as I ride in them considerably, as do my relatives and friends, and I am sure the street cars can't leave their routes to let the car come moving along, as per command. If the new police administration has issued orders for no one to stop on the corners where street cars stop, I would like to know where I could take one at, as I ride in them considerably, as do my relatives and friends, and I am sure the street cars can't leave their routes to let the car come moving along, as per command. If the new police administration has issued orders for no one to stop on the corners where street cars stop, I would like to know where I could take one at, as I ride in them considerably, as do my relatives and friends, and I am sure the street cars can't leave their routes to let the car come moving along, as per command. JOHN TONGUE.

In Whose Eye Is the Beam?

Governor Pinchot wants New York and Pennsylvania to get together on water power. As evidence of his good faith will Governor Pinchot repeal that tax on the coal Pennsylvania sells to New York?—Syracuse Post-Standard.

No Closed Season.

The trouble hunter seldom goes home with an empty bag.—New Haven Register.

A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Railroad Rates.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: When this fellow McAdoo raised freight and passenger rates about 50 to 75 per cent over and above previous rates, he fixed the farmers good and plenty because the railroads sometimes get more than half of the farmer's crop for hauling it to market.

There seem to be quite a number of McAdoos in our legislature. The other day, when a bill came up for passage, reducing freight rates about 15 per cent on farmer's products, it was voted down promptly. When the railroads' attorneys got through pleading their case, our farmers' representatives and others naturally came to the rescue of the railroads and killed the bill.

Farmers are entitled to a fair price for their crops and products, and if they don't get it they will stay poor or go broke the same as a half million others have already done during the last two years. FAIR PLAY.

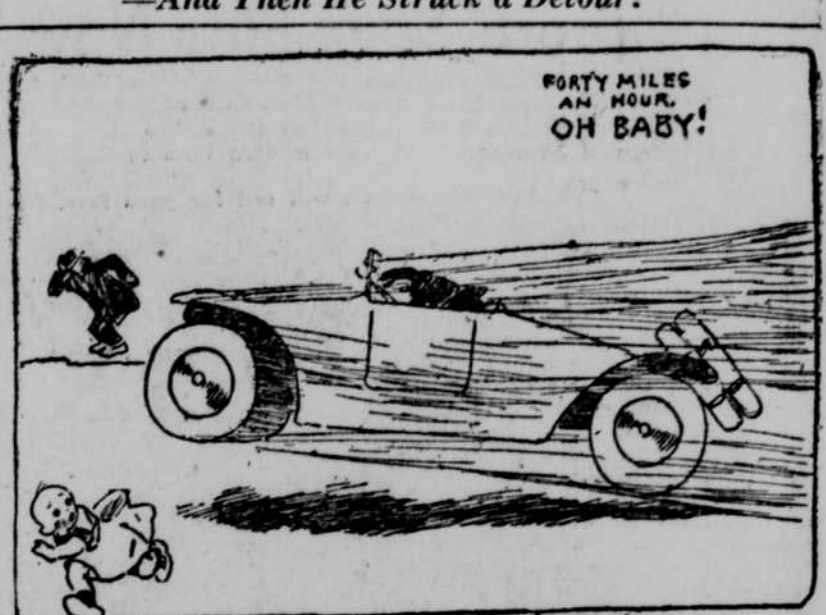
It Happened in Lincoln.

In Central Nebraska—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I have been reliably informed that a bill was introduced in the legislature of Nebraska requiring tall lights to be placed on all vehicles propelled by muscular power.

There was a fight put up against this bill, and Keck of Polk made the principal fight.

And here is the gist of his speech: "Mr. Chairman of the committee: I am a dirt farmer. I am opposed to

—And Then He Struck a Detour!



—From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Prairie Gems

A man at York who ran a tie race with a locomotive for a railroad crossing must pay the road \$1 for damage he caused to the engine. Now, perhaps, he will pay some attention to the safety first warning—Norfolk News.

The report of a man marrying his sister-in-law is repugnant until you learn that he is on his sick bed breathing his last gasp and that he is worth \$100,000. Of course we can stand most anything if there is \$100,000 attached to it.—Nemaha County Republican.

"Plan to plant another tree" is the slogan of the National Tree Planting association. Suppose that every person would provide just one tree each year and see that the trees grow or are replanted. The effect would be marvelous in one generation.—Kearney Hub.

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The Cost of the Storm

Estimates of the damage done to Omaha's pavements alone by the recent snow storm have been placed at \$20,000.00. The taxpayers will have to dig into their pockets and pay this bill along with all of the others they are constantly called upon to meet.

In this case the bill will be paid cheerfully along with the other bills created by the storm. For the snows of March mean a wheat crop for Nebraska farmers and crops for the farmers, with fair prices for them, mean prosperity for all of us. Our interests are mutual.

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We want the loan on your home. Take advantage of our 6% Interest and Easy Terms

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