

LET MACHINERY DO IT.

Sober consideration of the industrial situation in the United States is turning thought to one of the apparent solutions of the so-called labor shortage. It is that of applying more and more labor-replacing machinery to the productive processes. Charles R. Gow, president of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, has recently pointed out some salient facts in connection with the present and future conditions of the United States.

Calling attention to the farm, Mr. Gow notes that, whereas there has been no gain in the number of farmers within the last ten years, the farms of America are producing food to meet the requirements of a little over 14,000,000 more inhabitants of the land, and at the same time have enlarged their exportable surplus by something over 10,000,000 tons. Our farmers, because of the adoption of labor-saving machinery and devices, produce 12 tons of food per worker per year, while those of the rest of the world have an average of but 1 1/2 tons. Quite as much is to be said in favor of the machine in other industries.

In the various branches of the steel industry, in textiles, in leather, in all the range of industry, hand processes have been almost completely supplanted by the machine. Quantity production is now the rule, and it has been made possible through the invention of apparatus suited to the needs of the particular trade, without which the results attained could not be accomplished. Nor is the end to this in sight. At present the demand for greater output is a stimulus to inventors, who are induced to bring forth new appliances for doing the work of the world.

While certain operations have seemingly successfully defied the machine, it is unsafe to dogmatically say they will not yet be conquered. In the building trades, for example, there is a shortage of manpower that is not altogether ascribable to the introduction of machines. Many of the things that were done by hand a few years ago are now done by the "iron man," but the actual figures as reported by the Department of Labor of the United States is that in 1910 there were 530,000 building trade mechanics in the United States and in 1920 only 450,000. Other industries might be similarly analyzed, but the outstanding fact is that, regardless of progress of invention, there remains employment for all, and at better wages than ever.

The age of the "robot" has not yet dawned, but man's increasing demands are running ahead of his ability to produce, and the machine is more and more welcome as it comes to aid in solving the needs of the race.

USING THE RIVERS.

Thirty passengers recently made the trip from St. Louis to St. Paul by steamboat. Five days were consumed on the voyage, which was interrupted by numerous groundings on sandbars. This was the second attempt of the packet Harry G. Drees to reopen passenger traffic on the upper river, the maiden voyage having been blocked by low water.

It has not been many years since one of the popular vacation trips was on the Diamond Jo line, which plied over this same route. There were times, during the late summer, when these boats encountered difficulty in navigating the upper reaches of the river, but seldom if ever was low water known in June. The Davenport Times blames the denuding of the timberland in the north and says that the forests used to retard the flow of water and maintain a favorable stage for navigation well into the summer.

"Prodigal, improvident America, looking only to its immediate needs, destroyed without thought of the morrow," remarks this Iowa editor. Today we find the nation's greatest water course unable to bear the burden which the growth of the country imposes. As we submit to the penalty of the lack of a reforestation policy, we are also forced to an acceptance of the bitter truth that the lack of an internal waterways development program robs us of any hope of recovering at an early date the handicap resulting from the first instance of prodigality.

In truth there has not been much business sense used in relation to such great streams as the Mississippi and the Missouri. Else they would now be carrying both passengers and freight. No other country in the world affords the spectacle of waste that is seen in the neglect of the river routes of America. Doubtless the cutting of the north woods has had its effect in alternate periods of floods and low water, but no one can look at these great streams and believe that there is not enough water at all seasons of the year to carry commerce, if only the channel be kept clear. Though America has played the prodigal in the past, yet it is not too late to repent and be forgiven.

President Harding learned a lot, listening to that old Kansas farmer. How many Americans, if they were placed in contact with the president could express the facts about their business so well?

Well, well, how we do get on. Here's a granddaughter of the boy orator of the Platte, getting married.

The Woodmen Circle, which favors any plan that will end wars, about sums up the American attitude.

Perhaps Governor Bryan will lend the state some of his good intentions for road paving purposes.

Homespun Verse
—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

LITTLE BOY STREET.
I'm living on Little Boy Street,
In the middle of Little Boy Dell,
And something seems sweetly complete
In a little boy's whistle-like yell.
I'm one of the youngsters in play,
I scamper about in the sun,
And frolic my hours away—
Forgetting my work isn't done,
My pencil in idleness lies,
My books are at rest on the shelf,
My rapture my conscience defies,
I'm a little boy (dreaming) myself.

We make all the noise that we can,
And truly ill-mannered we seem
To tired and grouchy old man;
We laugh and we talk and we dream.
We're "Injuns" have soldiers we are!
Our crowd is a boisterous one,
We march to the regions afar
In the journeys of Little Boy Fun.

