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Is the league of nations an edifice of cards, to be overturned and shattered by the first blast from a blusterer? To wonder the small nations in its membership are disgusted.

Those who pinned their faith to the covenant of Versailles for the suppression of war must be shocked by the news that comes from Geneva. There the league of nations stands, uncertain as to how to proceed, facing the threat of a member to withdraw if the league undertakes to proceed according to its own laws and to which that member has assented.

It is my affair, says Mussolini to the league, and I will tolerate no intervention and desire no advice. Greece must kneel under to me, or I will deal with Greece. Justice has nothing to do with the case. My honor, Italy's honor, is insulted, and we must have satisfaction.

Greece, too, is a member of the league of nations, one of the weak members which went in, expecting that the promise of the strong would be made good, and that the helpless would be protected in their rights against the aggression of the powerful.

Greece comes pleading for protection, while Italy blusters, and the council of the league hesitates.

In the presence of a Mussolini, no matter what nation he speaks for, the whole world is confronted with a high duty. Thus far the league has not shown any signs of competency. A madman with a torch among the haystacks and grain ricks is no more of a menace to a farmer's prosperity than is an ambitious politician temporarily clothed with power, and leading his people along the dangerous paths of ambition toward domination over other peoples.

Both must be put under control and restrained from doing evil.

DIM REVIVAL OF A GLOWING PAST.
A pony express is pursuing a more or less zig-zag course over the western half of the continent, giving an imitation of the famous Russell, Majors & Waddell enterprise of 1860.

On the afternoon of April 3 of that year the first rider left St. Joseph at 4 o'clock, his departure having been somewhat delayed by the Hannibal & St. Joe train, which carried the mail from the east. A stage line run from Leavenworth to Denver, operated by the firm that put on the pony express. It could not move the mails fast enough, nor could the lines that run out from Omaha.

So the pony express was started, its aim being to maintain a schedule of 15 miles an hour from the river to the coast. Riders followed the most direct and approved route, and this carried them across southern and western Nebraska. The Platte river was crossed near old Fort Kearney, or about 13 miles from the present city of Kearney.

The North Platte was crossed about where the Union Pacific railroad crosses it today. Julesburg was the important station east of the mountains, Salt Lake on the west, with Sacramento as the end of the ride, the mail from there going on to San Francisco by boat.

Picturesque and magnificent as the enterprise was, it failed to pay, and in August, 1861, Russell, Majors & Waddell had to give it up. Another company kept it going until October of that year, when the express was abandoned, the Atlantic & Pacific telegraph line having provided means for quick communication. The pony express did give a great impetus to the building of the transcontinental railroad, and the Union Pacific was the outcome.

Riders today are going to a lot of places the old timers knew not of, but that is permissible in any advertising stunt. They are not pestered as were the originals, by Indians and the like, but they can note the flight of the mail by airplane, and so understand why the pony lost out.

ANOTHER GAME THE MINERS PLAY.
Note was made a day or so ago of the car-loading contest for muckers at Lead on Labor day. An event even more interesting, and, if possible, practical, competition is just ended at Salt Lake, where teams from mines all over the country tried out their skill as rescue workers and first-aid administrators.

Seems a sort of uncanny game to play at, but knowledge of the ways and means for saving life is very essential to the mining industry these days. It is altogether to the credit of Americans that they have done all that can be done, with invention of apparatus and process, to make mining safe. Man is essentially handicapped when he goes below to wrest from the earth the mineral treasures hidden there. Especially in coal mining is this true, for each blow of the pick, each twist of the drill, sets free gas that is a terrible menace. All miners are subject to the danger of a cave-in or the accidental explosion of the dangerous powders they use, and in many a dark nook or cranny lurks unseen disaster. Death is the constant companion of the miner.

How to outwit death is the great game these men play, day by day, and they become expert at it. In the competition just closed at Salt Lake over 600 miners took part. Highest honors in the meet were captured by a team representing the United Mine Workers of America, from Benton, Ill. This crack team won first in the international mine rescue contest and in the international combination mine rescue and first-aid event as well. The coal miners show they are alive to the importance of knowing that game. A team from the Anaconda copper mine at Great Falls, Mont., was first in the international first-aid contest. A Mexican team, which won first place in the contests held in Mexico, came in for their praise at the general meet.

A lot of interesting and valuable information was brought out at the meeting, all of which will be adopted by the miners. What the big public will note chiefly is that the men are quick to take advantage of methods offered by science for minimizing disaster and saving lives in the mines. Such competitions may not draw crowds, but they are worth a lot to the world at large.

MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF PROVIDENCE.

