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OFFICES Main Office—17th and Farnam Co. Bluffs - - 18 Scott St., So. Side, N. W. Cor. 24th and N New York—236 Fifth Avenue Washington - 422 Star Bldg. Chicago - - 1720 Steger Bldg.

JUDGE ALLEN TO SECRETARY HOOVER.

Have all our home problems, political, economic and social, come to such a quiet state that we can abandon them and give our entire attention to the troubles of the world? Are we selfish if we put in most of our time trying to do something to adjust the gears of our own machine, so it will run well, even if by doing so we seem to neglect that of our neighbors?

These questions are being pressed, and the answer is a divided one. For example, Herbert Hoover, cabinet minister, went to Des Moines to talk to the women voters about the international court, and found himself on the program to follow Florence E. Allen, associate justice of the supreme court of Ohio, who wants to abolish all war and to set up the world court afterward. The incident is quite in line with what has been going on for months.

Sympathizing fully with the abstract proposal that it would be a splendid thing to abolish war, one may question whether Judge Allen's plan is workable. She cites the law against murder as a precedent; but the law did not stop murder, merely outlawed it, and even then the law was not enacted until mankind had been educated to a point where such a law was acceptable. Who will pass the law to outlaw war? A group of nations; where will such a group be found?

The United States is ready, England may be ready, but France is not, nor is Germany, Italy, Turkey, Russia, or any of the powers whose consent and co-operation is essential to the success of any such plan. People of the United States have had some not entirely encouraging experience in the matter of changing human nature and controlling human appetites and passions by law. We as a nation abhor war, but some of the other nations do not, and we must have them with us before we can go very far toward outlawing war by international law.

On the other hand, the world court idea, as expounded by Secretary Hoover, contains the germ of what Judge Allen is seeking. It is better to start right than to make a mistake at the beginning and have to return and correct it. Entrance to the world court deprives us of no right that nationally is ours, commits us to nothing we do not already admit, but will show the world that Americans are sincere in their profession.

The world may be ready to outlaw war, but surface indications do not support the belief. President Harding's plan presents a way to lessen the likelihood of war by settling in court differences that might lead to war. Moving along the line suggested, we may yet come to the goal desired by Judge Allen, and for which all yearn, but we will reach that goal by carefully taken steps, and not by a single bound.

ANOTHER TALE FOR THE MOVIES.

One of the survivors of a bygone age is being brought to light in Florida. North Dakota officials are down there investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a young man from that state, who came to his end in a convict lumber camp. The prison gang boss is on trial for murder, it being alleged that he slew the dead man.

So far as developed, the facts are that the young man, who was sojourning in Florida, was tried and found guilty of stealing a ride on a freight train. For this heinous offense he was fined \$25, in default of payment of which sum he was sentenced to three months in jail, and promptly "leased" by the county to the lumber company. While in the service of that concern he was killed.

Human life has always been held too cheaply, and in this case it appears that human labor also was looked upon rather lightly. Three months at hard labor to expiate an offense no greater than stealing a ride on a freight train, and for which even the \$25 fine seems oppressive, might lead to the impression that the court was trying to provide a lumber company with an easy source of good labor at a minimum of cost.

Complaints of this system of enforced labor have come up from the south in other times. Usually it is the negro who suffers, but the courts seldom play favorites in the matter of color. No real complaint will ever be made against the laudable effort of peace officers to maintain order in their communities, but three months on a convict labor gang is rather a stiff dose even for a confirmed hobo.

"AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING."

It is in the blood, the old primeval urge, says a Nevada professor of psychology, speaking of the speeders. The girl loves it, and the man with his foot on the gas is willing she should have all she wants. But even with that established, we are getting nowhere. Concede that the speed mania was born away back in those days, when absence of body meant safety as well, and it frequently was necessary to get from one place to another mightily suddenly, we yet see no reason why streets should be turned into race tracks.

And if the desire to travel fast be an evidence of antique origin, then the average Omaha delivery boy dates away back beyond the time of old King Tut. They may be faster somewhere, but the youthful driver of a light grocery truck can get speed out of it that never was dreamed of, or at least not advertised by its maker.

Perhaps if that Nevada professor were to spend a few days hereabouts, dodging for his life while getting first hand information of how his theory works out, he might change his main thought, that the drivers like to go fast.