The measureless pleasure I find
In dressing the part as I may
Solaces and graces the mind
With thoughts of receded day.
'Tis truly enchanting to stay
Where I'm ever at freedom to meet
The men of Tomorrow at play
On spirited Little Boy Street.

The Short Ballot in Nebraska

State Editors Engage in Lively Debate Over Merit of New Plan.

Gordon Journal.
It appears that Nebraska is destined to vote next year as to whether or not its citizens desire a shorter ballot. While the exact form of the constitutional amendment has not yet been determined, yet in general it will involve the striking from the list of elective offices those of the secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general, commissioner of public lands and buildings, and perhaps one more. These offices will then be filled by the governor rather than by election.

The movement has been started by a number of prominent men, all shades of political belief. Arthur G. Wray, former nonpartisan candidate for governor, is one of the fathers of the plan; Dan V. Stephens, former democratic candidate for governor, and there are also many of the progressive republican leaders pushing it. They feel that it will make for better government and we fully agree with them.

Almost every student of government has recommended the short ballot. Bryan, Wilson, Taft, Roosevelt are among these. It is believed Nebraska would do well to get in line.

Columbus Telegram.
At first glance the argument of the ballot reformers is good. The records show that at every recent annual election all the way from 20 to 40 per cent of the voters refused to pay any attention to the candidates for governor, lieutenant-governor, senator, governor, lieutenant-governor and congressmen, casting their ballots only for their favorites who were candidates for the official positions above mentioned. The result was that most on part of the voters leads the reformers to the certain conclusion that the masses of the voters do not really care much about the filling of the minor offices, and that the governor, lieutenant-governor and congressmen, some other appointing power could make better selections than the indifferent voters have been in the habit of making.

Well, granting that the contention of the ballot reformers is correct, insofar as the indifference of the voters is concerned and that cannot be denied, still there is a principle involved. Shortening the ballot, as planned, would be a long step in the direction of centralized government—a far step in the direction of one-man power. Is Nebraska ready to give up its democratic principles? Do Nebraskaans really want to lodge such vast appointing power in the hands of a governor as to enable him to build a giant political machine, officered and manned by men appointed by him to draw a state salary? The so-called short ballot is only another name for centralization of power—only another plan to take power away from the people and lodge that power in the hands of one man.

It doesn't look good.

Nebraska City Press.
The Press has favored the short ballot for a great many years, a ballot which can be cut to a length that will not interfere with the rights of the voters, and which will deprive the politicians of their easy way. But there are obstacles to be met before we can adopt the short ballot in Nebraska. There is the opposition which comes from the politicians who know all about the short ballot; and there is the sterner opposition which comes from the people, who know nothing about it. The latter class bases its opposition on a misunderstanding and a damn that about which it knows so little.

The most potent argument for the short ballot, in our mind, is the fact that so few voters know anything about the men for whom we vote. It is safe to say that not one voter out of ten has any reliable information about the candidates for office who do not live in the voter's community, with the possible exception of the men who are candidates for governor, congress, or the senate. The men who seek state offices are entire strangers to the great majority who go to the polls.

Kearney Hub.
If a state should be ruled exclusively by a governor, why should not the union of states be ruled by a king? Short ballot boosters may answer at their leisure.

Osceola Record.
As will be seen on its face, the proposition is as purely nonpolitical as any proposition can be, yet Governor Bryan is jumping over it in his frenzied attack, which he continues to make against the code form of government. In the opinion of the Record, if the voters will study the plan carefully they may adopt it in the end. If they should decide that the national form of government is the right form for the state to adopt, it would put an eternal question to the code fight in the state of Nebraska.

Neligh Leader.
Just how practical a plan the recent short ballot convention in Lincoln has or will put forth the voters do not know, but experience should teach every thoughtful person that something of the kind is needed.

Gering Midwest.
The short ballot, in the opinion of the present troubles in Nebraska. Just why we should elect seven state officials, and then set all halled up because their duties are conflicting and responsibility not fixed, is a question that has never been satisfactorily answered. It would be just as sensible for the people of the United States to elect the cabinet officers. Why not elect a governor and lieutenant governor, and then let the governor select his various secretaries, just as the president of the United States does now? In that way harmony is insured and responsibility absolutely fixed. All this opposition to "granting too much power to the chief executive" is the merest bluff. He ought to have it, and he ought to be held to strict accountability for the proper exercise of it. That is the way big business is transacted, and the state's business is the biggest business in Nebraska.

