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NEW SEA RIVALRY.

Old Glory will be carried on the high seas by vessels of the American merchant marine. This piece of information is carried by Albert D. Lasker to the world through a statement made to British reporters at Southampton on the arrival of the Leviathan at that port. Here is the press comment:

"Are you going to attempt to drive Britain from the sea?" a British correspondent asked.

"No," Lasker thundered, "but we are going to build ships—and ships that will test the capacity of the Panama canal, to carry our commerce to all parts of the world, in earnest and fair competition with all other maritime powers."

"You ask me if the movement to build up the American merchant marine is not doomed to die. Never, absolutely never."

A distinct and definite announcement of what may be expected, this is not a threat, but it does have a significance that is not missed in England. "And not a flag but by permission floats" is no longer effective, and "while Britons never shall be slaves," the old boast that "Britannia rules the waves," has lost its meaning. America was once before a great maritime nation, but its commerce carriers were driven from the ocean as a result of the Civil war and through peculiar economic and industrial development. For half a century the commerce of the greatest trading nation the world ever knew has been carried on foreign bottoms. Now, this is to be changed, and in a large measure because of another great war.

Our British brethren feel the danger that impends in the presence of a great vessel carrying the American flag. It means to them something more than diminished international prestige; it means the loss of business and of profit. America's entry as a carrier in the commerce of the world means cutting off revenue that Great Britain has relied upon. That is why the officers of rival steamship lines sneer at the Leviathan, ask that members of her crew be arrested as deserters from British ships, and do other things that are neither friendly nor seemly to hinder the progress of the venture.

We believe Mr. Lasker is right when he says the great majority of the American people favor the establishment of an American merchant marine. In the end it will pay, but just now it has a sentimental value of a nature that in the minds of our citizens outweighs all other considerations. It injects a new factor into British-American relations. John Bull may bluster and bluff, but it will take more than ridicule or undercutting competition to run Old Glory off the high seas again.

MURDER IS MURDER.

In the case of "Black Tony" Ciarritta certain things should be kept in mind. One of these is that he was sentenced to prison for life because he killed a man. His life was forfeit, for he committed murder in connection with robbery. He was one of a band of robbers who held up a group of revelers in a disreputable resort, and stripped them of money and valuables. "Black Tony" admitted he fired the shot that killed a young bank clerk who was in the crowd. For this he was sentenced by a jury to imprisonment for life.

Within the last year we have heard a great deal about the abuse of the pardoning power, the careless exercise of the parole privilege, and much of this objection has come from officers of the law, and not a little from Omaha police authorities. Is it not a little surprising, then, to find a sergeant of the Omaha police force commending "Black Tony" to the pardon board, while the warden of the penitentiary states that he believes he should be pardoned?

"Black Tony" may have been "a little tramp" when he committed the crime, and he may be an "educated gentleman" now, yet has it come that less than ten years' confinement is sufficient to satisfy the law when the sentence of life imprisonment has been pronounced?

We have no desire to prosecute "Black Tony" any further, but we do believe that the humane requirements of the law will be more nearly fulfilled if he be caused to spend some further time in the expiation of a crime that the law says merits death. Omaha's peace has been disturbed by many murders, few of which have been adequately dealt with in court, which is all the more reason for dealing stern justice to the murderer who is caught and convicted.

WORKED FOR THEIR FOOD.

Relief work in Russia was not entirely devoid of incidents that serve to lighten the gloom of the dreadful tales of famine we have had from over there. One of these has to do with how an American in charge of a district in the Urals accomplished considerable in the way of public improvement by a simple expedient. He built a railroad forty versts in length, constructed a number of bridges, and put through a much needed drainage ditch, paying the workmen in food they would have received anyhow, if they had not worked. The drainage ditch, by the way, was a hang-over from the days of the czar, it having been first located 70 years ago, annually projected, and yet never built.

This little story teaches two things. One is that the Russian is human in all his aspects. The other is that relief may be made helpful in other ways than merely to stave off famine. We have no doubt that the men who were selected from the starving peasants and put to work felt at first they were being favored, but that they kept at work after they saw who remained unemployed getting rations also is entirely to their credit. They were doing something for the good of the community, and were earning their food at the same time, and in this they doubtless had much satisfaction.

The railroad was needed to connect a big iron works with its supply of ore and fuel, and the combination is working well, for it is producing material sadly needed in Russia. Such incidents strengthen the belief that there is plenty of sound health in Russia, and that the real vitality of the people will soon begin to show in a come-back as full of promise as the last six years have been of despair.