Even today man does not understand in full the mystery of nature, although he may trace with much accuracy the pathway between effect and cause. Ancient man, less enlightened, saw in earthquake and similar phenomena manifestations of supernatural power. Some of these primeval beliefs still hold, the myths having outlined many centuries of upward climb toward the light. Dwellers around the North sea expect the Kraken at any time, and see in the storms that sweep the Skagerak signs of his malign presence. Venerable Bede's tale of Leviathan matches with another from more ancient sources, of the turtle, on whose back the world rested, and whose movements caused the trouble. Then the Greeks and Romans noted in the earthquakes of their days the struggles of the Titans, pined down by Olympus, Vesuvius, Aetna and other mountains.

Little wonder that the simple-minded Japanese sees in the dreadful happenings around his home the work of Jishin Uwo, earthquake fish, whose writhings shake the solid ground and bring death and destruction to the living. Science makes little headway against these stubbornly clinging myths, for against the material explanations the mind not fitted to deal with higher philosophy accepts the easier method of accounting for the great disaster by ascribing it to a monster.

Men whose faith is well founded, and who see with clear eyes, do not always comprehend what is contained in the event. They find it difficult to accept evil as the inevitable shadow of good, and yet it is. The fire could not warm if it could not also burn; the typhoon and zephyr originate from the same law; earthquakes are but part of the never ceasing work of nature, dreadful though they be. Understood or not, accepted or rejected, the divine order is working out.

NEBRASKA NEEDS THE DAIRY COW.

Minnesota has just been entertaining a group of foreign notables, who visited her state fair and gave especial attention to the dairy display. These men, headed by F. Benzinger of Stockholm, Sweden, general manager of the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery association, are in America to attend the gathering of the international dairymen, invited by President Harding to assemble at Washington on October 2.

The incident is referred to just to remind Nebraskans of what they are missing. This state, possessed of all the natural advantages for a great dairy industry, is about the middle of the list of the states of the union. Farmers have put too much stress on the major grain crops, overlooking the so-called side issues. Now some of them are commencing to realize that the fullest use must be made of the opportunities offered if farming is to be profitable.

Omaha butter makers report that they are paying 45 to 47 cents a pound for butterfat at the present price that compares with 30 to 32 of only a few years ago. Such figures indicate the return that is possible from a dairy herd, properly managed.

Nearly all the corn and a great deal of the hay raised in Nebraska goes out of the state in the form of meat, either dressed or on the hoof. That is the better way of marketing the coarse food raised in the fields. More of it ought to be sent out in the form of butter and cheese. Omaha is the greatest butter producing center in the country, but it does not get all the butterfat needed.

Why not reinforce the few milk cows, who are now doing their best, by some thousands, and turn a little more of the grass, grain and water of Nebraska into the food products that come from milk? Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, all have made it pay, and surely Nebraska will lose nothing by developing another great natural opportunity.

Now the democrats are razzing Coolidge because he is not loose with other people's money. When one remembers how the democrats threw public funds around a few years ago, their astonishment at any lack or reckless lavishness is understandable.

Omaha will be spared the excitement of a wrangle over the Western league pennant, but watch Barney Burch go after them next year.

Birkenhead says England will pay its debts, and wants others to do the same. That is all right as far as we are concerned.

Judge Aldrich should hold on until Brother Charlies gets out of the woods on some other judicial vacancies.

The next time anybody talks to you about the solid earth, just think of Tokio and a few other towns that have felt it shake.

The jealous husband and a six-shooter make a deadly combination, and one the law ought to severely frown upon.

Los Angeles felt the back wash of the great wave that swept Tokio, showing how powerful the disturbance was.

Great Britain is firm for the authority of the league of nations. Mussolini does not think much of either.

Union Pacific shophmen have just been given an increase in pay, another tip on how business is picking up.

The league of nations knows where it stands in Mussolini's books, and that helps a little.

A Chicago professor says the ocean bottom slipped. Something did.

It's all right to dry out the corn, but that doesn't mean to cook it.

What did they ever do about the Ruhr?

Homespun Verse
—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis
THE CONVICT.
Swept by the evil tempests to his gloom;
Behind the bars and freedom does he stand.
Shut in the dingy, isolated room—
A shunned and hated outcast of the land.
Grief-stricken, hapless, hopeless, smileless one—
Eyes sunken from the sordidness and strife,
He has a longing for the beaming sun,
He has a craving for the open life.
Forever cloistered from out-of-doors.
Forever friendship's confidence denied
With changes none, except as he explores
The dungeon where he'll evermore abide.
His home and love and happiness are past;
How cruel the memories of them must seem!
But he will treasure them until the last,
And live because he has the power to dream.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee, Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to send their criticisms and suggestions to the matters of public interest.

