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SWEETER WATER FLAVORS JUDGMENT.

Improvement clubs are taking up the cause of the city water plant, fearful of the possible effect of the assault that is being made by the personal foes of Senator Howell and the opponents of municipal ownership.

Such an inquiry may be sure will not be neglected by the men who are operating the plant. The proposed investigation to be carried on by those whose enmity to the Metropolitan Utilities district is but thinly veiled under professions of concern for the future will not bring out the facts, nor will it give assurance of protection in days to come.

Mayor Dahlman is also a member of the board of directors of the Municipal Utilities district, and he knows as well as any one what is being done. Therefore his statement that such an inquiry as Commissioner Koutsky suggests will accomplish no good comes with great force.

It will be a long time before the memory of this experience is wiped out, but that is no reason why the misfortune should be made the greater through a covert effort to break down what has been done by means of a partisan inquiry.

"WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY."

"It is an absurd move, and is giving the miners no worry," says John Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, discussing the proposal to use a substitute for anthracite coal.

Mr. Lewis, in his present sense of security overlooks the fact that such changes can be made, and that if he and his associates carry out their expressed intention of stopping the supply of hard coal on Monday next, the changes will have to be made.

Once Mr. Lewis has taught the people the lesson he is bent on pressing home, that life without anthracite is bearable, he will have killed the goose that is now bringing forth many golden eggs to be shared between the operators and the miners.

Changes quite as sweeping and as radical have been made in America in the past. Sometimes the readjustment has not been easy, but it has been found to pay in the end.

KEEP SUGAR BEETS GROWING.

A "comprehensive" investigation into the beet sugar industry is to be made by the tariff commission. Here is one federal inquiry the beet raisers will welcome.

One of these will be whether the farmers in the North Platte valley out in western Nebraska really can compete on even terms with the cheap labor of Cuba, Hawaii and other centers of the cane sugar industry.

Free traders insist that the country would be as well off if no sugar were produced in the United States, save in competition with the foreign product. What would follow the extinction of the sugar industry in the United States has fairly well been indicated by experience since the war.

Michigan, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah and California are the principal sugar producing sections of the United States. Louisiana and Mississippi contribute some cane sugar, but the greater part of the home output is from beets.

We are waiting for some of our cynical friends to note the extension of churches in Omaha with the remark that the additional facilities are needed.

Lord Birkenhead says he sought to praise President Wilson. Maybe we do not understand the English way of saying things.

Cheap fuel will solve a lot of problems.

CANNING INDIAN CUSTOMS.

Much interest is felt in the announcement that Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore is to be director of the Heye Foundation in New York, and to give his time to the collection and preservation of Indian lore, customs and observances.

Extinction of the weaker is an inevitable consequence of the meeting of two cultural streams. The Indians are being caught up into the stronger current of the white man's civilization, and their own is disappearing.

Whatever may or may not be said on that point, the fact is that the cultural progress of the tribes found in America has not been in any sense neglected by men who are qualified to study and preserve the lore.

Dr. Gilmore undoubtedly will add greatly to the intimate knowledge we already have of these people, just as Alice Fletcher made the Omahas a better understood tribe by her work among them.

While "Indian ways" are disappearing before the more virile culture of the white man, the knowledge of it is not being lost, save as far as the Indians themselves lose it, as was the case among the Omahas, when fully half of the "unwritten work" of the tribe's ceremonials was lost by the accidental death of its sole custodian.

BOY SCOUTS BRING HOME GIANT.

A giant 8 feet 3 inches tall, and weighing 359 1/2 pounds, all solid bone and muscle, was brought home by the Boy Scouts from their camp at Camp Gifford. No, it was not all in one piece, but was walking around in the persons of 375 boys, who spent their vacations down on the banks of the river under the bluffs above Bellevue.

Just what does this mean? Mothers know something about it, for they prepare the food that normally goes to fill the hollow legs of the growing boy. Fathers know something of it as well, for they provide the food the boys eat, and they also buy the clothing the lad so soon outgrows.

What does it mean to the world? None can answer this question with exactness, but in a general way it means that sturdy lads are growing up healthy and strong and active, to take the place of the brawny men, who are passing out at the other end of the procession.

And it is much better for all concerned to have that giant's flesh and bone parceled out among 375 boys than to have him stalking around our streets, merely attracting attention because of his bulk.

OREGON TRAIL AND PONY EXPRESS.