HAPPY CHILDREN.

Joy in the tennis courts, glee in the swings, and happiness everywhere, on turning poles, the rings and the slides. That's on the public playground. Omaha has a number of these centers for child recreation in its parks, and there is no good reason why all Nebraska towns with more than fifty families should not do likewise. Many of them do, and whether one visits Gering, at the western end of the state, or Seward in the east, the same wholesome, zestful scene is to be found.

Every village and town should have a playground for younger children, E. C. Lindeman, a specialist in social research, writes in the American City magazine. He sets the minimum space at one-eighth of an acre, with plenty of shade. Towns of 500 and upward, he says, should provide an athletic park suitable for baseball, football, hockey, basket ball and volley ball, for persons above the age of 14. Each village and town should provide an indoor place for winter games. The floor space, he estimates, should be 40 by 60 feet.

But who is going to provide this? People complain of taxes, and all these things cost money. Mr. Lindeman feels that the responsibility of promoting a constructive recreation program for the children of a small town should rest with the school authorities. One teacher would be employed with the thought in mind of utilizing a portion of his or her time in supervision of recreation. A voluntary association is suggested to create sentiment for organized play, to assist in the financing and to provide leadership. Between the public school board, the town government and private subscriptions, he believes such a feature could be maintained without any excessive burden. He gives some figures: After the initial outlay a town of 500 should be able to provide an adequate recreation program for \$500 a year, and \$2,000 for a town of 5,000.

A child develops through play, but there is a better method than to leave the organization of play to gangs and cliques. Introduction of sports in which all engage is an excellent builder of community loyalty and pride. Caste differences disappear in games and all who participate learn to meet and to co-operate on a common basis. Thus a village may be led into larger life by the use of recreation. It is not difficult to train the young to appreciate the old home town if the lighter side of their nature is given wholesome opportunity.

WOMEN IN THE PULPIT.

All over the world, even in the most isolated spots, women missionaries are ministering to the needs of humanity. One of these, Miss Nilsson, who has charge of a great Lutheran hospital in India, is visiting in Omaha today.

There are not so many women, however, who occupy regular pulpits in the churches. Maude Royden, the British preacher who visited America last winter, is an outstanding figure. Mrs. Eddy also was a power. But in the main the business of preaching has been left to men. In the United States today there are only 178 women ministers. Thirty-three of these are in Illinois, 30 in Kansas and 18 in Nebraska. The International Association of Women Preachers, according to an announcement made recently in Chicago, includes three in India, two in China and one in Africa.

In the course of natural development it may be expected that more women will enter the pulpit. Always the sex has been most active in its church work, and it asks even now no special recognition. But the world has a way of seeking out those who fit themselves for high callings and setting them to the task. The woman missionary is a pioneer who is breaking the way for many others who hear the call.

BERRY TIME.

Happy is the man who by dint of foresight is now able to go out into the backyard and pick a dish of raspberries for breakfast. In the cool of the morning, while the dew is yet on the bushes, this is a splendid start on the day.

One must be wideawake to pick berries. It is not a task for day dreamers. A moment of absent-mindedness amid the briars means a scratch that burns. And unless one is on the alert one will miss the choicest fruit of the patch. Nature has done all it could to protect the berry patch from spoliaation. Not only are the thorns designed to keep away intruders, but the finest, blackest berries are hid under the leaves, where only accident or cunning will find them.

A berry bush must be studied from every angle before it can be shorn of its fruit. From one position there may seem to be nothing but green berries to be had. Pass by and look back and the eye will detect a number of luscious, ripe ones. Stand on your head and look up and dozens more concealed in the protecting shade of a leaf will appear.

It requires strategy to pick berries, and that makes the job all the more delightful. Forbidden fruit is always sweetest, and certainly nature has done its best to forbid these being garnered.

The interest in the Wilbur Glenn Voliva libel case is not that he had the bright new penny to pay the fine, but that he could libel anybody.

Joseph Daniels sees a sweeping democratic victory in 1924. But he is out in the mountains of Colorado, where they see lots of strange things.

"Emperor" Simmons says he knows more about the "klan" than any newspaper man does, and he is probably right, at that.

Two hours shorter time to the Pacific coast from Omaha sounds big, but what's two hours on such a journey?

Old Doc Cook may have fooled the court of Denmark, but a federal grand jury was too much for him.

The rainmakers are tuning up again, a date having been announced for the grocers and butchers' picnic.

A rain in time saves lots of misery.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davis

VERSE LIBRE.