Grade-Crossing Perils.

Underwood, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your article in The Omaha Sunday Bee on crossing perils shows they are due to the motorist. You ask how grade crossing accidents be avoided. How would it be to grade out a place near the crossing, so in case a train is approaching a car could turn parallel to the track and have time to stop. Yours for low accidents.
W. R. MCCARTY.

From a Friend of Bob Wallace.

Council Bluffs, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: As a personal friend of the late R. B. Wallace, permit me to thank you for the beautiful editorial appearing in your paper a few days ago headed "Bob Wallace, Apostle of Hope."
Whatever present investigations reveal of complications or irregularities, if there are any in his affairs, that particular editorial and the sentiments it expressed will stand as a fine estimate of him among his friends, and especially his family in which the whole community is deeply interested. I have clipped it out and mailed it to a number of his friends away from here who I know will read it with much pleasure.
JOE W. SMITH.

In Tune With the Infinite God.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Thank you for "Logic of the Night" editorial. God's idea as to have a world of harmony, of peace, of joy, of love that is higher than man's conception of these. You will find the world made up of good and evil, and when you allow the baser instincts to predominate you have a world all out of harmony with God's plan.

The result is that man suffers for disobeying God's wishes and will; in regard to this and being under a natural law, he is being punished. The world ignores this law and goes headlong over the precipice of his own creation. God does not control that one of his desires is not toward God, drawn by the force of his own will, for that headstrong one. No; God recognizes the sovereign rights of that person and so he cannot blame God when he chooses his own path. He reign and controls his own destiny, which is the reason why there are small graves and large ones, small failures and great ones, small parents visited on the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, saith the Lord.

Many men who are doing good in this world hate God and they do things of God as mentioned, turn away or blaspheme against it.
When we flee from God, God is the winner and we are the loser. We get away from Him. "Lo, I am with you always," says Christ to his own. We cannot escape the wrath of God, and we should heed his voice and obey it. The truth that helps us overcome some evil that clings to us and keeps us from victory. Instead we resent the intrusion of criticism, and feel that the teacher is the enemy. He says "Am I become thine enemy because I tell you the truth?" The reason we do not love him is because of the fact that we have hardened by these things and God has burdened us with a soul that we in compassion (God's) can help that one lift the load he carries and hates the shift.
"TEACHER."

Calls for Action.

Grand Island, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Having been a reader of your paper for the last two and one-half years and reading the editorial on the banks of Des Moines, now I just want to express to your readers through your columns a very plain fact. When you take from the wage earner until he has not a cent left back that which he has produced, it is the start of a panic. Our government spends thousands of dollars to send out trained men and women over the country to show people they are raising underfed, undernourished children, that it takes so many calories of food for proper sustenance, but how can a man with a family of five eat on \$18 or \$20 per week and properly feed, clothe and house his little brood? Now our government officials claim they cannot save on the wage earner, they get Mr. Bryan quit the cabinet, so he said, because he could not live on \$1,500 per year; at the same time his farm he was to have paid his help \$30 per month and told them they had ought to save money. Our president gets about \$75,000, and can't save; our senators get \$17,000. Now if we can afford to pay the heads of our government such salaries why not take a little off of each and apply it to the wage earners' stipend.

Instead of giving a half million to about five men, add a little more to the low wage and cut the big ones and then I think you will find a better class of work from the wage earner. They allow \$5,000 a year to presidents' widows, but can scarcely see the widows and orphans of the man who gave his life for us. All our trouble today is we see distress across 3,000 miles of water and let our next door neighbor starve. We cry about people not living up to our constitution and then stand by and see our rights violated by the very servants we have hired to head our government, for if when the railroad rates are so high that the farmer can barely make a profit, less there is something very wrong with the heads of the government or they could soon stop it. Instead of taking up time in discussion, act first and talk afterward.
HOWARD BROWN,
119 North Elm St.

What Do Tax Free Securities Mean?