York Republican.
Those who clamored loudest and most insistently for the primary election have discovered that the popular government is not what they want after all. Evidently they thought when they were snorting and cavorting for the rule of the people and the discouragement of political bosses that every voter would be able to put his hand on the best man for every office without a single suggestion from anybody. Now they are absolutely paddling back up the stream. They say it is folly to permit the common herd to determine who shall be the officers. How can they know the qualifications of the different candidates whom they have never seen? They say. Now they propose a remedy for the mess they have plunged us into, and the remedy is as much worse than the disease that the latter really seems wholesome.

Grand Island Independent.
There may be merit in the short ballot form of state government; there is merit in a shorter term for the political reformers and government



When, on January 12, 1917, Grand Duke Alexei of Russia stopped off in Omaha on his way west on a big train bound for the West, he was thus described in The Omaha Bee:

THE GRAND DUKE
He Arrives at 10:15 and Departs at 3.

HIS RECEPTION AT THE DEPOT
He Is Showed the Signs of Omaha and Is Much Pleased With Our Growing City.

"As the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. approached, our citizens began to wend their way toward the Ninth street depot, all actuated by one desire—that of seeing the grand duke. When the time for the dual train to arrive drew near, there were probably 2,000 persons at the depot. The fair sex were well represented, and several classes of school children were present, accompanied by their respective teachers.

When the whistle of an approaching engine announced a coming train, the crowd arranged themselves on either side of the railroad track, some taking one position and others taking another. The train consisted of four Pullman palace cars, a baggage car and the engine. A hotel dining car stood upon the side track, and Generals Ord, Sheridan and Palmer, with the staffs, occupied it while awaiting the arrival of the train. As soon as the train stopped a captain was sent to inquire whether the duke was ready to receive the committee of reception. An affirmative reply being returned, the military and committee went to the rear car on the train and were there presented to the duke.

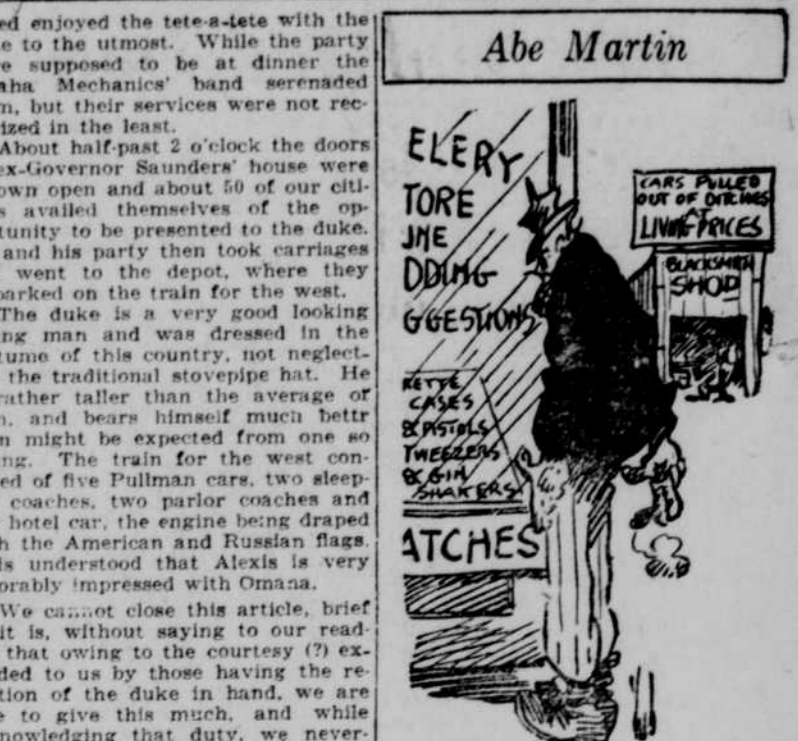
What transpired in the car we are unable to state, as by order of the man in charge of the door, our reporters were refused admittance. After the committee, headed by Acting Mayor Allen, had been in the car a few minutes, his royal highness, accompanied by ex-Governor Saunders, and followed by Generals Sheridan, Ord and Palmer, the officers on their staffs, and the committee bringing up the rear, stepped upon the platform and proceeded to the carriages in waiting.

