

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY
THE BEE PUBLISHING CO.
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Main Office: 17th and Farnam
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LOOKING AT OUR NATIONAL FAULTS.
It is much more pleasant to regard our virtues and ignore our faults, but it is good for our soul to be hauled over the coals at times.

Feeling that there are great tasks to be discharged, these domestic critics address themselves to the consideration of the national characteristics that make progress difficult.

Mrs. Imogen B. Oakley of Philadelphia, chairman, division of civil service of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, says:

"We are too cocksure of ourselves; too sure that we are right and all the rest of the world is wrong. This may be a fault of youth, but surely we are old enough to have outgrown it."

Reading the summary of these opinions made by Mrs. Elizabeth Tilton, head of the Parent-Teachers' association, and considering her plea that national faults be made a regular topic for women's clubs, one feels that the women of the nation are ready to undertake the mothering of the entire race.

"Give the inmates of prison three things—bread, water and hell—and there won't be any repeaters!" This remark is attributed to State Senator Foss O. Eldred, a Michigan lawmaker, who has concluded that reform by gentler methods is impossible.

How are we to set about enriching these human spendthrifts? If the women of America are to assume the burden, they can take part of it home. The start must be made with the children, though there is much also that may be done through public activity.

It is accordingly easy to understand the touching expression of John G. Neihardt, the Nebraska poet, upon accepting the proffer of the chair of poetry at the University of Nebraska.

"Pussyfoot" Johnson says Alexander the Great knew nothing of strong drink. Mebbe so, but the "light wine" of those days must have been remarkably potent.

Persia reports a damaging earthquake, but most of the Persians thought it was just another political upheaval.

More brick pavement for Douglas county highways is proof that our folks know a good thing.

Dreams are valuable; so the president of the Omaha board of education told the coming graduating class of the Central High school. He is right. All life is in some way "such stuff as dreams are made of."

It is the dreamer who looks beyond the block of stone he is chipping with hammer and chisel, and sees the pinnacle of the cathedral spire piercing the sky.

Keep your dreams, cherish them, and try to give them life, and make all to live and glow, keeping in mind that

One of the greatest indoor sports is now in full swing in America. It is picking out where to go for the summer vacation. First aids to the victims will be found in the advertising columns, while the railroad and steamboat agents stand ready to advise, assist, direct or manage any sort of tour one decides upon.

But the summer vacation habit is too firmly fixed among our folks to be shaken just by a little indecision as to where to go. Sooner or later the mind will snap shut on some point, and away the traveler will fly, forgetting everything but the prospect of getting away from the routine of his daily life for a few days or weeks.

Perhaps in no other country are such elaborate preparations made for the vacationer as in this. The federal government has set aside great stretches of mountain scenery, the wonder regions of the world; private enterprise has developed other places as attractive, and certainly as expensive; even the state-homes may have a share in this.

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If human progress is marked by any one change more than another, it is the methods of dealing with prisoners of various types. Thoughtful people no longer react to the idea of severity of punishment for all cases. Degrees in crime are recognized, circumstances are given weight in making up judgment, and the average man is always inclined to think what he himself might have done, had he been placed as was the culprit.

Somewhere in Omaha a copper ball gleams at the top of a flag pole. Like a globe of burnished gold, it gives back to the sun his own rays, and yet that ball not such a long time ago was in the scrap heap at a plumber's shop.

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Opera Under the Trees

How St. Louis Turned Its Old Fair Grounds Into a Municipal Theater.

A distinguished Detroit publicist was extending his congratulations to St. Louis because of the recent bond election which, by a vote of from 2 to 1 to 6 to 1, authorized the expenditure of \$87,372,500 for municipal improvements—the largest program of the sort ever undertaken by an American city.

That spirit was first manifested when, in 1914 St. Louis established a landmark in the history of civic drama in America by presenting its first municipal opera, "The Masque of the Red Death," with a cast of 7,500 actors, who to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the city, re-enacted historic scenes on a great natural stage at the foot of a big hill in Forest park, the city's biggest natural playground, and the site of the World's Fair of 1904.

Following that pageant and masque and because there was \$13,000 left in the treasury from the subscription fund which had provided for a civic drama of really national significance, the St. Louis Drama Pageant association used its fund to celebrate, June 5 to 11, 1916, the tercentenary of the city of St. Louis, with an outdoor performance of "As You Like It," given also in Forest park where the city permitted some improvements to be made at the opera theater and allowed a charge for some of the seats provided the improvements be turned over to the municipality.

Another year saw St. Louis build a concrete opera theater, a building where that year theater stood—the beginning of the beautiful structure which this year will seat 9,270 persons in daily performances through a 10-week season. The theater to entertain the 1917 convention of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World. The entertainment committee had planned to erect a grandstand, then park commissioner, now director of public welfare in the city, with a proposal to expend \$6,000 in providing seats for an open air theater in which open air performances of "Aida" were to be given.

The Municipal theater has become a concrete structure, a plant of its sort in America. It has 9,270 seats, including 1,200 free seats, permanently installed in the concrete amphitheater which slopes down to the street from an elevated level. The amphitheater is surrounded by a raised over pergola which is capable of sheltering 10,000 persons in case of a sudden storm and which gives shelter to motor cars and the municipal bus line by which the huge crowds are nightly moved to the street car lines.

