

WHY RAILROAD MEN HESITATE.

One note rings clear through the answers sent by Nebraska editors to our inquiry with regard to plans dealing with the railroads. All unite in the opinion that present conditions are not satisfactory. The people of Nebraska are vitally concerned in transportation, as their prosperity depends upon that service. One of the greatest of the world's food exporting regions, Nebraska imports all that it uses except food. Therefore a very little difference in transportation costs means good times or bad times in Nebraska as the scale may turn.

A preponderance of local opinion appears to be against government ownership. Experience during the war was so unsatisfactory that it has left a very sore spot in the memory of most, and they are not anxious to see any repetition of that experiment. Yet some are outspoken in favor of government ownership, holding that through that method only will relief be brought. Another group is inclined to the thought that consolidation, as suggested under the Esch-Cummins law, will help to solve the problem, while yet a third asserts vehemently that the law must be repealed entirely before any approach to a workable plan can be made.

From this diversity of expression may be gained some notion of the difference of opinion as to what is better for all when it comes to handling the railroads. Nebraskans are not peculiar in this, however, for the same uncertainty prevails everywhere. Even the railroad men themselves are not agreed as to what should be done. Some want one thing and some another, and each supports his views with energetic expenditure of argument, more or less forceful and logical, and not always of the purely selfish sort.

If there is a trend in any particular direction, it is setting toward the re-establishment of conditions under which competition may be restored, actual and not constructive. The Esch-Cummins act practically forbids competition, and to that extent it limits service. Combination between the systems of the country has its advantages, but such combination ought to be on a basis of natural affinity, as were some of the arrangements brought about in the past. Such combinations were made with an idea to service, as witness the Harriman system, destroyed by order of the courts as tending to oppressive monopoly, yet it would be difficult to discover any particular benefit the public has enjoyed because the Harriman eggs were unscrambled.

Unrestricted competition, with the right to handle business on a business basis, will go a long way in the direction of settling some of the transportation troubles of the country, and it will probably be easier because the Esch-Cummins law has shown so many places where it is not safe to apply rigid regulation.

LET CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE.

Glad tidings of great joy are heralded on the wires that lead to Berkeley, Cal. Out there a prophet has arisen who does himself much credit, and who will be received in any land, even his own, with honor and deference. He has stricken the shackles of a race of slaves. Many, many times a day, for years and years, we have been told that we shall not eat of this or that, or that, no matter how much we like it, for it is not good for us. Even in the Garden of Eden such a prohibition was laid down, and considerable trouble followed because the mandate was not obeyed.

Here comes Dr. Lafayette B. Meundel, who knows what he is talking about, and says eat what your fancy dictates. Dr. Meundel, who helped pursue the vitamins to its lair and put enough salt on its tail to hold it while the experts examined and branded it, believes and broadcasts the information that when a man sits down to the table, with a menu card in front of him, he should let his conscience be his guide. If he wants it and can pay for it, he should indulge in it. Whatever you like, that is good for you.

One thing yet remains to be settled, and then we all will be happy. From whence will we look for the wherewithal to pay for the fancy grub so longingly contemplated, but abstained from because of the figures that appear on the right hand side of the menu card? Aye, there's the rub, as Hamlet put it; and thus the native hue of a good appetite is sicklied o'er by the hold-fact fact that dainty grub costs like fun, and we turn with Jiggs to the homelier fare, content that it is yet in reach of ordinary pocketbooks.

JUST A LITTLE HELP ON LUMBER.

One rate adjustment announced from the I. C. C. at Washington will be of service in Nebraska. It has been discovered that the freight on forest products from Pacific northwest points to points this side of the Rockies are too high. Anybody who has bought lumber in Nebraska at any time during the last several years is aware of this. Freight has been more than the cost of the lumber at the mill in many instances, and building has been correspondingly restricted or carried on at a cost beyond reason. Oregon and Washington mills provide a considerable part of the lumber consumed in this region, and would probably furnish more but for the freight rate, which has been almost prohibitive.

