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CALLING A HALT.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States...

That is the Fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, adopted in 1868 as part of the reconstruction policy of the federal government. On the rock of this guarantee a number of measures passed by state legislatures have come to grief.

There are signs along the way that all may read, and some gladly. What can they mean, except that a halt is being called on the policy of restrictive legislation? In the last few years a perfect mania for state control of human relationships has swept the legislatures of the forty-eight states.

In Kansas the industrial court, acting under a state statute, claimed the power to adjust labor disputes by stepping in and naming a wage which employers were to pay and employees accept. The case carried before the supreme court was one in which a packing strike was settled on this basis.

"It has never been supposed since the adoption of the constitution that the business of the butcher, or the baker, the tailor, the wood chopper, the mining operator or the miner was clothed with such a public interest that the price of his product or his wages could be fixed by state regulation."

How far these same principles apply to the federal government is a question as yet not clearly answered. The only problem here touched is that of state regulation. Certainly those who have summoned up their hopes or fears, as the case may be, that the federal prohibition laws can be thrown out by the same course of reasoning have nothing on which to base their opinion.

PAGEANT OF THE OREGON TRAIL.

The Nebraska State Historical society has performed a distinct service in erecting stone markers along the old Oregon Trail through Nebraska. But that is not enough. The old trail should be made a national highway, constructed by state and federal aid.

The policeman who shoots in a crowd ought to be examined. It will be hot enough before October. Homespun Verse -By Omaha's Own Poet- Robert Worthington Davis

When twilight comes I feel the swing Of woodlands on my ears, I hear the soothing zephyrs sing, I see the dewy tears Upon the grasses listening, I see the flowers glistening, Beside ancestral hers— When twilight comes.

New York is not helping the prohibition enforcement officers, but the Empire State's attitude is not doing the rum demon much good, either.

"Knee deep in June" means neck deep in the Arkansas at Wichita.

FLOODS IN THE FIELDS.

This is the slack time of year for the rainmaker as a rule, and in the great central west just now his stock in trade is a drug on the market. Every rivulet is a creek, every creek is a river, and every river a rushing torrent of flood waters, devastating bottom lands and carrying terror and destruction to the inhabitants. June, always a month of big rainfall and freshets, has been the weepiest of all recorded so far, a record that exceeds the experience of white settlers in these parts, and enormous damage to life and property has resulted.

Mechanics of rain are simple. For this part of the world water is vaporized in the Caribbean sea and the Gulf of Mexico by the tropic sun. Little particles of vapor are carried high into the air, and there are assembled into clouds, which are borne northward on the warm currents of air, until the heat is lowered. Then the vapor masses become denser, and finally change into rain clouds, and the downpour begins. Billions of tons of water are contained in these clouds, one of the marvelous exhibitions of nature's wonderful forces.

To give an idea of just what rainfall means, it may be stated that an inch of water over the area of the townsite of Omaha is roughly equivalent to a pond one-half mile on all four sides and twenty feet deep. When this is multiplied by the tremendous expanse of country now flooded, and the inch is increased to fifteen or more, then some notion will be gained of the huge volume of water that has been poured down on the land within the last two weeks.

Such visitations as that noted just now are rare, although the June freshet is an annual occurrence. Heavy and almost irreparable loss is forced upon the farmers and other property owners in the flooded region, but the spirit that conquered the wilderness in the beginning still prevails, and will find its outlet in rebuilding when the waters run off and the dry lands again appear. For the land will come out from the floods, and will produce all manner of crops. Nature is ruthless in enforcing her laws, but is lavish in repairing harm she does in carrying out her processes.

"THE MILKY WAY."

There was a slump in dairying in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri during the years of war and inflation. Farmers turned to other crops and many pastures were plowed up for grain fields. Now, however, in Nebraska at least, there is a tendency to get back on the "milky way." Anything that can be done to encourage the increase of dairying is for the good of Nebraska.