That the west is taking more and more interest in preserving the traditions of its earlier days is evidenced by the preparations being made for a celebration of the old Pony-Express days, and by the establishment of an annual Oregon Trail Days festival at Gering.

Gering's celebration this year, August 28, will be only a one day affair, as it will be merely the first effort at establishing the annual festival. But it will be marked by a parade of old-time prairie schooners, the old stage coach, and a reunion of the pioneers of the valley.

While the west is young, as time is measured in the life of nations, its earlier days are now far enough in the past to bring a renewed interest in the preservation of their history and traditions. Present day history in the making will be preserved in motion pictures, but the old pioneer days must be preserved in memory and print.

Paris proposes to make the "five-gallon" hat fashionable. Cheyenne, Albuquerque, Tucson and other points west and southwest will note this with interest.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet— Robert Worthington Davis

BEWILDERMENT.

Gold moon and gilded star— Somnolent brilliancy. Why need I gaze afar When close I can not see? Trees silhouette the sky. The night is weirdly still. Like shadows distant lie The valley and the hill.

The ripple of the stream In rhythmic whisper rise As some ethereal dream Inspired by Paradise.

The galaxy of night Is opened wide to me Why need I scan the height When close I can not see?



Edward Rosow's interest in a permanent exposition for Omaha never flagged. At the time of his death he was discussing with E. Hartman and other men of wealth and influence the project of having the west which the west would be presented in Omaha, yesterday was printed in the editorial after the close of the state fair, August 18, 1923. Here is one he published four years later, on September 25, 1920.

"THE LESSON OF THE FAIR."

"The most successful state fair ever held in Nebraska has drawn to a close. Omaha has every reason to feel proud of the manner in which her citizens have fulfilled their part in the exhibition. The state at large is equally to be congratulated over the fine showing which Nebraska has made of her agricultural, horticultural and stock interests.

Those who questioned the personal advantage exhibiting their goods were soon undeceived. Fully 50,000 visitors crowded the grounds and buildings during the progress of the fair. The value of the advertising thus given to their goods and wares can not be estimated. Thousands of those who were present at the fair as visitors will in the near future be purchasers of the exhibits which they saw for the first time.

The lesson of the fair is already learned by many of our most prominent business men. Omaha must have a permanent exposition. An exhibition the fair just concluded has shown Omaha is amply able to support. There will be no lack of means to carry it out, of exhibitors to fill all the spaces, and of visitors to make it a financial success.

Center Shots Motorists desire the right-of-way for locomotives only once.—Detroit News. The sums demanded in alienation suits must now make a bickering envious.—Boston Traveler. Autos should be tanked up, but not the drivers.—Lansing State Journal. Optimus—Have you heard the latest for job?—Yes, says the man who wants to be president.—Philadelphia Public Ledger. Lady—Would you mind changing this portrait you painted of my husband for a landscape? I'm going to get a divorce.—London Passing Show. All that the hard-boiled egg needs usually is for some two-fisted guy to crack it.—New Orleans Times Picayune. Lady inspecting Stuart house, to agent—Seems to smell very musty. Agent—Slightly, madam, but not more so than is in keeping with the period.—Punch. Gambling in Wheat. Wheat is the greatest gambling commodity in the world. Why, then, should a farmer be a gambler on the outside and three times out of four lose?—Kearney Hub. Daily Prayer God be merciful unto us, and bless us; that Thy way may be known upon earth. Thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: For Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.—Ps. 67: 1-4. Our God and Father, we render Thee our thanks and praise for all the good of this day. New were Thy mercies in the morning, and sweet is Thy love in the evening hour. We bless Thee that Thou hast given us this day our daily bread; that Thou hast not forgotten us even in those self-centered moments when we forgot Thee. And now we pray Thee to watch over and preserve us, body and soul, during the hours of the day and night. May our rest and sleep be sweet to us. May we be brought to this new day refreshed and encouraged for all its duties and privileges, its sorrows and joys. When we come at last to life's evening hour, and the night of death befalls us, may we be able to fall asleep in faith, looking beyond its darkness to the breaking of the eternal day. We all ask in the name and through the merits of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. ROBERT HUGH MORRIS, D. D., Philadelphia, Pa.

"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 on matters of public interest.

Correction. Through a misreading of the manuscript, a communication to The Omaha Bee published yesterday gave an incorrect signature. This letter was by Roy A. Card.

Open Letter to Commissioner Hopkins.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I have sent the following open letter to Commissioner Hopkins: In fairness to the quartermasters of the United States army posts and in fairness to the bakers of Omaha, I will correct some impressions that may have been gained by the public from your announcement that bread was sold at army posts for 4 cents per pound and that Omaha bakers could follow this example.