This brings to the front one of the most deplorable factors in the industry. Millions of feet of so-called "seconds" are fed to the flames because it will not pay to ship this grade of lumber. These "seconds" would serve splendidly for building corn cribs, fences and many other farm uses, for which the farmer is now compelled to pay top prices for clear lumber. Some day a tremendous and almost criminal waste will be stopped by the making of a freight rate that will permit the shipment of this second grade lumber across the mountains to a region where the people refuse to grow trees for themselves. Not all of Nebraska is to share in the order just put out by the I. C. C., but such points in the state as do benefit by it are correspondingly fortunate. In the meantime, the situation is pressing to the day when Nebraskans will do what they should have set about many years ago, and raise their own pine trees out in the sand hills.

MYSTERY OF THE MEDICINE-MEN.

Bonar Law is a sick man, so sick that he has resigned as premier of England, feeling that he will not again be permitted to appear as head of the government in the House of Commons. Just how sick he is, or what ails him is not vouchsafed to the public. His doctors are shrouding his case in that veil of mystery they love to draw around the bedside of a prominent man. What is known is that Bonar Law is troubled with some disease of the throat. Instinctively, the mind leaps to a definite point when this fact is mentioned. It was so with U. S. Grant, with Frederick Wilhelm of Prussia, with Edward VII of England, just to name a few modern instances. In each case the attending surgeons kept the ailment and its progress secret as long as possible. Why this mystery?

King George has on his hands a problem as difficult as that of the doctors, but he will not be permitted to make so much of a mystery of it. A premier must be named to succeed Bonar Law, and gossip has it that either Curzon or Baldwin will be called to the place. It may be doubted if either of these can hold the government in power for any length of time, and thus another election may impend.

Toryism in England is in a corner right now. Politics over there has always been as uncertain as the moods of a democracy can provide, but the tory strength has been unquestioned until late years. Shaken to its foundation stones by the war, the established order has suffered a great many severe shocks, and its most devoted adherents are not sure of its being strong enough to survive another election. It emerged from the latest, on a stimulated wave of reaction, with a meager majority, and the opposition has gained much strength under the Bonar Law cabinet.

Recent announcement of a reduction in taxes and other similar reforms have been popularly received, yet the possibility of a return to power of the liberals, aided by the laborites, is seriously considered by the politicians. Such a course will make little difference in the external policy of England, for Curzon was foreign minister under Lloyd George as well as with Bonar Law. Internal problems will turn the balance, with the outside chance of the labor group securing full control of the government.

The mystery of the medicine men is in many respects the perplexity of the politicians, and England is humming again as a result of the silent throat of Bonar Law.

PUSHING IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA.

Secretary of the Interior Work is rapidly making it plain to all the people that he is taking his work very seriously and is intent upon rendering the best possible service. His immediate predecessor did not show any great inclination to speed up the work in which a large number of western Nebraska people are deeply interested, namely, the Gering and Fort Laramie unit of the North Platte irrigation project. This portion of the vast irrigation project was started in 1915, and for more than seven years was allowed to drag along, with constantly mounting costs to the landowners under it. When Secretary Work took charge of the interior department he issued a letter in which he clearly outlined his intentions, and he proved his sincerity by his deeds.

More progress has been made on this Gering and Fort Laramie unit since Secretary Work took charge of the department than was performed in any similar length of time since the work started. The work is being pushed with almost feverish haste, double shifts being used. The indications now are that the unit will be practically completed in time to furnish water over the entire unit by the spring of 1925, fully three years ahead of the time that seemed likely a year ago.

Omaha is deeply interested in this big project, for it will mean an additional market for her wholesalers and manufacturers. It will add 70,000 acres to Nebraska's irrigated area, which means hundreds of additional families on productive farm units. And not the least of the results of this speeding up of the work is the renewed hope and confidence that has come to the people of that immediate section.

Secretary Work is soon to visit the reclaimed sections of Nebraska, and he has assured himself of a warm welcome at the hands of the people.

Council Bluffs is going to help out in the Ak-Sar-Ben drive. Why not? Council Bluffs furnished the first settlers to Omaha, helped to carry on the first election in the village, gave Nebraska its first delegate in congress, and many times since has provided a majority at some closely contested primary election. All these neighborly attentions have been duly appreciated, and the present proffer of aid will not be ignored.

The collapse of the church floor and the consequent injury of a number of worshippers ought to have some sort of moral, but just now we can't think what it is.