Bonar Law has what Grover Cleveland once called a "congress on his hands," only Cleveland's deepest perplexity was simple when compared to the British premier's position.

Each man must have three straw hats this season, decrees fashion. Most will do well to keep one.

Bonar Law believes a cabinet that can bend a little may outlive the blow. It has been done.

The law's delay is nothing to its loopholes.

QUEER WINDINGS OF LAW.

This has nothing to do with the present status of Fred H. Claridge or the defunct Castetter bank, of which he was president. Reference to the incident must be made, however, in order to get the proper perspective on the picture.

Mr. Claridge was at the head of an old established bank, which failed while yet under his management. A considerable loss was entailed to stockholders and to the deposit guaranty fund. Claridge fled from the state, but later returned. Investigation of the affairs of the bank developed a situation that appeared to warrant the prosecution of Claridge on a charge of fraudulent banking. The trial has just collapsed at Blair, and the accused is free.

The state presented evidence in support of the charge made, and rested its case. Then the attorney for the defense asked for dismissal because of a defect in the information. Merely a technicality, but one sufficient to open the hole through which the defendant marched to freedom. The complaint was defective, the judge ruled, because

"it did not specify Claridge had sent the reports to Secretary Hart of the state department of trade and commerce and because it specified their publication was in Washington county, whereas the statute specifies it should be in the place where the bank is located, which was at Blair."

On such small things turns the fate of men. No question is raised as to the failure of the bank; as to the correctness of the reports made and published; the state failed to comply with every little point in the game, and the defense found a way out of the dilemma through a hole so small the eye of the layman would never see it, and will have difficulty in understanding it when the same is pointed out.

Law is undoubtedly served, but what justice? When seemingly trivial technicalities are magnified into a barrier large enough to shield one accused of crime, without pressing to the issue of guilt or innocence, is not something omitted that is due to everybody? Fred Claridge is either innocent or guilty, but the fact is not established by the trial. Able lawyers will congratulate his counsel on their adroit defense of their client, but the whole cause of the courts, the law and the people would probably have been better served if the case had turned on a verdict and not on a law point.

MOTHERS MIGHT ANSWER THIS.

Two little 8-year-old Omaha boys went to bed Tuesday night, weary, sad and disillusioned. They had learned one of the saddest lessons of life, that selfish and designing persons will take advantage of the trusting and credulous. Nothing Dickens ever wrote is more poignant in its pathos than that chapter wherein he tells how little Davy was wheeled out of his shoes by the swindler. No tragedy that comes in life falls so heavy as the one that blights the natural confidence of a child.

A woman cajoled two little boys into hauling her heavy suitcase miles across the city. She did not promise to give them anything. Her conscience is clear on that score. But she did ask them to do her a big service, and in doing this they naturally looked for compensation. They did not expect much, and in the long trudge from Thirty-third and Maple to Eighteenth and Harney, forty-five blocks by the shortest route, the woman had ample time to make up her mind how to treat the manly little fellows who were so gallantly serving her.

She decided to give them nothing, except "Thank you!" Little boys and girls are taught to say, "Thank you," when given a gift or favor, but this pair was working, and deserved pay for their work. A cold, hard heart is needed to blight such reasonable expectations of two little boys, whose innocence should have been the best possible guaranty that she would not cheat them. Cheat them she did, and probably excuses her meanness with the thought that she, too, has been cheated by someone she trusted.

What she did was to darken the minds of two little boys, not only disappointing their hopes, but planting a seed of distrust that will grow, and in some way affect them through all their lives. No matter in what way their lines may fall, they will never forget that long, long tramp of more than nine miles, serving a woman who purposely took advantage of them. They may forgive her, but they will never forget her, and they will always be wary. Maybe it is true some time they would have had to learn this worldly lesson, but it might have been postponed a few years with no loss to the lads.

The news story says the mothers were rejoiced to get their boys home again, but were angry when they learned the story. If justice were to be poetic in this case, it would take the form of submitting that selfish, thoughtless woman to the ordeal of hearing what the mothers might have to say to her.

The Douglas county civil docket is reported to be cleared for the first time in three years. Industrious judges are deserving of the long vacation they will take next summer.

No dope is sold to high school students in Omaha, according to federal sleuths. Well, the boys and girls are not missing much.