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Recently there has been not a little discussion of the tax free security, with proposals that laws be enacted to prevent the issuance of any more. Estimates as to the total of this form of security in existence vary, being stated at all the way from \$12,000,000,000 to \$17,000,000,000. In this form an enormous sum of wealth escapes taxation in any way, and lays the burden that much heavier on

Daily Prayer

Pray, lest ye enter into temptation—
Mark 14:38.
O God, our Father and our Mother!
We thank Thee that like a father
pitteth his children, so dost Thou pity
us, and like as a mother comforteth
her children, so Thou wilt comfort us.
We thank Thee for our home, and for
the home that it suggests to us, where
we hope to be forever with Thee,
and with each other. For all the good
things that come to us, we praise
Thee, and in these times of stress, we
may never forget to be grateful to Thee.
Our eyes are closed, for we would
shut everything out, we would be alone
before Thee, for we are dependent upon Thee,
we have nothing in our clasped hands,
nothing with which to buy blessings,
and no weapon O God, wilt Thou keep
us from doing anything to grieve
Thee, and make us all the day eager
to serve Thee in serving others. Help
us, that we shall bring gladness into
human lives, and never sorrow or
pain. We pray for the whole world in
its great need of Thee. God keep us,
and all whom we love.
Heard by
FRANK R. DOBBINS, D. D.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

DEFERRED

Nebraska often has heard of the "crime of '73," and some of the men still here recall what followed Black Friday. It was the failure of the banks, etc. Omaha as all other communities in the country, felt the blow of that calamity. On September 15, 1873, the panic had been felt, and during the night the storm hit the city and set busy on the revival.

"THE PANIC SUBSIDING."

"From the principal money centers of the east comes the cheering intelligence that the great financial crisis of 1873 is now virtually over. Despondency and distrust are disappearing while confidence in the stability of our legitimate enterprises is again being rapidly re-established. "The natural elasticity of the American character, and particularly the conservatism displayed, displayed everywhere by the mercantile classes, have enabled the country to ride through the storm with the greatest financial hurricane of modern times. "While great banking houses succumbed to the shock of the financial earthquake, while vast fortunes were lost, and sound business and stock manipulators, the damage to the mercantile and commercial interest was, after all, comparatively trifling. The banks, technically at least, barred from that of 1873 is especially marked in this particular. "In '57 the failure or suspension of a number of banks, and the loss not only to the depositor but the holder of the bank's notes. The distressing fluctuations and mutations in the banking system has in this respect served as a terrible calamity. Now, the announcement of bank suspensions and bank failures startles nobody. People holding the notes of broken banks feel just as safe after the bank fails as they did before. "Our currency is just as good today as it was 60 days ago. The national banking system has in this respect proved a national blessing. At the same time the present crisis has also uncovered the weak spots in the national banking system. "The depositor in a national bank, ought, by rights, be just as well protected as the holder of a national bank note. It is to be hoped that the lesson learned will not be lost in this respect. Like the epidemic, the financial epidemic has traveled across the continent from east to west. The disease traveled only at the ordinary speed of the horse, while the financial epidemic traveled by telegraph. "We all remember that horses possessed of a sound constitution are able to resist the disease, and escaped comparatively unharmed. The financial epidemic struck Omaha on her westward march simultaneously with other cities in the Missouri valley. While every one of her rivals and competitors succumbed to the shock, Omaha faced the storm with comparative equanimity. While the banks of Des Moines, Davenport, Kansas City, Leavenworth, Chicago and St. Louis were prostrated by the terrible shock, the Omaha banks bravely faced the onset of the panic stricken and passed safely through the trying ordeal. Now, that the panic is over, Omaha may be congratulated upon the fact that this great financial epidemic has left not a single wreck behind. With confidence restored at home and abroad, Omaha will soon resume her onward march toward a promising destiny.

wealth that is reached by the revenue collector. A writer in a financial paper sets out that investors are continually withdrawing from the market for even high interest bonds and are seeking the tax free bonds for investment, preferring to accept a smaller income, feeling that while their gross return is less, any deficit is accounted for by not having to pay taxes on a greater sum. The ethical aspect of this hardly calls for discussion; men who so willfully seek to evade the duty of all good citizens to support the government of their country, whose existence means so much to them, are beyond the reach of mere ethical considerations. Approval of the transaction might deserve some examination. A 5 per cent bond is passed by for one paying but 3 per cent, as the latter is tax free. A dollar invested in the first bond will return 5 cents to the investor, on which the normal income tax is 4 per cent, or .02 cents. On the 3 per cent bond he gets 3 cents for each dollar, but pays no tax. His income is 2 cents less minus the tax, or a net loss of 1.8 cents on the dollar to the investor and .002 cents to the government.

When we get up into the high brackets of the income tax law, this factor varies, of course, and the net loss to those who hold millions of securities perhaps disappears, but the ordinary investor cannot get away from it as one must hold around a million dollars to work the difference to be affected by the difference in rate. Whether congress can make a retroactive law that will dispose of the exemption on all bonds is doubtful. States are not allowed to tax federal securities, and in return the federal government relieves state securities from the tax. But none invested in tax free, and the normal rate of tax were applied to all, the federal government and the investor alike would gain. A dollar invested in the first bond will return 5 cents to the investor, on which the normal income tax is 4 per cent, or .02 cents. On the 3 per cent bond he gets 3 cents for each dollar, but pays no tax. His income is 2 cents less minus the tax, or a net loss of 1.8 cents on the dollar to the investor and .002 cents to the government.