Omaha's well known "rainmakers" are again on the trail, and folks out in Wyoming and western Nebraska will feel their presence this week.

Sparkplug and Barney Google ran away from Louisville, which must have caused great relief out at Churchill Downs.

Mr. Bryan doesn't believe he came from a monkey, and he is not in a mood to allow anyone to make a monkey of him.

Memorial day is rapidly approaching, and all plans to make it a day of merrymaking should be nipped in the bud.

Colorado's lieutenant governor must have heard from Nebraska, for he has declined to sit in while the governor is away.

Homespun Verse
By Robert Worthington Davie

MY LITTLE GIRL.
My little girl stands by the window each morn as I depart.
Each night she watches for me with gladness in her heart.
"By, by," she says, and waves her hand as I start on my way.
"My daddy's come," she says when I return at close of day.
At eventide she leads me to her daddy's rocking chair,
She nestles closely by my side and soon reposes there—
I watch her sleep and rock away the hours of bliss divine,
Content because I'm living for that little girl of mine.
And while the days go fleeting past I hear her sweet adieu,
I see myself go home at last to meet a welcome true.
I always know when skies are dark, as often they must be,
That she awaits to lend a smile and give a kiss to me.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee, Editor of The Evening Telegram, and the Omaha Morning Bee, are published in this column free of charge for expression on matters of public interest.

A Minister's View of Wappich.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The episode between Judge Wappich of the police court and the representatives of the W. C. T. U. is of more than passing importance. It points to two different ideas of the manner in which the court ought to approach the lawbreaker. Both ideas emphasize certain psychological truths.

Judge Wappich stands for the idea that the judge, in order to attain the cooperation of the lawbreaker in the maintenance of law, must try to find a common ground between the judge and the defendant. If he talks to him like a Sunday school superintendent or a Methodist exhorter he talks above the fellow's head; it is like talking to him in a foreign language. Instead of that he puts himself into the other fellow's shoes and tries to show him the foolishness of his bucking against the law from his own point of view. So he talks to him in the language of the tenderloin district.

The representatives of the W. C. T. U. take the standpoint that the judge is to impress the defendant with the solemn fact that the law is the law, as expressed by his laws, are, like the thoughts of God, higher than his thoughts. They say that it is the duty of the judge to represent in his personality and his words the majesty of the law as it is expressed in our laws; that it has a demoralizing effect upon the defendant and upon the citizen in general if the judge gives through his talk the suggestion that he himself regards the ideals which the law symbolizes as impracticable or unattainable.

I can fully appreciate the philosophy and position of Judge Wappich; he is sincere in it; he feels that a host of the so-called best people of Omaha, both in and out of the law, are in the "practical" views, and he is not mistaken in that notion. But I believe he and his friends are morally, psychologically and practically in the wrong, nevertheless.

In the first place, I believe that every man has a conscience, which is stirred at the true and simple presentation of a high ideal of life. Every normal man believes in the desirability of purity in woman, for instance. There is not a "bum" so low in Omaha who would want his little daughter to turn into a prostitute. There is not a father so warped in his judgment that he would want his little boy to become a gunman or bootlegger. And all this, I believe, proves, that the laws prohibiting prostitution and practices leading to habitual intoxication are not expressions of ideals that are too high for the common people.

In the second place, Mr. Wappich or any other citizen has no business to run as a judge to enforce laws in which he believes, but which he does not believe in. The drummer who is hired to seal a firm's goods and goes about knocking them. As an honest man he ought to say to himself that our laws concerning beer and whiskey and gambling and street women are all "bunk"; they prohibit things in which there is no wrong and they cannot be enforced. I will not accept a position in which I am by my oath expected to enforce them.

Mr. Wappich points to the big majority by which he was elected. He received his votes before the frivolity of his manner as a judge was known. I voted for him, myself. He would not get my vote another time, not because I doubt his intelligence and ability, but because I think he is the wrong person at the wrong place. I believe I am voting the sentiment of thousands of voters, who are not prohibitionists in the sense that they believe that it is a deadly sin to enjoy a glass of Pilsener with rye bread and cheese, but who nevertheless believe in the enforcement of our law, and the sending to jail of the men who are in sympathy with them.

FAIRIES.