The 10-year-old girl who declined a judge's invitation to ride may have read "Maud Muller."

Another thing King Tut never did was to boo the umpire.

How did the start suit you?

Homespun Verse By Robert Worthington Davis

I REMEMBER. I remember in the old days when a little tyke was I How I hid my head in Mother's lap and had my evening cry. I remember how she soothed me and caressed me long ago. How her tender words relieved me of imaginary woes; Yet but shallow comprehension of her sentiment had I When I hid my head upon her lap and had my evening cry. Then, when thoughtless youth had vanished and I roamed in realms remote, Love and cheer were ever throbbing through the letters Mother wrote. Night by night I sat reclining with my feet upon my bed, Reading, dreaming—meditating on the things my Mother said: Only then did I awaken to the sweetness gone by When I hid my head upon her lap and had my evening cry. Time, O, precious Time has drifted! And the friend of friends has flown, And I fancy that I view her in the visions of my own, I conceive I hear her speaking and I feel her mellow. There is someone sobbing, crying—Ah, at last I understand! A depressed and weeping cherub stands beside her daddy now, While he whispers words to soothe her and he gently strokes her brow.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee, readers of The Evening Bee are invited to this column for expression on matters of public interest.

"Mistakes of Hoover."

Sutton, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I read some of Herbert Hoover's articles appearing in The Omaha Bee a short time ago. The sum and substance of them is this: Our economic system is perfect. All it needs is a little touch here, a little putty there to fill up the cracks, together with a fresh coat of paint and it is just as good as new. He sneers at socialism as a "breed" and then straightens out the "breed" of his own. The votaries of socialism may be all wrong, but they are at least trying to bring about an equitable (not equal) distribution of the products of labor. They deserve a respectable hearing, and honest criticism and not sneers from one whose only claim to eminence was derived from a successful distribution of alms. In cutting profits in coal and sugar, the eminent secretary's success is less brilliant if not a downright failure.

Hoover speaks of the ghastly failure of bolshevism in Russia, but fails to relate the ghastly failure of czarist autocracy. Out of that nightmare of brutality, ignorance and famine, the bolshevik leaders are honestly trying to bring about a better way for our former slaves. Whether successful or not, is not for Hoover to say. He seizes on a disastrous famine caused by a total failure of crops extending over a century ago, nearly 300,000 square miles, to discredit the soviet regime.

The secretary considers individualism perfect as an economic system. So it is for a few. A century or more ago the world was a reaction against progress since then. In 1800 95 per cent of the population was engaged in agriculture and each family was complete and independent economically. Then came the great revolution in production. Persons became dependent on one another. From owning their own jobs more and more they turned to salaried employment. Industry concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. Trusts were formed to stifle or to destroy competition. Then federal, state and municipal governments began to assume production. The United States began to monopolize the carrying and distribution of mail. The construction of the Erie canal by New York state was the first of the great state enterprise and a complete success. Since then government ownership and operation has gone on apace in line with progress and reaction. It will fall to us to keep the slowly rising tide. Let us pause to define individualism as found on page 131, volume 12, of the new International Encyclopedia. "In economics individualism has generally advocated the practice which is formulated in the well known precept, Laissez faire, laissez passer, let things take their own course, free competition, resulting in the survival of the fittest, is the individualistic ideal. . . . No government ownership or operation of any plant or industry, no state interference in production, distribution or consumption."

Successful operation of public utilities by government is too numerous and too well known to need special mention. The Panama canal, the irrigation projects, federal control of railroads during the war and building 140 miles of railroads in Alaska by the United States might head the list. Hoover speaks of cabinet members having risen from the ranks. The fact is that few cabinet members were not in the ranks to begin with. The fact is that few of them were not in the ranks to begin with. The fact is that few of them were not in the ranks to begin with.

But there is another side to this rosy picture. Out of 100 healthy lives at 25 years of age, 64 will reach the age of 65. Of these 64, one will be rich, four well-to-do, seven poor, and the rest will be dependent. That is the statement of Forrest F. Dryden, president of the Prudential Insurance company. As to wealth, 2 per cent own 40 per cent of the total wealth, 33 per cent own 35 per cent of the wealth, while 65 per cent own the remaining 5 per cent of the total wealth in the United States. This means that most of the people are either incompetent or else the economic system so carefully venerated by our secretary is not quite perfect.