Omaha, as the greatest butter-making center in the United States, is a particularly likely spot for holding a dairy show to which the farmers up and down the converging lines of railroads would be invited. Exhibits of dairy cows, dairy equipment and the various products, from cheese to butter and ice cream could there be supplemented by addresses from farm experts and leaders in the industry.

Perhaps the traveling show which soon is to make a tour of Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and Idaho could be brought here for such an occasion. This special train carries a number of cars of dairy cattle representing four principal breeds from famous herds. Frank Lowden, former governor of Illinois, but best known among farmers as president of the Holstein-Friesian association is one of the several spokesmen accompanying the exhibits. With him are C. M. Long of the National Holstein association, C. Musser of the National Guernsey Cattle club, C. L. Burnington of the National Ayrshire association, Hugh Van Pelt of Waterloo, Ia., representing the Jersey Cattle club and W. I. Baird of Waukesha, Wis.

This is a dairy show in miniature, and it would furnish a splendid nucleus for a show in Omaha, if it could be brought back through here from its western trip. The list of speakers is a notable one, and undoubtedly they would attract great interest among the farmers of Nebraska, who are ready for the message they bear.

The Austrian loan of \$25,000,000 7 per cent bonds was oversubscribed in fifteen minutes in New York, while the Iowa bonus bonds are being retailed at one-fourth of 1 per cent premium, if you want to know what chance a good tax-free security has nowadays.

Travelers will miss the old Broad street train shed at Philadelphia, but might be very outside the Pennsylvania general offices will regret it.

"I just hit him on the jaw," says the police commissioner, telling how he ended a debate. What could be more becoming?

What has become of the old-fashioned cellar that was half full of water at this time of year?

China's president has a puzzle. He can't rule and can't resign.

The policeman who shoots in a crowd ought to be examined.

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Homespun Verse

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"The People's Voice"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression of matters of public interest.

The Fate of Medical Pioneer.

Beemer, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The Arthur Brisbane column in one of your recent issues, quoting Dr. Vincent of the Rockefeller Institute as saying, that modern medicine is "open to new truth," provided "it can be rationally built on the body of knowledge about which all scientific men agree."

Mr. Brisbane's comment is that such limitation is too strict, and cites instances such as Pasteur being called an ignorant charlatan by the then greatest men in medical science. And Harvey, who was ridiculed for announcing the circulation of the blood—Harvey, he it remembered, built his discovery on the teachings of his Italian preceptor, Fabricius, at Aquapendente (Padua); his epoch-making dissertation "exercitatio anatomica de motu cordis et sanguinis in animalibus" was first printed and published in Frankfurt on the Main.

When Semmelweis in Vienna, 1847, first demonstrated, that unclean hands and instruments were responsible for the fever and cholera and puerperal fever, he was persecuted and ostracized by the medical fraternity, and died in an insane asylum—the honor of the monument, a grateful posterity erected in his honor fifty years after his death.

In our own days Sobleich evolved the principle of "local anesthesia." When the Surgical Congress at Berlin he reported his discovery, he was literally shown the door by his enraged colleagues. Today his method saves the lives of many "poor surgical victims" who could not come to the immediate or post operative dangers of general anesthesia, and alleviates the discomforts of surgical procedure for many, many others.

Mr. Brisbane's "Even in this era of modern progress scientific minds rebel at new truths occasionally." However, new truth is truth just the same, and though it transcends existing general opinion, it is a fact. DR. JULIUS LINGENFELDER.

"Small Town Pests."

Madison, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I am not writing about the pest you most likely think I am, but I am writing about that well known, ill bred pest called the "gossip."

The pest I mean comes with her insinuating smiles and "I thought you ought to know and, of course, I don't want to cause any trouble, but such and such a person told me this and told me that."