Verse Libre, I read thee with pangs of despair,  
I drink of your spirit—I know it is there!  
I read thee for beauty that touches my heart—  
But where is your rhyme and the jewel of art?  
The trees are a-tremble with something you lack,  
The orioles sing with melodious knack,  
The roses are suggestive of rhythm sublime,  
Which isn't amies in the music of rhyme.  
You're really promisc, though beautifully said,  
Your phrases are soulful, your heart—it is dead—  
The heart that is beating in poetry true—  
The rhyme that makes rhythm articulate, too.  
In prose I would put you and treasure you dear,  
And call you poetic and sweetly sincere;  
And sadly regret that you aren't sublime  
Because you are lacking the music of rhyme.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to contribute material for approval on matters of public interest.

A Partisan of Henry Ford.

Lincoln, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In a late paper Charles D. Hillis, national committeeman of New York, is reported as saying: "The election of the presidency of Henry Ford, a mere bag of gold would be bowing down to mammon." This coming from a politician sounds like a huge joke. Are not politicians always hunting for the man with the barrel of money? The average American politician is that they are always chasing the "bag of gold."

Henry Ford is a go-getter. The trouble with New York is that Henry Ford bucked the Wall street crowd and Detroit \$2,000,000 at 4 per cent when Wall street expected to make Detroit pay them 4% for the money. That is where the shoe pinches. Ford is bucking the expectations of the coal barons. He is bucking the railroads, and he is getting ready to buck Gary and his 12-hour-day steel trust and then the 12-hour day will go, and so will some of the steel trust dividends.

Was Harding the choice of the people or the choice of Wall street? What do you think of the result of the Johnson election, Harding's own state? The Johnson name was on the ballot, but 12,753 voters took the trouble to write Johnson's name on their ballots and undoubtedly Johnson was the people's choice for president, but they were cheated out of their choice at the Chicago convention because their man was not "safe and sane."

Harding has been president three years. What has he done for the good of the people? What have all the investigations amounted to? Look what we are paying for sugar; we ought to buy it for 7 cents, but the sugar trust is holding the people up. The president, under the tariff law, has power to suspend the import tax on sugar and let it in free. Has he done so? Oh no, "he's safe and sane." The speculators say it would do any good because the sugar crop is short. That is all humbug. Why didn't he try it and see instead of swinging round the circle just talking about it? Johnson did years ago and probably with like results. Do you any one suppose that Roosevelt would have gone off on "a joy ride" and left the people to be held up on one of the necessities of life, but Roosevelt was not "safe and sane," that was why Mark Hanna objected to him for vice president.

From present appearances there seems to be a "ground swell" for Henry Ford for president. The Wall street crowd can neither intimidate nor buy, and the indications are that generally the people are tired of the present administration and will select approved candidates from any state and see to it that their names go on the ballot, and then they will do the rest in November, 1924.

FRANCIS M. W. PRICE.

The War Debt.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Much argument has arisen concerning the debts of England, France and other allied countries to the United States, and the probability of these countries paying them. Many people think these debts ought to be cancelled, as they will never be paid; while others think these countries ought to be held for their payment. England has at last come through with a proposition for funding their debt, and the government is more energetic in encouraging the payment of a debt due our citizens than those of its own account. At present it is refused and not principle that we should worry about. If these debts can be refunded so that regular payment of interest is possible, the principal will take care of itself.

F. W. B.

Profits of Organization.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Certain parties, with the probable assistance of our ex-braves east and west, are trying to encourage some kind of "Liberty league" for the purpose of amending our laws and constitution, giving the government control over the sale of beer, wine and liquor, and the whiskey business. In my opinion, when the organizers and officials of such a league have secured a sufficient number of members they ought to be able to command at least the salaries and remuneration for being able to throw votes and united strength of such a Boozel league in favor of some light wine and beer candidate in our next presidential election.

I am simply giving a little inside information—if you boys are good organizers, go to it. There is plenty of money and room available for a few more leagues. CITIZEN.