Alexis was escorted to the carriage driven by Mr. John Clarke, to which four royal gray horses were attached, and was the most stylish turnout in the whole lot. He was accompanied by General Sheridan, ex-Governor Saunders and Acting Mayor Allen. The rest of the military and the members of the committee took other carriages, and the whole then drove off towards the bridge. After viewing this stupendous structure the carriages drove up Farnam street, and the duke was greeted by a sight of the Grand Central hotel and the new High School building. He was then driven to the residence of ex-Governor Saunders, where dinner was served. What transpired at the dinner we are unable to say, as we were not invited and did not, therefore, attend; but, judging from our standpoint across the street, we would say the dinner was a success, and those more favored enjoyed the tete-a-tete with the duke to the utmost. While the party were supposed to be at dinner the Omaha Mechanics' band serenaded them, but their services were not recognized in the least.

"About half past 2 o'clock the doors of ex-Governor Saunders' house were thrown open and about 50 of our citizens availed themselves of the opportunity to be presented to the duke. He and his party then took carriages and went to the depot, where they embarked on the train for the west.

"The duke is a very good looking young man and was dressed in the costume of this country, not neglecting the traditional stovepipe hat. He is rather taller than the average of men, and bears himself much better than might be expected from one so young. The train for the west consisted of five Pullman cars, two sleeping coaches, two parlor coaches and one hotel car, the engine being draped with the American and Russian flags. It is understood that Alexis is very favorably impressed with Omaha.

"We cannot close this article, brief as it is, without saying to our readers that owing to the courtesy (it extended to us by those having the reception of the duke in hand, we are able to give this much, and while acknowledging that duty, we nevertheless feel as though the unwarranted discrimination against us was the result of either intention, or came from a toadyism which certain of the American people appear to be just now imbued. Personally, we care nothing about it; but what a class of our citizens, inflated with the importance of being recognized as attendants for a brief period upon a scene of royalty, intentionally throw insurmountable obstacles in the way of obtaining news, while discriminating in favor of other journals, then we acknowledge our inability to successfully cope with them and throw up the sponge.



Miss Tawney Apple wuz thrown violently agin a lamp post last night when one of her carrin's got caught in a passin' auto. Miss Pearl Moots wuz th' ugliest girl in town fer years, but now she's makin' up fer it.

(Copyright 1923)

ness, so the children of our homes and hearts may hold out their hands to Thee, Who are the Father of us all. Accept our thanks for the days past, and our praises for this day, and our heartfelt trust for the days to be. In the Name of Christ: Amen.
GEORGE CLARKE PECK, D. D., Baltimore, Md.

Chicago dentist is arrested for counterfeiting. Evidently a specialist in plate work—Dentaur Herald.

Daily Prayer

The Lord is worthy to be praised—11 Sam. 22:31.

O Thou Who art the same yesterday, today and forever, as we think back over life, we think how many revelations we have had of Thee. Some days we were very sure that Thou art infinitely kind; some days we have groined in bitterness. On some of the bright mornings of life our hearts have sung in spite of us; and on the black midnights our hearts have sunk to despair. Yet, Thou art the same Lord; God over all, blessed forever. "Who is as always ready to have mercy," and Who has never requited us according to our sins, but in wrath "that remembered mercy." Father, we are daring to say to our hearts that what Jesus was, Thou art; that He unveiled Thee for us. As men, tempted and defeated could trust Him, we may trust Thee. As women scorned, trusted Him, nor were disappointed, women today may trust Thee. As little children held out their arms to Him, with the unerring response of childhood to goodness,

Many Are Fond of Beefsteak Pie

when it's flavorful and appetizing. Cube the steak; brown the crust well. When the pie is done puncture the upper crust and season with

LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE
THE ORIGINAL WORCESTERSHIRE

Money to Loan on Omaha Real Estate

The CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
1614 Harney

HAVE The Omaha Morning Bee or The Evening Bee mailed to you when on your vacation. Phone AT lantic 1000, Circulation Department.

"Pioneers"



Merchants for fifty-five years

Every state in the Union knows "Mina Taylor"—the trade name of house dresses, one of the products manufactured by M. E. Smith & Co.

For two generations this company has spread the fame of Omaha—as a jobbing and manufacturing center—throughout an ever-widening circle. It began business in Council Bluffs in 1868, and moved to Omaha a few years later.

Today its magnificent plant, covering an entire city block, is a monument to individual enterprise and to the natural resources of the trade territory which may be reached from Omaha.

For thirty-seven years, this company has been a customer of The Omaha National Bank.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION
for MAY, 1923, of
THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 73,181
Sunday 80,206

Dues and incidental charges, advertising, samples of 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 25 day of June, 1923.
W. H. QUIVERY,
Notary Public

Capital and Surplus Two Million Dollars

The Omaha National Bank
Farnam at 17th St.