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THE LAWMAKERS FOLD THEIR TENTS.

The legislative session that has just closed at Lincoln was not spectacular in its credit rather than otherwise. It is simply that nothing was done to disturb the stability of conditions in Nebraska.

Popular opinion has taken a turn whereby it questions the need for any great number of new laws. People do not elect their representatives to rewrite the statute book every two years. When more than 1,000 new bills were introduced in the Nebraska legislature, it began to look as if the state were threatened with a deluge of legislation, much of it ill-considered. However, in the sifting process only 200 bills got through. A great many of these are measures affecting only particular localities, necessary perhaps, but not of state-wide importance. There are always too many of these efforts to shoot a local gnat with a big state cannon.

This session lasted too long. Four months should not have been required to complete the legislative program. For all that, the legislators are deserving of credit for the way in which they stuck on the job until it was finished. The constitutional award of \$800 per session would hardly suffice to support a legislator who absents himself from his business for 120 days. Certainly if they considered their personal welfare they would have departed for their homes a month ago.

The thing that held them in Lincoln was lack of co-operation from the governor. If there is any lesson in this for the people it is the unwisdom of giving control of co-ordinate branches of the government to men of different parties. Governor Bryan is a democrat, and the majority of both houses is republican. With no intention of urging the invariable voting of straight party tickets, it may be said that many citizens in the last election voted in such a way that they killed the effect of one of their votes by the other. Here was Bryan, pledged to the repeal of the code, and here also were the republican legislators pledged by their party platform to do nothing further than to revise the code in accordance with the experience of four years' operation. That this divided mandate from the people should lead to a deadlock was inevitable in view of the uncompromising attitude of the governor. He is wedded to his own views, and will not even flirt with the ideas of others.

Political parties still live in Nebraska, and party lines were strictly drawn in the legislature. From the outset Governor Bryan adopted a belligerent position. Time after time he snapped the party whip to hold the democratic legislators in line. The fact that very few appointments have been made as yet indicates one of his methods of compelling fealty to him—letting it be known that only good boys would share the political pie.

The legislature got through as well as could be expected in a house divided against itself. By strict economy in which plans for the expansion of educational and other state institutions were abandoned and a general cut made in appropriations for all purposes, the state tax bill will be reduced about \$3,000,000 below that of the preceding two-year period. Important also is the new banking law, designed to safeguard the state guarantee of bank deposits. In passing the Mathers-Dysart bill for the reorganization of the administration under the constitutional officers the legislature has done all it could to meet the demands of the people.

Two new laws were adopted on the insistence of the women's clubs of Nebraska. One of these is a marriage law designed to prevent the union of defectives and which requires ten days' posting of all applications for a license. The other accepts the provisions of the federal maternity law. Another welfare measure permits counties or communities to establish philanthropic foundations to handle donations for charitable purposes.

Two new bills give backing to prohibition enforcement. One gives the governor power to suspend delinquent county enforcement officers and fill their places by appointment until a trial shows the innocence of the accused officers. The other makes it prima facie evidence that the jug or bottle broken during a dry raid contains unlawful beverages.

The minimum punishment for automobile theft is made three years, and possession of an engine with a defaced number puts the burden of proof on the possessor. Branding another man's cattle is made a felony. An appropriation of \$285,000 is made for the eradication of animal tuberculosis.

Not much public utility legislation was put through. Telephone companies cannot abandon exchanges in towns where 60 per cent of the patrons object. The state railway commission can set only maximum, not minimum, rates hereafter. Railways are authorized to give passes to ministers and charity workers. Districts that wish to bond themselves to build a publicly owned sugar mill may do so. Of great interest also to the western part of the state is the irrigation treaty made with the state of Colorado, assuring more water for Nebraska fields.

Otherwise, as Speaker Mathers has observed, this session is more to be praised for what it has refrained from doing than for what it has done. The capacity of government for harm is fully as large as its capacity for good. The departing legislature, made up of men of all classes and political theories, has represented well the diverse opinions of its constituents. Many of them are of outstanding ability, and some without doubt will become important figures in our political life.