Do I believe in fairies?
Well I should say I do.
For every day in the year
They come to me and you.
Good intentions are the fairies—
Good deeds the fairies' queen.
Don't you just love the fairies?
Well, I should say so.
—H. F. Gilbert.

Daily Prayer

Daily prayer—May 20
Incline your heart to the Lord God at length.
Our Heavenly Father, we pray Thee to accept this, our morning prayer and praise. We praise Thee for Thy goodness in having brought us safely to the beginning of another day; for Thy preservation of us during our past lives; for all the mercies Thou hast bestowed upon us, notwithstanding our repeated transgressions; but especially for Jesus Christ, Thy Son, and in Him, all our means of grace and hopes of glory.
Give us grace that, amidst all our worldly cares and occupations, we may never forget Thee, but remember that we are ever walking in Thy sight. Enable us to subdue all unholiness and deny all ungodliness and unbelief, but fervently to love the Lord. Be pleased, O Lord, to comfort and succor the poor and the afflicted, and dispose us to do good unto all men.
Spread the knowledge of Thy Word, and make Thy Church the instrument of diffusing and upholding true religion. Preserve us all in the unity of the faith, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life, and finally bring us to Thy Kingdom in Heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
BISHOP JAMES H. HUTTON JOHNSON, D. D.,
Kerrville, Tex.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for APRIL, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 75,320
Sunday 82,588
Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special delivery.
B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of May, 1923.
W. O. GILVEY,
(Seal) Notary Public

We Nominate— For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



John G. Neihardt

JOHN GNEISENAU NEIHARDT was born near Sharpsburg, Ill., in 1881; spent his childhood in Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, graduating from the old Nebraska Normal college at Wayne. For two years he taught a country school near the village of Hoskins. In 1909 he moved to Bancroft and was for one year editor of the Bancroft Blade. Thereafter he worked for an Indian trader and was associated for several years with the Omahas. He won the affection of these primitive people and was adopted into the tribe and given a name, Taa Nuxa Zingaa, Little Bull Buffalo. In 1908 he was married to Mona Martineau, a sculptress, pupil of Rodin. To this union have been born four children. About three years ago the family took up their abode in Branson, Mo., among the Ozarks.

Though winning fame as novelist, short story writer and lyric poet, Neihardt's profoundest passion is his love for the American west and the spirit of the pioneer adventures who conquered the west and subdued it. He believes, and competent critics agree, that in the conquest of the plains in the passing of the great Indian tribes before the onswinging white warriors and explorers, he has tapped the materials out of which the true American epic is to be written. Of the cycle planned two epics have already been published, "The Song of Hugh Glass" and "The Song of Three Friends." "The Song of the Indian Wars," which is now being composed, is immeasurably the greatest in theme, being the final dramatic struggle between the races, beginning with the migration into the west after the civil war and closing with the battle of Wounded Knee. Three years have already been consumed in writing this poem, and two more will be required for its completion, with possibly 10 years more before the entire cycle shall have been written. To the preservation and glorification in verse of the great west and the American history Neihardt has dedicated his life and his surpassing genius.

Sanctum Snap Shots

The most vicious piece of legislation passed by the late legislature was the law allowing the railroads to give ministers and charity workers free passes. During the crusade against this law, two more will be required for its passage, considered a worse law so looked upon by most people today, including all self-respecting men of the cloth. The railroads asked for this law. No doubt they have a lot of propaganda to spread and can find some preachers who would be willing to do the spreading. Of one thing you can rest assured—no railroad corporation is giving away passes unless they expect something in return for them, and they have a right to expect help from those who accept their aims.—Blue Valley Blade.

Would Outlaw War.

From the Nebraska City Press.
Elliott Root, reputed expert international lawyer and pacifist, has just declared war should be outlawed. The Hague tribunal was an enormous crop, all or more than were needed for home and foreign consumption. There were tens of thousands of acres devoted to potato crops in "new ground" in and about villages, towns and cities. They gave all travelers a new idea of the potential food producing land ordinarily neglected. And the department says we have left 300,000,000 acres of nonarable land which may be reclaimed, if necessary. Obviously the possibility of food shortage for a population of over 300,000,000 Americans is too remote to worry about. It is like the coal shortage due in 10,000 years.

Movie Salaries.