It is true that bread is sold by the quartermaster at 4 cents per pound, but it is also true that most of the items of usual bakery costs do not enter into the bread sold. The quartermaster pays no bakers' salaries nor helps' salaries; he uses enlisted soldiers for this special duty. They are paid as soldiers. He uses practically no modern machinery to replace hand work. He charges no loss of 22,000 to the cost of producing bread. His fuel is furnished without cost to the bakery. His bread is not wrapped, it is delivered. None of the following expenses enter into his cost of bread: Wrapping supplies, wrappers' salaries, repairs, depreciation, salesmen's salaries, auto truck expense, shipping cartons, transportation of supplies and baked goods, traveler salary and expense, postage, shipping clerks' salaries, advertising, office expense and supplies, office salaries, interest, insurance, taxes, donations and rent.

In addition to these facts, the quartermaster's bread is frankly of a lower grade than the Omaha bakers' bread. The army bread contains no milk. Bakers are the world's largest users of milk today, with the exception of the creamery. The quartermaster uses a cheap grade of standard flour, while bakers use the highest grade of short patent flour. Of the flour mills grind a large part of the flour for the army posts today, so you can verify my statement. As an ex-service man, you can probably remember the bread served you while in the army, and without any criticism a cheap grade of bread, a grudging judge would have no difficulty in choosing between that hand-made wholesome bread and the scientifically made, machine-baked bread sold on the Omaha market today.

In Chicago, today, you will pay 10 cents retail for a pound loaf and 15 cents retail for a pound and a half loaf. There has been no decline in loaf prices in Chicago and, while it is true there is some 6-cent bread in Chicago today, it is not for advertising purposes. It is only a few weeks since there was 5, 5, 2 and 1-cent bread. Finally bread was given away with every purchase of other goods.

Putting Things Over. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Bee: I attended a meeting of an improvement club called for the purpose of discussing the water situation. The action the club was to take had been agreed upon previous to the call. In the discussion reference was made to the "nervous" Commissioner Joseph Koutsky in asking for an investigation of the water situation when he could not efficiently handle the sewer system under his department.

Grand Jury Is Called For. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: There seems to be a general feeling of opinion among the citizens of Omaha that there is something radically wrong with the manner in which the affairs of the Metropolitan Utilities district are conducted. Before his eyes were opened, a faucet was turned on it would seem a fantastic to imagine that a modern city of 200,000 people could be totally without a supply of water, unless such a condition were brought about by a gigantic upheaval of flood, such as an earthquake or during war-time by high explosives.

It has been noted that during a period running back at least 60 days the water supplied by the district has been consistently murky, and to such an extent that bath tub filled with same bore the appearance of being filled with a strong solution of iron rust.

It will also be recalled that during the past several months approximately \$750,000 has been expended by the management of the Metropolitan Utilities district for improvements to the Florence district. Such improvements purporting to be for the purpose of increasing the capacity and improving the quality of the water supply.

In view of these facts, and of the complete breakdown of Omaha's water system, it would appear that someone in authority connected with the Metropolitan Utilities district has either entirely neglected the business of the district or else is totally incompetent to conduct the affairs of same.

It is too early to determine the merits of the new filtering system, but some one in authority certainly completely ignored the public welfare when the installation of the new equipment was allowed to interfere with the sediment basin system which has stood the test of so many years.

The only reason that the present terrible situation has not caused untold suffering and death is the sudden change in the temperature. Thermometers registering from 40 to 70 degrees instead of 80 to 100, of course, at the present writing it is impossible to forecast the extent of the fever epidemic which may follow, although physicians generally agree that such an outbreak is probable.

The citizens of Omaha should take immediate steps to have this matter thoroughly investigated and the affairs of the Metropolitan Utilities district put into such efficient shape that similar conditions will never again arise. Mr. Koutsky's proposal for an investigation by the city council is an excellent one, but falls short of what is really needed. An investigation to really develop the true facts will of necessity have to be conducted by a body of men called together for that single purpose and clothed with authority to compel the attendance of witnesses and the taking of testimony under oath. To really fix the responsibility and make certain a similar situation will never again arise, such an investigation will have to be conducted by a grand jury.