Flyers are giving Old Sol something to think about these days, and sometime one of them will follow the sunrise right around the world.

Michigan has secured one conviction out of two attempts for its law against syndicalism. That is a fairly good record.

No, dear reader, the backward spring was not to blame for the long session of the legislature.

April's building record for Omaha totals \$1,300,000, enough to be noticed anywhere.

NEW RECORDS ON THE DIAMOND.

One thousand consecutive times has the name of Everett Scott been printed in the box score of the New York American league baseball team. There is a record that any one might be proud of, but when it is made by a player who fills one of the most difficult positions on the diamond, it takes on a significance that is impressive.

The shortstop's job is a peculiar one, for he not only is required to look after the things that fall to the shortstop in the natural course of events, but he must also be a center fielder and a left fielder, look after the business of the third baseman and the second baseman, retrieving their blunders as far as possible; and generally he "takes the throw" when an ambitious base runner tries to steal second, and picks up the ball when the temperamental pitcher lets it roll idly away from him.

Ordinarily, the shortstop is the busiest of the infielders, having to handle more chances than all the others, save the first baseman, who gets most of his on perfect throws. Any way you look at it, the job is a real one, and on a team like the Yankees it is of magnified importance, because the man who can hold the place year after year with a bunch of high-geared champions, going at top speed all the time, needs to be a champion himself. Therefore, Scott's achievement is noteworthy.

On the same day and in the same game, Walter Johnson, the veteran Washington pitcher, scored his century of shut-outs. One hundred times in his career has he sent the other team home without a run to its credit. This is a record no other pitcher has achieved. Johnson may be slipping, as some of the writers insist, but you could not make Miller Huggins and his boys believe it on Wednesday. He slipped them a complete whitewash.

Wednesday at Washington was a red letter day in baseball annals, one the devotees will certainly mark for future reference.

TOO MANY TIN BRIDGES.

An old ditty, couched in Cockney idiom, tells of how a sparrow had builded its nest in a drain spout; the rain came on and washed the sparrow out; of course, but, as soon as the rain ceased and sun had dried his feathers, the courageous little bird rebuilt his nest in the spout.

The sparrow has his imitators, and some of them are found in the good old state of Nebraska. When the movement for good roads was taking form a survey developed the fact that several millions of dollars were expended each year in the state for temporary construction. Roads were "worked," bridges built, and everything was lovely until the spring freshets came on, and then the work all had to be done over.

In one respect the sparrow was outdone. All his nest was wiped out by the rush of water through the downspout, but along the winding shores of many a Nebraska creek stand staunch and sturdy abutments, on which more or less flimsy superstructures are erected. A spring rain is followed by a sudden rise in the water, and away goes the bridge, but the abutments stand, ready to receive a new bridge when the creek falls to its normal trickle. A dispatch published Friday morning tells of twenty bridges being washed away in two townships in Pawnee county.

Some day the people will discover that a permanent bridge is the cheapest thing they can invest in. First cost is greater, but the satisfaction of driving up and finding the bridge there, in good shape to carry one over the flood will counteract a lot of the pain of paying the extra cost for a structure that will stand a freshet. Economy in the long run does not always consist in saving at the start.

LOWER FREIGHT BY WATER.

One thing American grain growers must have, if they are to compete in the world market is lower freight bills. And Senator Irving L. Lenroot is correct in pointing out that the largest reduction is possible through opening up the waterways. No other great wheat raising area in the world is as far from ocean ports as is the middle west. The opening of the Great Lakes to trans-Atlantic vessels would eliminate this disadvantage.

On his visit to Omaha Senator Lenroot quoted Julius Barnes president of the United States Chamber of Commerce as saying that if the Great Lakes waterways had been in operation last fall farmers would have received 10 cents a bushel more for their wheat. This amount represents the lowered cost of shipment to the European market.