Daily Prayer

I thank God, Whom I serve—II Tim 1:3.  
O God, Whose paternal goodness is unfailingly tender and constant, we unite as a family to yield Thee glad thanks and praise and to invoke upon our home and all its interests Thy gracious and heavenly blessing. Cause us so to realize our utter dependence upon Thee and our profound obligation toward Thee, that we may submit ourselves anew to Thy sovereign sway, live our lives henceforth as in Thine all-searching sight, and consistently show ourselves Thine. Who bring us to Thee at this time all who are in any wise related to our home, and any who may be attempting to live their lives apart from Thee. Suffer none of us to be enticed from the path of simplicity, purity or honor. Keep us from every temptation to pride and avarice, defend us from the seductive snares of vanity and pride, and enable us to serve Thee with such undivided fidelity in this life that in the life to come we may all receive Thine exceeding great reward. And with this prayer for ourselves, we beseech Thee in behalf of those without our neighbors, our friends, and all classes and conditions of men—that it may please Thee to give them likewise of Thy fatherly favor, to further them in all their undertakings and relationships, and to bring them with us long into Thine Heavenly household, where we may praise Thee ever, world without end. Amen.

JOHN BALCOM SHAW, D. D., Editor.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for June, 1923, of  
THE OMAHA BEE  
Daily . . . . . 72,799  
Sunday . . . . . 77,783

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or material not printed and includes no special sales.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.  
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of July, 1923.  
W. M. WEAVER,  
Notary Public.



With about 40 passenger trains a day in and out of the Burlington depot it may seem as if there were too many trains. The Chicago Burlington & Quincy trains did not reach Omaha, for when the editor Edward Roswater, published August 1922, was in Omaha, he had a hope that they would be discontinued.

"AN IMPORTANT EVENT."

"The completion of the railroad bridge across the Missouri river at Plattsmouth marks another important epoch in the history of this commonwealth. Ten years ago the construction of a bridge across the Missouri river was regarded as an engineering problem. Eminent hydraulic engineers had expressed grave doubts as to the feasibility of bridging the treacherous Missouri.

"The Union Pacific bridge at Omaha, constructed under the supervision of Mr. Siskies, one of the most skillful hydraulic engineers in this country, solved the problem. For seven years the Union Pacific bridge has monopolized the railway traffic across the Missouri river. During that period this bridge has earned more than three times the actual cost, and the extortionate toll exacted by its managers has been an embargo on the commercial growth of this city and has served as a barrier to the entrance of the Iowa and Missouri railroads into active competition for the patronage of Omaha on Nebraska soil.

"The completion of the bridge at Plattsmouth will be hailed with supreme satisfaction, not only by the citizens of Omaha, but by the people of the whole state and the entire trans-Missouri country. While we have no assurance as yet that the managers of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy propose to use it for making direct connections between Omaha and the east and south, we do not doubt that the bridge will break the embargo and give Omaha unbroken connection with Chicago and St. Louis. When that day comes the onerous bridge toll now exacted will be reduced, and even if the national legislature does not compel a reduction before that time, but even if no reduction is made by either of the railroads in charge, the Omaha bridge will benefit from more prompt service in the delivery of goods and better accommodation for the parties who control the rival bridges.

foreign governments are more punctual in meeting payments to American citizens than those due the American government, and the government is more energetic in encouraging the payment of a debt due our citizens than those of its own account. At present it is refused and not principle that we should worry about. If these debts can be refunded so that regular payment of interest is possible, the principal will take care of itself.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Praise for Harding.

From the Aurora Register.  
The editor of this paper has never until recently considered Warren G. Harding a great man. We have thought he meant well so far as he could go without giving serious offense to capitalistic influences that gave him his exalted position, but of late he has developed elements of greatness and independence that we did not dream he possessed. He has declared for conscription of wealth as well as men in warfare, and this is something that bids defiance to every profiteer and plutocrat in the country.

Declaring that the world has no need for a loafer, he declares for government regulation of coal mines on the ground that mine operators and the men who struck are equally guilty of treason to their country and are for selfish interests willing to exploit their fellow citizens. This antagonizes both the labor and the wealth trust, proclaiming him an advocate of the interests of the whole rather than any organization or bloc.

Last but by no means least it is impossible for good citizens to read his plea for the enforcement of the liquor laws on moral grounds, placing himself side by side with William J. Bryan in an appeal to those who have stocks of left over liquors to destroy them and preferring law-abiding righteousness to self-indulgence to come up to a higher plane of citizenship. He places those who buy of bootleggers at low and disreputable prices to serve them, but law violators and law nullifiers all look alike to President Harding.

We take off our hat in genuine respect. He may destroy the chances to be president, and then again he may voice growing sentiments in the heart of the American people that will give him the standing Woodrow Wilson might have occupied had he not preached democracy and practiced autocracy, and talked world liberty while he favored an international government by Europeans for Europe.

Radio Religion.