Not in Brookhart's Way. Gibbon, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It is somewhat strange that the republicans of Iowa should have sent to congress a man possessing the socialistic views of Senator Brookhart. The action of the senator in running on the republican ticket can be more easily understood if this country's people are on the ticket offering the best chance of election. But when he makes the statement that the action of the Federal Reserve board caused the farmers of this country a loss of \$2,000,000, it is hard to see how even a socialist could accept such a statement as coming from anyone but a demagogue. The senator disregards the fact that the readjustment following the war was even worse in foreign countries than it was in the United States, also that this country became the dumping ground for food products from other countries because they were worth more here than anywhere else.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for July, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily ..... 72,472 Sunday ..... 75,703

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LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

In initiating a "Buy Wheat" movement Omaha business men are showing a commendable spirit of co-operation. If the movement spreads to sufficient proportions it is possible that it will affect wheat prices enough to afford the farmer temporary relief. It is our opinion, however, that the prices of wheat will raise, if the market is not manipulated by speculators, only when there is a real demand for wheat; when people are buying it to use, not merely to bring the price up.

The "Buy a Bale of Cotton" movement brought higher prices to cotton raisers after the world war and helped them tide through a period of extreme low prices, but a justifiable market price for cotton prevails today only because there is a real demand, because the ultimate consumer is buying the thing produced. The Omaha movement seems to use an artificial means of raising the price, but if it accomplishes its purpose until the conditions of supply and demand have so adjusted themselves to bring about a reasonable price for his wheat, it is indeed a worthy effort. It will be interesting to watch the results of the movement.—Aurora Republican.

The great trouble with the American people is that they are in too much of a hurry to obey the detour signs.—Fairbury News. "They must hinder your work very much," a man said to a mother busy about the kitchen, with a 2-year-old clinging to her skirt. "I'd never get through my work without them," was the instant rejoinder, and in it lay the answer to much of our modern ailment: a commission of hard-worked mothers. It may be hard to carry on the drudgery of daily life with the little ones clamoring around; it is 10 times harder without, for absent the word of something to make it worth while.—Grand Island Independent.

Someone suggests that a child should be named after his mother, instead of his father. The idea has possibly grown from the practice of putting everything in the wife's name.—Grand Island Independent. Saw two young chits in the chow house a few evenings ago soberly pick up their glasses of water, look straight into each other's eyes, clink the glasses and murmur, "Forever." I was pleased to note the revival of the old time manner of convivial pledging. Personally I would rather have the word of a friend given under a glass of wine than the signed bond of any professional uplifter we have ever known.—Clay County Sun.

There is a proposal in the English parliament to provide for alimony for men as well as women where divorce is granted. What's sauce for the goose should also be sauce for the gander.—Kearney Hub. Omaha, Lincoln and Fremont join in requests that the freight rates on farmers' products be lowered. The interstate commerce commission hikes rates in farm states the same day. This shows that the regulation of rates by law does not always produce justice, it making all the difference in the world who lays down the law.—Aurora Register.

Many farmers are putting what wheat they have in bins and are holding out for better prices. This plan might influence Liverpool.—York News-Times. A motorist changes his style of driving after he gets married—he learns to use both hands on the wheel.—Fremont Tribune. Edgar Howard refers to Magnus Johnson as "that sturdy Norseman." The allusion may pass in Nebraska, but we're not so sure about Minnesota, where the line between the

I wondered if Commissioner Koutsky was expected to revolutionize a sewer system that was in the process of building for years previous to his advent into office, about two years ago. I also wondered why Mr. Hunt should be made subject of attack when he was retained in the employ of the water department ever since it was taken over by the city. Was it because said department had need of a man of Mr. Hunt's ability in the line of political activity now complained of?

What sets me, it is chicanery of the above description is so easily and successfully put over by such persons. I. J. C.

Abe Martin



Cliff Mopps, candidate for county commissioner, was kicked by a cow 'day-while bein' photographed in the act of milkin'. The trouble with well stationery, says Miss Blundy Ricketts, "is that we spoil so much before we get started." Norski and Svenski is more closely drawn.—Kearney Hub. Senator Capper says that "diversity of crops" and "orderly marketing" is the solution of our agricultural difficulties. It is evident that the senator never had to deal with a landlord who dictated what should be planted in his land, nor with a banker who insisted that with the harvest time there must be a settlement of obligations.—Clay Center Sun. As the radicals of Chicago said, this is a country of oppression and tyranny, and the marvelous thing about it is the solution of our agricultural difficulties. It is evident that the senator never had to deal with a landlord who dictated what should be planted in his land, nor with a banker who insisted that with the harvest time there must be a settlement of obligations.—Clay Center Sun.

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