The world price of wheat is based on what grain is worth delivered at the great British port and market at Liverpool. This means that wheat for export sells at approximately the Liverpool price minus the cost of shipping it there. If the cost of transportation is decreased, so much will be saved to American shippers.

The St. Lawrence route would bring Nebraska's grain fields within 500 miles of ocean carriers and turn Chicago, Milwaukee and Duluth into seaports. It is more than a possibility, it is a necessity and inevitably will be put through. The support of influential men in congress such as the senator from Wisconsin promises that realization of this great project is not far off.

However, it is well to keep in mind that the legislators were chosen by the voters of Nebraska, and were not hand-picked by anybody.

The Lincoln county courthouse may make some history yet.

Terminal for speeders—The city jail.

Homespun Verse

By Robert Worthington Davie

THE FACTORIES.

"The factories are requisite," 'tis often said, and so we sometimes get to thinking that the other things are small; But listen while I tell you that a long, long time ago There weren't any factories upon the earth at all. But pioneers were plodding in the crude, old-fashioned way To utilize the regions for what purposes they could. They planted wheat and barley where the factories are today. They cleared the stately forests and made lumber of the wood. The pioneers were prophets of the unrelenting kind, Who braved the solemn struggles fearlessly, without alarm. Today their children's children fighting valiantly we find Upon the broad and verdant fields and pastures of the farm. To them and those before them for achievements of today We can thank and link our plaudits with the heavens deep and far. Every stalk of grain that's growing, every stalk that's turned to clay, Gave to us the things we treasure, made us what we really are.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from other newspapers.

Universities Reaching the People.

From the Wyoming State Tribune.

Tests made for several years by the University of Wisconsin conclusively show that the radio is a most valuable factor in spreading knowledge. This is the opinion of Prof. W. H. Lighty, head of the extension division, as stated by him in an address at the convention of the National University Extension association.

The University of Wisconsin has broadcasted successfully a few series of educational lectures, and has been listening thousands short talks on subjects of special human interest.

Every convenience of communication or would be a means for the dissemination of useful and instructive information by the university. The press is always at the service of reliable institutions for transmitting knowledge.

People will not read text books for information that they should acquire, or which would benefit them. Delving into such publications is too much like work. But they will listen to an instructive talk, or read a brief, interesting article.

Heating and reading short teachings are diverting. People listen or study as recreation, and they then think leisurely and automatically. There is no effort to such study. What the masses need is reliable information and good advice on basic subjects. Universities can serve them exceptionally well with short talks and articles.

A Disappointment.

From the Washington Post.

President Harding is a great disappointment to many Americans. There is no violation of confidence in saying that he has grossly disappointed many of those Americans who voted against him. It may be that he has also proved to be a disappointment to some of those politicians who thought they knew how to bring about his election when nearly all the voters were for him, but there is nothing noteworthy and important in that. Politicians are disappointed in being disappointed in the candidate whom they helped to elect.

But in more ways than one President Harding is a disappointment. He is the weakest candidate the republican party could put up, and that he was nominated because of his weakness, and that if elected, he would be a rubber-stamp president for a "coterie" or bunch of senators whose patriotic impulses went no further than holding down the president.

The president is a disappointment. He has simply dismayed those who knew he had a rubber-stamp temperament, and that he would follow the easiest way in all things. He seems to have shocked a number of gentlemen who wear republican sashes, and who believed that "Candide" Harding made promises from the front porch at Marion just because they had a pleasing sound and tickled the ears of those foolish persons who believed them. In vetting certain bills, in advocating others and in instructing certain republicans as to what the party under his leadership stands for, the president has acted more after the fashion of a battering ram than a rubber stamp.

To all those who said they believed the president would be a fourth-rater and would eat out of the hand of a "coterie" he has proved a tremendous disappointment.

A Mess of Greens.

From the Kansas City Times.