Let us be moderate in speech and behavior, remembering that "He who ruleth his own spirit is better than he who taketh a city."

Rev. Albert Kuhn, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian church, will preach this morning on the subject, "After Death, What?" He will say:

Most folks believe in a judgment and a life to come after death, and yet they live from day to day with their mind so focussed upon the passing show of this life on earth as if they had no thought of a bigger future.

Under the terms of its arrangements, the Municipal theater association has agreed to turn over to the Municipal theater and into finer productions any profit its ventures show. Just as it must each night provide at least 1,200 free seats, so it must each night pay to see its performances. During the season of 1921 it was estimated that 70,000 people enjoyed the opera from the free seats at the rear.

Frank Moulton returned to head the cast of 1921 as chief comedian, with Katherine Galloway as prima donna soprano for the first half, and Anne Bussert for the second half of the season.

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 circulation 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

We Nominate---

For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



Out of Today's Sermons

"The Need of Moderation" is the topic of this morning's sermon at the First United Presbyterian church, J. Clyde Mahaffey, pastor, will say in part:

Last Wednesday at Indianapolis 135,000 people gathered to witness the annual speed classic. Twenty-four drivers, with perfectly tuned motors, engaged in a 500-mile auto race.

Only a few weeks ago, two of our army officers, guiding their airplane, crossed our country from east to west in about 23 hours, hanging up a new record in the air service. And now there are those who claim they will make the same distance in a day-time flight, from sun-up to sun-down.

Even as the airman went too high and attempted to outdo every other pilot, so men today are preparing for a demolition that must assuredly come.

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AROUND NEBRASKA

Omaha is getting to be the champion convention city of Nebraska. Welcome to the honor.—York News-Times.

In addressing the Omaha Bar association John L. Webster urged that current propaganda by those who would alter or change the government from the original plan laid down by the constitution must be answered and combated if the American government is to be perpetuated.

What a chance for the shoe manufacturers that won out in the fox trot contests now spreading over the country like an epidemic of the dancing mania of the middle ages. And may we be only entering the beginning of idiocy. Here comes an announcement from France that a couple there just completed a nonstop roller skating performance of 185 miles in 24 hours and 7 minutes. Now who will be the first "loony" American to lower that record?—Grand Island Independent.

Wouldn't it be fine if we could only make ourselves believe dandelions are beautiful and ornamental? What a delightful city we would have!—York Republican.

President Harding declares that a conservative line must be drawn between those who want to tinker drastically with our form of government and those who are too timid to try anything new, and he suggests that there should be greater interest in government displayed by the people of these United States. These are words of wisdom. But are the people in a mood to listen?—Kearney Hub.

A local girl when told that America's next war would probably be in the near east, said she didn't believe there was really that much ill-feeling between Fremont and Valley.—Fremont Tribune.

This business is good and sound in America is attested by numerous facts, among them being the growth in numbers of the chain retail stores, and the avidity with which subscriptions are filed when the government offers treasury notes for sale.—McCook Tribune.

The headline of an editorial in one of the dailies says: "Is chivalry dead? Men no longer protect women." Men do. The trouble is we call all things in breeches men. But they're not.—Sidney Enterprise.

Some folks think they are democratic just because they eat pie with a knife.—Harvard Courier.

My idea of auto suggestion is when my wife tells me how to drive one.—Gering Courier.

Jack Dempsey is playing golf in preparation for his fight with Tom Gibbons, which is the proper thing to do provided Jack is a duf. A golf game has much the same effect on the fighting propensities of a duf, as a drink of Texas likker has on a lack rabbit.—Norfolk News.

Overdoing it. The Screen Comic—Why are you givin' me the gate? Ain't I funny enough for this picture? The Director—You're too funny. You made the camera man laugh so hard he spoiled 500 feet of film.—Houston Post.

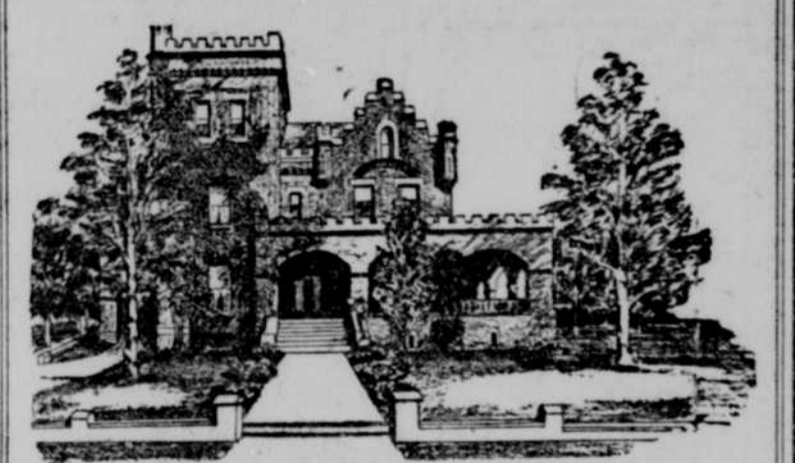
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