From the Nebraska City Press.
The press agents, apparently, are right. There are several well known men and women of the screen who are paid sums for services rendered running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Whether these sums are earned is a matter for earnest discussion and debate. Probably they are entitled to the compensation offered and accepted just as long as 20,000,000 Americans visit every day the cinema palaces in every city, town and hamlet of the country. No amusement enterprise since Salome danced before Herod has taken such a hold on the sensibilities of the people of the world as the motion picture industry—and it is an industry, employing hundreds of thousands of men, women and children.

From State and Nation

Editorials from Other Newspapers

Distribution of Wealth.

Edgar Howard in the Columbus Telegram. In the Evans hotel lobby a bevy of traveling men discussed the present day economic situation. During the discussion one of the travelers declared that the present era of concentration and centralization has enabled 10 per cent of our people to own 65 per cent of all the wealth in the United States. Another member of the party said such talk was pure and unadulterated bolshevism, absolutely false. And when the man who was so ready to denounce his brother as a bolshevist waved the American flag vociferously, and wound up with the statement that any man who says that 10 per cent of the American people own 65 per cent of the wealth of the nation ought to be disfranchised.

Let's see about that. What man in all America is regarded as the highest authority on such subjects? Quite generally Willard King is regarded as the best of all authority on the subject of the wealth and income of the people of the United States. What does Willard King say on this important subject? Why, Willard says 8 per cent of the figures stated by that traveling man, and boldly proclaims that 2 per cent of the population in the United States owns 65 per cent of the total wealth. And if a traveler for big business would disfranchise another traveler for saying that 10 per cent of our population owns 65 per cent of the wealth of the nation, what will he do with Prof. King, whose figures show 2 per cent of the population of the nation is owned by only 2 per cent of the population?

It is time for white men to stand up straight and talk back, and talk back to the present-day authority to belittle everybody who does not admit that Wall Street and big business have a divine right to rule this country and all the people in it.

Our Food Prospects.

From the Chicago Journal of Commerce.
It will be surprising to most people to learn through the report of the United States Department of Agriculture that "we have reached a stage in our agricultural development when there is practically no more potential agricultural land left, unutilized that does not involve unprofitable expense for reclamation or clearing." This statement is widely at variance with popular belief, and while it may be true in a sense, the impression is general that the land under cultivation in this country is not producing up to 60 per cent of its capacity.

The department's statement has under consideration our food prospects for a population twice or three times as large as we have at present, say 300 million. The response was an immediate cause for worry. In all human probability the United States will have food surplus for export for hundreds of years.

During the war we had a little experience in special efforts to increase food production. It was up to us to "feed the allies," and potatoes were asked for. The response was an enormous crop, all or more than were needed for home and foreign consumption. There were tens of thousands of acres devoted to potato crops in "new ground" in and about villages, towns and cities. They gave all travelers a new idea of the potential food producing land ordinarily neglected. And the department says we have left 300,000,000 acres of nonarable land which may be reclaimed, if necessary. Obviously the possibility of food shortage for a population of over 300,000,000 Americans is too remote to worry about. It is like the coal shortage due in 10,000 years.

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Movie Salaries.

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The press agents, apparently, are right. There are several well known men and women of the screen who are paid sums for services rendered running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Whether these sums are earned is a matter for earnest discussion and debate. Probably they are entitled to the compensation offered and accepted just as long as 20,000,000 Americans visit every day the cinema palaces in every city, town and hamlet of the country. No amusement enterprise since Salome danced before Herod has taken such a hold on the sensibilities of the people of the world as the motion picture industry—and it is an industry, employing hundreds of thousands of men, women and children.

Would Outlaw War.

From the Nebraska City Press.
Elliott Root, reputed expert international lawyer and pacifist, has just declared war should be outlawed. The Hague tribunal was an enormous crop, all or more than were needed for home and foreign consumption. There were tens of thousands of acres devoted to potato crops in "new ground" in and about villages, towns and cities. They gave all travelers a new idea of the potential food producing land ordinarily neglected. And the department says we have left 300,000,000 acres of nonarable land which may be reclaimed, if necessary. Obviously the possibility of food shortage for a population of over 300,000,000 Americans is too remote to worry about. It is like the coal shortage due