This is the season of the year when the old-fashioned housewife, after the breakfast dishes are done and the room swept and straightened up, puts a bonnet on her head, a basket on her arm, takes a paring knife in her hand and seeks the open spaces.

The telephone may ring and the door bell jingle without either bringing a response. The friend who wants to gossip a bit over the wire and the tradesman who wants to sell his oranges, potatoes or apples gets no answer at the phone or at the door between the hours of 10 and 11 a. m., because the housewife is busy in taking the air of a balmy spring morning while she scientifically makes botanical research for a mess of greens.

The manufacturers of that brand of criminal industry called canned spinach have sought to destroy one of the finest of our outdoor domestic sports with their ready-made products, but there still remains, thank heaven, a remnant of the burned-in-the-bottle, 100 per cent American homekeepers who refuse to allow the good old game of our constitutional mothers to become a mere tradition. They still make annual pilgrimages to the back yard and the vacant lots in the cities and into the pasture out in the country in their quest for a mess of greens.

It was this class of old-fashioned American mothers that conquered the ancient enemy of landscape gardeners and converted the pestiferous dandelion into a springtime dish that brings father home from the office earlier than his usual tardy hour and calls the children from the nap before the dinner bell strikes the alarm for bedtime.

Take a basket of dandelions. Add the fresh, young leaf of the pie plant a dash of tender beet tops (it is rather early yet for the full development of all the choice ingredients), and such other plants, weeds, flowers, ferns, and what next as the expert scientist of the old-fashioned American kitchen knows. There you have a dish that, when properly balanced, boiled with a hunk of ham hock or sliced bacon, answers the call of the wild which every red-blooded citizen feels in the first days of springtime.

It is in the time of the year when the grocery store housekeeper feels herself hard pressed for meeting the

Daily Prayer

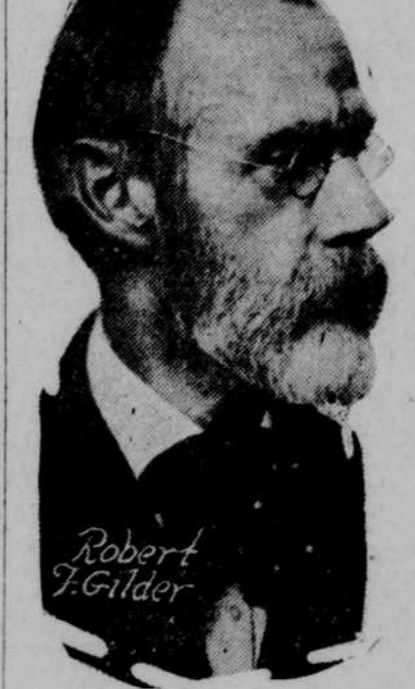
Therefore we ought to give the most earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the way of life is so near, and yet we do not see it, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first was offered to us by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him.—Hebrews 4:14.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for all the gifts that come from Thy liberal hand; for life, and health, and friends, at home, we thank Thee for Thy protection and care while we sleep; and for the new morning with its call to work; for the food and raiment so freely provided, and for the shelter and peace of this house. Guide and direct us this day in all we do, that we may do Thy will in all our relationships with other people. Help us to be patient, faithful, considerate and kind, and may we not be drawn into temptation and sin. Be with all our absent dear ones, and may their lives and health be precious in Thy sight. May Thy Kingdom come in all the earth, so that all men may be brothers. We ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAN BREMER BRADLEY, A. B., D. D., Cleveland, O.

We Nominate

For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



Robert F. Gilder

ROBERT F. GILDER of Omaha, who first of all is a landscape painter, is able to transfer nature in any mood to the canvas in such a manner that it gains nationwide recognition. His paintings have gained extremely favorable notice when exhibited in the east, and his pictures of Nebraska landscapes, done principally in the vicinity of his lodge, "Wake Robin," are highly valued. Dr. Gilder has dared to do the vivid landscapes of Arizona and New Mexico as they really appear, and by so doing has gained the reputation of being a master of color. He began his career as a printer and still is on the honorary list of Omaha Typographical union. He also is an authority in American archeology and the history of ancient history. It is the honor of science was added to his name by the University of Nebraska for "contributions to human knowledge."