From the Chicago News.  
A somewhat heated discussion is being carried on among ministers as to the effect on the churches of broadcasting sermons and church services. Some say that because of such distribution by radio rural church attendance is being seriously depleted. Some believe that the radio is helpful to the church at large, others that it is detrimental.

The discussion is of a sort that attends every innovation in the work and worship of the church. Sunday schools at first were considered by many a snare of the devil. Indeed, it took the Sunday school 30 years to break down the prejudice that prevailed against it in the church. The question of instrumental music has split church organizations into factions. Stereophones and moving pictures were anathema for a time. Now it is the radio that is accused of grievous sin.

In spite of such opposition, the church has adapted itself to the use of modern methods of preaching and teaching and of modern mechanical means of instruction. The Sunday school has become the life of many church organizations, furnishing about 85 per cent of their increase in membership year by year. Organ and orchestra music, once so despised, are now accepted as inspiring a spirit of worship, while the stereophones and the moving picture carry everywhere the message of missions and of other services for humanity. Inevitably the radio will be accepted as a living voice for the church.

An Appalling Waste.

From the Wyoming State Tribune.  
Eighty-five per cent of the income tax you just paid went to pay the interest and the principal of the debts from past wars, to provide war pensions, and to maintain a fighting machine for war in the future, say statistics supplied by Herbert D. Brown, chief of the United States bureau of efficiency, and announced in Cheyenne

by President Harding. Here is the way every dollar in taxes by the government is spent:  
For the army and navy, 17 cents.  
For pensions, the veterans' bureau, etc., 25 cents.  
For "special" activities pertaining to the recent war" such as war contracts, the settlement with the railroads, etc., 4 cents.  
For interest, 28 cents.  
For retirement of the public debt, 11 cents.  
For the president, congress, the courts, the executive departments, research work, education, public works, and all other civil activities of the government, 15 cents.

The Value of Gravel.

From the Norfolk News.  
Norfolk has had an object lesson this spring in the value of gravel as a road surfacing material. The almost constant rains of the last month or six weeks have kept the dirt roads in a deplorable condition. The downpours followed one another so rapidly that road patrol men were unable to get out on the highways which were often almost impassable for days at a time. During all this time the two short stretches of graveled road were not only passable but in first-class condition. Even the hardest rain failed to affect them. They stood up nobly under the most trying season this section has had in many years.

The demonstration should convince the most obstinate objector to graveled roads, if there are any left in this vicinity. If it has not convinced him it is not open to question. It should open the way for a new bunch of special inspectors to be paid out of the gasoline tax funds. The whole system would be greatly simplified by making the gasoline tax apply to all gasoline sold. It is the frank aim of this special levy to get more money for use on the roads and everybody is concerned about roads.

How Do You Explain It?

Europeans are so disgusted with prohibition in the United States that they try every possible means to avoid our immigration laws and get in.—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.  
The worm will turn, but the particularly mean ones won't turn out and give another chap the road.—Long Beach Telegram.

New Gas Tax Rules.

From the Sioux Falls Press.  
South Dakota's experiences with gasoline tax exemptions seem to prove that the Iowa legislature was right in making the tax apply to all gasoline sold if the system was to be used at all. The exemptions operate for chicanery rather than for equalization, and have been a constant source of trouble under the South Dakota system. Purchasers of gasoline who "stood in" with dealers could get the tank filled without paying the tax by signing a statement certifying that the purchase was made for purpose other than for operating motor vehicles. While one may sympathize with anybody's desire to dodge some of the many varieties of taxes, the favoritism has been unfair to those who told the truth and paid. It's a violation of principles laid down in juvenile text books to penalize honesty and reward dishonesty. State officials suspect that oil dealers "knocked down" occasionally through the aid of exemption slips.

With the recent gasoline tax going into effect in South Dakota on July 2 all purchasers of gasoline must pay the tax at the time of making the purchase. The exemption claims, if any, must be made and executed at that time, attested by the dealer, and forwarded by the purchaser to the state auditor, accompanied by an affidavit

Abe Martin



Mrs. Tilford Moots did not attend 'th' convention at Vincennes as she could' find no one 't' keep her fern. Our idee o' th' unequal distribution o' trouble in this life is 't' have one daughter graduate an' one girl married all in 'th' same June."

supporting the exemption claim. The auditor will issue warrants for the refunds. That lays the basis for special investigations and prosecutions in cases where false affidavits are made. It also makes it impossible for dealers to "cash in" on exemption slips for which no refunds ever were made to purchasers. Incidentally, it should open the way for a new bunch of special inspectors to be paid out of the gasoline tax funds.

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