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NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION
for August, 1923, of
THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 72,114
Sunday 75,138

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in handling and includes no special sales.
B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Ch. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of September, 1923.
(Seal)
W. H. QUIVEY,
Notary Public

"From State and Nation"
—Editorials from Other Newspapers

If Wool and Wages, Why Not Wheat?
From the Minneapolis Journal.

Is it such a vicious proposal, after all, to fix a wheat price when one recalls some of the other classes that have already been favored by government intervention?

There are, for example, the various beneficiaries of the tariff—the men who make wool goods and metal products and all manner of manufactured articles. The government has intervened in their behalf so that they may get good prices for what they make. Why not the farmer, too? It is true there are tariffs on wheat and other farm products, but they are mere gestures—they accomplish nothing, because the farmers raise a surplus that must be sold abroad in competition with the world.

And there are other classes in whose behalf the government intervenes. There are the rail workers, for instance, whose wages are to be maintained artificially at a wage level, by assent or decree of federal quasi-judicial boards. If wages are to be fixed for rail workers, why should not prices be fixed for grain, cotton and other crops? Is the economic law to run for the tillers of the land, and to be abrogated for those who operate the trains that haul their crops to market?

Having gone extensively into the privileged class business, the government is now besought to undertake a huge florid enterprise that will raise the wheat grower to a better economic status. The demand is not without its logical basis. And after this has been done, what then? Other classes clamoring for preferential treatment, of course, and the end not to be foretold.

Petty Paternalism.

From the Vancouver Sun.
While the Canadian parliament had the good sense to recant on the absurd proposition that comment on horse races should be barred from newspapers, Ontario still suffers from such a law, which came not from Ottawa, but was self-inflicted.

Since it is a crime under this Ontario law to display any newspaper containing such racing news, nearly every newspaper outside of Ontario, is, technically at least, barred from the news stands.

If a man traveling in Winnipeg sends his wife a Winnipeg paper which happens to contain racing news, and his wife runs to the bank fence to show her neighbor a new dress pattern in it, she is guilty under this law and subject to a fine of \$500 or six months imprisonment.

Petty paternalism of this kind is prevalent in the United States, but should not be allowed to develop in Canada.

Most of these silly prohibitive laws are as nonsensical as this one which says, in effect, "You may race, if you like, but you must not talk about it." If we are not competent to choose our reading matter, we are not competent to choose legislators to choose it for us.

Selective Immigration.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.
Secretary of Labor Davis, back from Europe, where for several weeks he has been studying conditions with reference to immigration, believes that unless America can Americanize the alien, the alien will alienate America.

Congress will be presented by Mr. Davis with a tabulation of his findings and conclusions. Chief among his recommendations will be the suggestion of a really selective immigration based on consular examination by agents of the immigration service at consulates abroad, the enrollment of all immigrants upon reaching America, a close surveillance of them to determine whether they can and will merge into American traditions and customs, and the fixing of a five-year probation.

The ethical aspect of this hardly calls for discussion; men who so willfully seek to evade the duty of all good citizens to support the government of their country, whose existence means so much to them, are beyond the reach of mere ethical considerations. Approval of the transaction might deserve some examination. A 5 per cent bond is passed by for one paying but 3 per cent, as the latter is tax free. A dollar invested in the first bond will return 5 cents to the investor, on which the normal income tax is 4 per cent, or .02 cents. On the 3 per cent bond he gets 3 cents for each dollar, but pays no tax. His income is 2 cents less minus the tax, or a net loss of 1.8 cents on the dollar to the investor and .002 cents to the government.

When we get up into the high brackets of the income tax law, this factor varies, of course, and the net loss to those who hold millions of securities perhaps disappears, but the ordinary investor cannot get away from it as one must hold around a million dollars to work the difference to be affected by the difference in rate. Whether congress can make a retroactive law that will dispose of the exemption on all bonds is doubtful. States are not allowed to tax federal securities, and in return the federal government relieves state securities from the tax. But none invested in tax free, and the normal rate of tax were applied to all, the federal government and the investor alike would gain. A dollar invested in the first bond will return 5 cents to the investor, on which the normal income tax is 4 per cent, or .02 cents. On the 3 per cent bond he gets 3 cents for each dollar, but pays no tax. His income is 2 cents less minus the tax, or a net loss of 1.8 cents on the dollar to the investor and .002 cents to the government.

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