It is the time of the year when last year's products begin to assume the flavor of ancient history. It is the season when father and the children cannot eat beef and potatoes, as they sit at the table and look out at the green lawns and budding trees, with their eyes fixed on a vanishing spot that has been caged, and are being fed in captivity. Every housewife understands that it's a difficult task to feed the family through the open season when the old-fashioned way of life and this year's promise of production.

It was the call to nature, the yearning to get back to the soil, perhaps, that prompted the pilgrim mothers to go on the first errand to the open spaces with sunbonnet on head, basket on arm and paring knife in hand to bring in the old-fashioned way of life. Anyway, it's a good old custom—better as a custom, as some cynical critics have said, than as a means of supplying a dish for the family dinner. For there are those among us, in these days of decay in the national spirit, who sniff their noses at the very mention of a mess of greens. They are the old-fashioned American housewives who go out in the springtime to gather greens.

Aliens Bearing Gifts.

From the Atlantic City Journal.

"Do we ever get outside of ourselves and look at ourselves?" asks Margaret Sperry in a letter to a New York paper, "and wonder why in the name of reason we as a nation are so soggyly intent on Americanizing every man, woman and child that comes here? Who are we, anyway, that we want to whittle down every man till he looks like the automaton, the fake 'American,' the stomach-sickening pink and white boy in the subway ads? And we want to do it to their souls and hearts and passions, too."

"There's something the European, the Asiatic, can bring us, does bring us," she urges. "But for the most part we shove it aside or, what is worse, go and peer at it and poke shy, snobbish forefingers into it and label it 'queer and interesting.'" She finds many things in the foreign-born population to admire and wonder at. This point of view, extreme as it is, represents a wholesome reaction from the impossible ideal of turning every immigrant into a "100 per cent American." Even if that could be done, would it be altogether desirable?

Suppose the percentage were made a little more modest, and the immigrant were given credit for, say, 10 or 20 per cent of qualities admirable in themselves and tending, just because they were different, to add richness and variety to American life?

Surely one of the last things a genuinely free and democratic country would do would be to cast everybody, native or foreign-born, into exactly the same mold. As a matter of fact, there is no definitely recognizable American type. And if Americans became all exactly alike, thinking, speaking and acting alike, they would cease to be Americans.

There should be unity in essentials—that is what Americanism means. But real Americanism takes for granted differences in nonessentials. It might even be said that those "non-essentials" are necessary to make life worth living.

The Spice of Life

"Can you remember," asks an exchange, "how you looked forward to your future 20 years ago? Well, that is your future. What are you doing in it?" Oh—er—still looking forward.—Boston Transcript.

Dentist (applying a tool to his car) "Now this is going to hurt just a little."—The Hardware Man's Idea Book.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for APRIL, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 75,320 Sunday 82,588 Does not include readers, 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 2d day of May, 1923. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

"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.

Peril of the Law's Delay.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your editorial in yesterday's Bee on "Higher Education and Lynching" seems to me very unfair to the University of Missouri. The lynching at Columbia is only a symptom, perhaps I might say a protest, against something that should set everybody in this country to thinking.

You end your editorials with the words: "The law can punish, and should be permitted to have its way at all times." The law can punish, but it does not do so. The administration of justice in this country is the greatest force in history, and I understand that more felonious crimes per capita are perpetrated in the United States than any other nation on earth. Our administration of justice is a mockery. Our courts have failed to function.

Starting with certain rights and privileges granted by the common law of England to the accused, when he must stand mute and could not have an attorney, our courts have extended and magnified these privileges until today the trial of a criminal is not an effort to determine the guilt or the innocence of the accused, but simply a contest of wits between opposing counsel. The flimsiest technicality, the failure to dot an i, the use of "instead of" or "this," in the complaint or information, are held by some of our judges sufficient to turn the vilest criminals loose upon the community.