The gossip pest is one of the most terrible insects in this gossip loving nation of ours. Does not every germ often spread afar its disease, and is not gossip the same thing? Just some idle person's little bit of nothing told and retold until it finally reaches enormous size and often causes great distress and calamity in the finest of hearts and homes.

Beware of gossip! If your neighbor or your friend tells you a little bit of news, do not pick it up and spread it just that little bit of gossip in the darkest corner of your heart and forget it.

Of course you'll say, "That is simply too good to keep, I will have to tell it to you, of course, you won't tell it to any farther."

Well, you'll tell it, and it will be retold and spread, and amounts to something really scandalous. When the pest finally reaches the ears of the person most closely associated with the party who was supposed to have kept all these awful things, then what?

The little pest buzzes and buzzes. It buzzes grow louder all the time until someone, somewhere is waiting, worrying and busy in its deadly work. Some one had to start a little bit of something out of a little bit of nothing. Haven't you got about all you can do attending to your own affairs? Just let our neighbor and our neighbor's neighbor alone.

There are plenty of women gossips and plenty of men gossips. Maybe I have been a little too fond of the morsels of gossip myself, but say, why don't some of the rest follow in my tracks and swear off from aiding this gossip pest in its deadly work? Don't be a trouble maker, for there are too many of those flitting around now.

I remember one time reading the following: "A wise old owl sat on an oak; The more he heard, the less he spoke; The less he spoke, the more he heard."

Why can't we all act more like that bird? The writer of that little piece of poetry wrote a very good piece of advice for all of us. REFORMED.

Would Curb Supreme Court.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In regard to the supreme court's decisions on the minimum wage law and the language law, there seems to be quite a little difference of opinion, and some quite harsh things have been said. To solve these problems and to solve them correctly we should have our constitution amended so as to become more flexible by opening up the way for the initiative and referendum, both state and national.

I actually believe there is too much power vested in the supreme court on such momentous questions in a republican form of government and that the people should have the right of initiative and referendum. In connection with this we should have the compulsory ballot law and a voter's

We Nominate— For Nebraska's Hall of Fame.



Miss Grace Abbott

CONSIDERABLE credit, it would seem, is due the school system of Nebraska for developing such a notable social worker as Grace Abbott. Nor is it to be overlooked that after graduating from high school in Grand Island she taught there for three years, from 1899 to 1902. Grand Island college, the University of Nebraska and the University of Chicago gave her the finishing touches for a career that has made her one of America's most famous women.

Miss Abbott is now chief of the children's bureau at Washington, where she has been director of the child labor division. Her first social work was done as a director of the Immigrants' Protective league and as a resident of Hull House. Later she has been executive director of the newly formed American Child Health association, of which Herbert Hoover is president. She is author of a book, "The Immigrant and the Community."

Her qualifications are such that each one who is able to cast a vote would have to deposit same, and in that way we would always have the true sentiment of the electors.

If we can consent in time of war for soldiers, we can consent in time of peace for voters. Past elections call to my mind will bear me out on the compulsory ballot law, and I think it is the first stepping stone for reform measures if we are to have any in this country of ours. C. L. NETHAWAY.

Sixty-Three Years of Political Progress.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Sixty-three years ago the 16th of last May a convention assembled in Chicago that was considered by many at that time as very radical if not revolutionary.

During the first week in July another convention will assemble in Chicago that may also leave its mark in historical annals. The birth of the republican party centered around one of the very greatest products of our entire history, Abraham Lincoln.

The meeting next July will have no central figure, but the issues will be somewhat similar. The enslavement of the colored race called forth the republicans, and the enslavement of the white race calls the second one together.

The warmer-labor party of the United States has invited representatives of all "labor, farm and political groups." Owing to the senatorial conflict now raging in Minnesota between the farmer-labor forces and the stand-pat wing of the republican party in the election of a United States senator to succeed the late Knut Nelson, all eyes will be on the home of the grain trust.