Why We Keep Out.

Hoagland, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: What a pity it is that more of our people cannot see the matter of our entrance into the League of Nations in the same way as that peerless leader of men, Theodore Roosevelt, and as Arthur Brisbane.

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Daily Prayer

Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land.—Ps. 121:4.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in Whom we live and move and have our being, we Thine unworthy children, come to Thee with humble minds and hearts to offer our prayer and thanksgiving. Pardon, we beseech Thee, the sins we have committed against Thee in thought, word and deed, and make us truly sorry for them with the godly sorrow that worketh repentance unto salvation.

Bless us and our relations, friends and neighbors, and give us all things necessary both for soul and body. May Thy Holy Spirit guide Thy church, and all who minister therein, that Thy Kingdom may come, and all may do their duty in their vocation and ministry.

Have pity on the sick and dying, and on all sinners. May Thy Holy Angela dwell within the places reserved us in peace. Into Thy hands, O God, we commend our bodies, souls and spirits. May we enjoy such refreshing sleep as will fit us on the morrow to go forth to our duties and responsibilities with vigor of mind and body. Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for all Thy many and great blessings and mercies to us and to all mankind.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, ever one God, with us in peace. INTO THY HANDS, O God, we commend our bodies, souls and spirits. May we enjoy such refreshing sleep as will fit us on the morrow to go forth to our duties and responsibilities with vigor of mind and body. Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for all Thy many and great blessings and mercies to us and to all mankind.

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"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

Retirement Might Help.

From the Grand Island Independent. It's great—this political maneuvering for position!

About in February, 1916, the democratic dope mixers at Washington were declaring that they would win with Wilson on the slogan "He kept us out of the war." Independent and republican reporters of decades of experience said the democrats wouldn't dare! All of Washington knew that it alone had kept the great "voices-in-the-air" Wilson out of it. But the demo promoters not only employed the bunk referred to but made it win.

In particular putting it over with the woman vote of the pivotal state since then become known all over the world as Hollywood.

And today? The same alchemists of partisan fog and vapor are at it in the national capital. Sometimes there are slight indications that they even have Warren Gamelle going woozy on international courting and soul finding.

The medicine mixers of the party of Prexy Wilson, Volstead, W. J. B., and McAdiddle, not to mention One-Round Jimmy Cox, the Dayton womanizer, have now, through Senator Walsh, given the G. O. P. elephant to understand that he must not snort out normally talk in the next campaign because

(1) Business is groaning under war taxes. (2) Huge tariffs favor profiteers. (3) Country is suffering the loss of European trade.

(4) Cost of building, clothing, living, etc., is rising. (5) People are gouged by sugar profiteers which the administration does nothing to prevent in the public mind. No state of normalcy in the public mind.

Wartaxes? Certainly not traceable to the republican party which was not in power when the decision was made to create the war costs in order to make the world safe for democracy!

Tariffs and profiteers? The annals of the world show no such flagrant boldness to accomplish the end sought by the present administration with the latter's silent assistance!

Loss of European trade? Exports greater by nearly 50 per cent than in the year before the war broke out!

Cost of building, clothing, etc., up? No doubt about that, but only owing to enormous demand.

People gouged by sugar profiteers? True enough. But when was the gouging of the consumer by the captain of industry ever stopped under a democratic administration?

No state of normalcy in the public mind? Denial impossible! Look at the Kiwanis! Or from the Kiwanis point of view, mayhap, the city's newspapers!

Unfortunately the big politicians couldn't remedy matters much two years in advance if they would, and wouldn't if they could. The greatest aid they can render the country just at present would be to retire, with congress, for a few months!

Give us a rest!

Making Your Opinion Tell.

From the York Republican. The writer of fiction makes it a practice when an animal act is shown upon the stage to rise in his seat and walk out of the theater. It is his protest of the cruelty that he knows precedes the training of animals for the stage. People who appreciate the benefits of prohibition ought to do as much when jokes are sprung which belittle the efforts of authorities to stamp out the unlawful making and selling of booze. Ridicule of the law and winking at its enforcement are doing immense harm and holding back the realization of the time when prohibition shall be an accomplished thing. And if the same treatment were given the coarse and vulgar jokes on the stage, they would soon be a thing of the past, emanating from the box office, that would cure another pernicious evil.