Our court practice is supposed to be in accordance with the common law, but it takes more days to try a criminal case here than it does hours in England.

So long as this continues we may expect outbursts of popular fury. The thing to criticize is the underlying cause of it all.

JOHN R. WEBSTER.

"My Neighbor's Keeper."

Falls City, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: One time, not so many years ago, I was spending some time in Long Beach, Cal. There a woman, a lonely German woman, far away from her mother and friends, killed herself, her unborn babe and two little daughters in a most brutal manner. She left a pitiful letter, telling the story of her loneliness in the cold, selfish world.

She stated she had decided to take her daughters with her so they would not go as she had done. The burden of this poor crazed creature's cry was: "If I had my mother or some one who cared to talk to me."

She had no sympathetic neighbor to go to or that she felt was interested enough in her to listen if she had tried to confide in them. The neighbor had given her the "once over" and passed on. I could not help thinking if only some woman with a mother's heart had taken a little interest in this lonely, little foreigner, took her in her arms and let her confide and sob out her troubles, even if she could not give

We've All Noticed It



—From the Detroit News.

any advice that awful tragedy might never have happened. If we could take a humane interest in our neighbor, be ready to listen and sympathize, not "butt in," but just take a heartfelt interest in our neighbors, the world would be a better place. The old, the young and those in every walk of life—"if they only had some one to talk to."

The people of today are indifferent and getting more so. As the old story goes—"God bless me and my wife, my son John and his wife—us four and no more." We all take this attitude. Then ask ourselves "Am I my neighbor's keeper?" I believe we are "our brother's keeper."

M. M.

"Omaha in 1924."

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It is most gratifying to note Omaha's progress and ambitions of the last few years in the advancement of music and art, as well as finance and industry.

In line with the past season's most educational entertainment program of music ever enjoyed by Omahans, and the pronounced activities of civic organizations in the advancement of music and musical talent, Omaha is now a candidate for the national convention of the American Federation of Musicians in 1924.

It is with much pride that the writer and Mr. H. K. Mansfield accept the appointment by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce to represent that body at the 1923 convention in St. Louis on the 14th to 15th of the present month, and to present the appeal for "Omaha in 1924."

The musicians' convention brings to

a city hundreds of the best in the profession. No other organization nor people have the means to react the masses, as "music is the universal language."

"The man that hath no music in himself, Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treason, stratagems and spoils: The motions of his spirit are dull as night, And his affections dark as Erebus. Let no such man be trusted." The people of Omaha should respond 1,000 per cent to secure this convention in 1924, and then when the convention is secured, respond 1,001 per cent to make the meeting the most successful ever held by the organization, and still more firmly establish Omaha's reputation for hospitality.

Owing to world's expositions in Portland, Ore., and Philadelphia in 1925 and 1926, respectively, those cities are applicants for the convention for those years, and "we're for them." But in 1924, the real center of the American continent, Omaha, is the logical location.

Every citizen of the city is urged to do his bit for the 1924 convention. Communicate with your friends throughout the nation, requesting them to address their local musical friends and others, who will in turn carry the message to their delegates who will attend the St. Louis convention next month, and instruct them for Omaha in 1924. There is only one way to perform any service, and that is the Omaha way.

MARSHALL B. CRAIG.

Sinclair Refining Co. Announces the Opening of Another New Omaha Service Station

—AT—

25th and O Streets Saturday, May 5th

To each customer purchasing five or more gallons of gasoline at this station on the opening day we will give a souvenir

KEWPIE DOLL Free of Charge

Toy Balloons for the Children

For Convenience Use Sinclair Coupon Books

Sinclair Coupons are redeemable for gasoline and oils at Sinclair Service Stations, or the stations of dealers handling Sinclair products in Omaha or elsewhere.