Last fall farmer-labor forces sent United States Senator Frank Kellogg, special pleader for the railroad, grain, lumber, and a hundred other trusts, to the political garbage heap and elected, SEN. HATFIELD, one of the most capable leaders of the toilers, as his successor.

Minnesota was populated largely by descendants of the Scandinavian nationalities. "Jim" Hill and his underlings, taking advantage of the poverty of many of those pioneers and playing on their credulity and prejudices, sowed dragons' teeth that are returning a thousand fold to plague those who profited by the deception. The farmer-labor forces are better organized in Minnesota than elsewhere. They have a powerful daily paper, the Star, which is doing yeoman service.

In light of the foregoing facts, the program or platform of the farmer-labor forces of that state ought to elect another senator, is as follows: "Public ownership and operation with democratic control of all public utilities and resources, including stock yards, large abattoirs (slaughter houses), grain elevators, water power and cold storage and terminal warehouses; government ownership and democratic operation of the railroads, mines and of such natural resources as are in whole or in part under the control of special interests of basic industries and monopolies, such as lands containing coal, iron, oil, large water power, and commercial timber tracts; pipe lines and oil tanks; telegraph and telephone lines."

This platform or program is enough to make a Nebraska populist of the early '90s gasp with astonishment, but truth is sometimes stranger than fiction, and Minnesota elected a United States senator on that platform last fall, and the republican "whigs" in the house of representatives admits that the farm-labor party will sweep Minnesota by 100,000 majority at the special election in July.

Nebraska will have a substantial delegation from the different farm and labor groups at this meeting. W. H. GREEN.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for MAY, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily . . . . . 73,181 Sunday . . . . . 80,206

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

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr. V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25 day of June, 1923. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public (Seal)

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from Other Newspapers

Meaning of Milk Grades.

From the Scientific American. Milk is graded according to bacteriological content; not, as many people think, according to the amount of cream it contains. In other words, Grade A milk is not necessarily richer than the B or C grades, contrary to general opinion.

It is the number of bacteria found in milk which determines how it is graded. Grade A milk contains the fewest bacteria; there being no more than 30,000 per cubic centimeter in this grade after pasteurization. In Grade B milk there are no more than 100,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter. In Grade C milk there are no more than 200,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter.

The bacteria in milk are considered generally, nonpathogenic, that is, nonconductive of disease. All milk contains bacteria under ordinary circumstances, and their presence in this food is expected.

If milk were tested and found not to contain bacteria it would immediately be suspected of containing preservatives, which are more harmful to the health than the bacteria common in milk. On the other hand, the hands of the milkman who carries the milk indicates carelessness in the handling, and this, in turn, might some time invite bacteria not entirely harmless.

Therefore, the importance of testing milk for the bacteriological content. The test for counting the number of bacteria in milk is simple. This does not mean that you or I, without a laboratory where the proper knowledge of laboratory technique, could perform that test.

But taking the miracle of sterile precautions for granted, there is very little work to counting the bacteria in milk. About two drops of the milk are placed upon a small glass dish. This is mixed with agar, a rich stiffened bouillon in which all bacteria thrive. The dish is then sealed and placed away in an incubator, in a temperature conducive to germ life. After 24 hours the bacteria will show all over the surface of the glass dish in clusters of white plainly enough to be counted by the naked eye.

A "Stagnant" Democracy.

From the New York Times. In Harper's Magazine, Mr. Frank I. Cobb, with his usual force, answers in the affirmative the question "Is Our Democracy Stagnant?" He regards it as "extraordinary" that none of the new states created by the war limited the American constitution. They preferred for parliamentarism, with that alone they were familiar. Does this show that parliamentary government is for us, superior to ours? If our democracy is stagnant, the world doesn't lack observers who insist that parliamentary government has broken down.

It seems that the United States system is rigid, unyielding, unresponsive. It would be easy to make it too yielding and responsive. Mr. Cobb objects to the senate as nullifying every principle of democracy and every principle of representative government. Yet the main question is of practice. Many would hate to trust the property and rights and liberties—these last slowly diminishing even under the processes of constitutional amendment—to a single chamber.