Never in our 64 years of Piano business have we been able to offer such fine, high-grade instruments at such attractive prices. They have been thoroughly overhauled by our factory experts and made just like new. Prices and terms have been cut to the quick in order to move this tremendous stock. We must have room.

NO MONEY DOWN

Trade in your old Piano as a first payment on any new Upright, Grand or Player Piano in our stock, and start your payments in 30 days. REMEMBER, WE HAVE MORE THAN 20 WORLD-RENOWNED MAKES FOR YOUR SELECTION.

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with any NEW PLAYER PIANO to the first 10 buyers this week, Roll Cabinet or Floor Lamp and \$10.00 worth of Player Rolls of their own selection.

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note the extremely low prices

Stelaway Square Grand \$ 50 Mansfield Player \$158 Hallett & Davis Upright \$100 Hartford Player \$275 Chickering Upright ... \$110 Schmoller & Mueller Pl. \$298 Vose & Son Upright ... \$140 Artemis Player \$310 Kimball Upright \$155 \$2,125 Steinway Grand, mahogany case, new \$1,000 Schaeffer Upright \$175 Steger & Son Upright. \$225

Whatever your needs are in musical instruments we have what you want at the price you want to pay. In our immense store, the largest and oldest in the middle west, we have everything from 25c mouth harps to golden stringed Baby Grands.

Gentlemen—Please send me full detailed description of the bargain I have marked "X." I am interested in the purchase of a (Grand, Upright, (Player Piano) to cost \$..... What have you and at what terms? Name Address Town State

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Walking the Plank.



Mars does not desert from slaughter when statesmen sign treaties. Surely there is something fundamentally wrong with a social order that sees 50 college professors, 52 judges and 82 physicians die by their own hands in a twelvemonth. Aside from the question of ill-health—to which there seems to be no immediate answer—it is apparent that the inducements which society offers to life are neither as great as they should be, nor as they might well be. It is too true that money-making in America may become the prime object of a majority of men, and the present society offers its choicest prizes for the king's chariot in its running order still—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

President Harding says he thinks it will take 20 years to get the country used to prohibition. And first, prohibition will have to be tried.—Concord Monitor.

The Denver seer's discovery that Henry Ford is the reincarnation of Tut-Ankh-Amen explains why the old king's chariot is in running order still.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Two prisoners escaped from an Atlanta jail and got away on a street car. Does anyone know of another instance when a street car came along at just the right moment?—Kansas City Star.

The way for Europe to make headway is not the red way.—Washington Post.

The present generation does not know how to play, and apparently does not understand the psychology of play.—Miami Herald.

Center Shots

We imagine that there would be a good many more Christians if it weren't for the telephone.—Columbus Dispatch.

Arthur Brisbane says the world is upside down. Maybe that's what is keeping our pockets empty.—Little Rock Democrat.

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Uprights—Players

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We Nominate-- For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



HOWARD KIRKPATRICK of the University School of Music, Lincoln, is one of the best known composers of the state. His opera, "Ola," was presented a number of years ago, and he is also author of a dramatic song-cycle, "The Fire Worshipers." He composed the music for the Nebraska State Semi-Centennial pageant, "Nebraska," which has been presented several times both in Lincoln and Omaha, and from which the song, "Fair Nebraska," has come into use both as a state and as a school song. Mr. Kirkpatrick has a fine gift for clean melodic continuity, giving his music a splendid choral quality. He has published both popular and serious music, his latest being "Along the Garden Way," just issued by Thompson & Co. of Boston. His compositions have often been featured in concert.

He has seen it. But it seems they can't. And they keep on howling and cajoling us to enter, not only the League of Nations, but to go into another world court whose only potency is that of moral suasion. A league with no power to enforce its demands, and a court as powerless.

When, during the administration of Russia, the czar of Russia invited the world to join him in organizing the Hague court "for the purpose of making war impossible," among all the statesmen of that day Roosevelt stood in opposition to it. He filed pages of the press with descriptions of what the court would do, including the entangling alliances it would lead us into, and graphically depicted its impotence. He is quoted as saying: "I am for the czar's will. Roosevelt was the only man to attempt to warn the world on these points."

The trouble with the Hague court, the greatest aid they can render the country just at present would be to retire, with congress, for a few months!

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