The house, representing "the principle of democracy," is swept off its feet by temporary agitations, buffeted by minorities, usually cowardly, before that mysterious "democracy" which is, in effect, an oligarchy or a collection of oligarchies. It is almost a truism that all governments are run by minorities. It is a considerable reproach against our congresses and legislatures that they are, to such a regrettable extent, puppets of the numerous societies and leagues which wheedle or bully them. We have a superfluity of bloc and class government. Our system has been flexible enough to acquire that. Presumably it is flexible enough to get rid of it.

Both as a "counter balance to popular passion" and as the representative of the states, the senate is more necessary now than when it was created. The men who made the constitution were no democrats, as Mr. Cobb says. As far as the electoral college is concerned "the American people democratized the presidency" without changing the constitution; but does the nominating convention,

"one of the most remarkable instruments of free institutions that was ever evolved from the political genius of any people," put "the election of the president directly into the hands of the people themselves." They get the chance to vote for somebody who may have been nominated by some such majestic triumph of "democracy" as was achieved by the nomination of Mr. Harding.

Is it so serious a loss, in the long run, if the house and senate happen to be controlled by different parties, or the president and majority of congress happen to belong to different parties? The necessary work of government goes on and the country escapes a lot of dubious legislation. As for the "fetters" of the constitution, which Mr. Cobb and so many others deplore, the recent frequency of amendments, the proposal of so many more, the restless identification of "change" with "progress," seem to show that the "fetters" has lost some of its power. It is to be hoped that the majority of the people will continue to be "stagnant" to "new" United States constitution that worked so well. Fictitious or no, the constitution is preferable to the vagaries and mysteries of "pure democracy."

The Old McGuffey Readers. From the Louisville Courier-Journal. A few days ago an anniversary came and went. It was not heralded. It was not celebrated. It was like any other of the 365 days of the year and no special notice was taken of it. Yet its mention would have brought back a flood of memories to hundreds of thousands of persons living in the United States. It would have recalled snippets of long forgotten songs, simple stories of homely virtues and many a scene of flowering youth in many a ramble through the fields. It was on that day 50 years ago that William M. McGuffey died.

To say that he was the author of the old McGuffey readers would seem unnecessary, but for the fact that a new generation of schools and school books has taken their place. Thirty years ago the name of McGuffey was known in every school and in every home. From his primer to his sixth reader there was not a poem, not a story that was not remembered. . . . Best of teachers and a thousandfold blessed, William M. McGuffey left an indelible stamp on the minds and hearts of an entire nation, the teacher, the preacher, the philosopher who finished his life's task 50 years ago.

Cost of Building Construction. From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Both sides of the building trades have done what they have known from the beginning they should not do. They have gone ahead without regard to consequences. They have exercised no self-restraint; they have done nothing to avoid the price boom which sooner or later undermines every period of great activity whether it be in the building field or any other. The result is that building costs are out of line entirely with costs of other kinds. The remuneration of the prospective builder has not kept pace with the increased cost of construction. He accordingly has no choice in many cases but to withdraw from the market. He could not build if he would. Employers blame em-

Another glacial age is nearly due, according to an astronomer. After he sells his sugar futures, the speculator might try a bet in sleds.—Detroit News.

A Good Chance.

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Abe Martin



What the country needs is a big, lively back 't' th' soil movement startin' at Washin'ton. O' course Stillman is purty well fixed, but they're liable 't' keep tryin' him till he's found wantin'. (Copyright, 1923.)

plays, employes declare the suspension of building activities is another conspiracy of capital against labor. As a matter of fact, it is a joint responsibility. When each side is willing to accept its share and exercise the same caution in its operations as is displayed in the great majority of industries at the present time construction work will be resumed on a large scale and will go on without further interruption.

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