

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY
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Consent is reluctantly given by France to a reparations inquiry by a group of experts to determine Germany's ability to pay, although with a proviso that may not measure entirely up to the Hughes plan. This is, however, a detail; the important fact is that what is regarded at Washington as a definite opening has been presented. Secretary Hughes says that America will sit in a conference, but not one at which there will be empty seats. This means that if the gathering is held to consult on German affairs, all interested parties will be there if the United States is in attendance.

England, France, Italy and Belgium have agreed, according to reports from London and Paris, to the appointment of a commission of experts, under control of the allied commission, to make the examination, and determine not only what is due from Germany, but what Germany can pay. On this commission they ask the United States to take a place. The conditions very nearly meet the requirements of the Hughes proposal for a full inquiry, and probably will lead to the matter being taken up for final adjustment.

One point made by Secretary Hughes is apparently accepted by France after much deliberation. It is that there will be no talk of cutting down indebtedness until the reparations matters is out of the way. The two can not, from the American point of view, be considered together or as related one to the other. Payment of indemnity is one thing; and payment of debts is quite another.

Poincare has been brought to realize what was plain to all long ago, that his policy holds as much danger to France as it does to Germany, and is a menace to the peace of the world as well. An industrially crippled Germany not only could not pay France and Belgium any sum demanded, but could not sustain itself, and consequently the breakdown that followed on the occupation of the Ruhr has been reflected in the industrial situation in all countries. France has expended a huge sum in a vain effort, thinly veiling behind a demand for reparation payments a determination to break Germany into fragments. The chaos that resulted was inevitable, and now the powers face the job of putting the German people on their feet once more.

Agreement as to the proper method for proceeding is about to be reached. America will be present only on the definite basis laid down in the Hughes proposal, made in April last, and which has for its purpose reaching an understanding as to fundaments, without which there can be no settlement on anything. Poincare rejected the offer then, for he was determined to try his own plan first. He could oppress, and did oppress the German people, and with no advantage to France. Instead of improving the defenses of his country, he has only emphasized his weakness. A world has waited, somewhat impatiently, for the premier of France, almost a dictator, to reach a conclusion that has been forced on him, yet was foreseen by all other statesmen. Now that he has come to that conclusion, it is to be hoped that he will not allow petty considerations to turn him away again.

France has quite as much at stake as has Germany, and the world is deeply interested in both. Unless they are restored to order, with the menace of militarism removed, and industry set moving along right lines the whole scheme of things will be deranged. The United States is ready to help in this; so are other nations, and France must not delay the settlement any longer.

GOOD GOVERNMENT WILL WIN.

Governor Walton's plea for order in Oklahoma comes a little belated. Conditions that have developed in his state are the very negation of constitutional government and established authority. Inquiry as to the parties or causes responsible for the situation may well be set aside for the moment, but can not be wholly neglected. Plenty of blame may be put on the governor, and as much on those who are opposed to him.

It will not do entirely to ascribe the trouble to the presence of the klan in Oklahoma, although this had much to do with the troubles that beset the state. Mob demonstrations disturbed the peace and spread terror, and the governor undertook to check these by a series of spectacular counter-demonstrations. Behind that is a far graver cause for the uneasiness that is finding expression in the session of the legislature which has returned a steadily growing list of indictments against the executive in proceedings to impeach and remove him from office.

Oklahoma politics have had a decidedly hectic hue for many years. Under Governor Robertson, who preceded Walton, several unsavory scandals developed in connection with the management of the state funds, and one of these led to an assault on the governor by a district attorney. The personal probity of the executive was assailed, and his administration ended in a cloud, Walton fell heir to this, and to other sources of difficulty and perplexity. Almost immediately after his election he was accused of having repudiated pre-election pledges and taking up with a faction that was opposed to what he had originally promised.

Good citizens outnumber the bad in Oklahoma, just as they do everywhere, and it is reasonable to expect that they will come to the front and rescue their state from the clutches of those who have brought it into such unpleasant notoriety. The governor's case is now going before the courts of his state, and its outcome will depend on judicial determination. In the end right will prevail, as it always has, and the good people of Oklahoma will enjoy the full benefits of self-government, from a perversion of which they now seem to be suffering.

Drawing apart from all arguments, one way or the other, "100 per cent Americanism" does not hide under a nightgown and hood, but stands out in the open. Moreover, it realizes that neither race nor creed has any monopoly on patriotism.

BRING THE CULPRIT TO LIGHT.

Further disclosures about the muddy water inquiry are of great interest, especially that which Engineer Prince made regarding the need of greater storage of water. This is not a novelty, but the public will read with concern that efforts made by General Manager Howell to secure a site for an additional reservoir had been blocked in at least three instances. Along with this Mr. Prince made the point that is not to be minimized, that the pump allowed to be worn out and useless performed very well in the emergency.

These two salients in the testimony of the consulting engineer can not fail to strike home in the minds of the citizens. Placed alongside, the stories told by other witnesses, they make up a most striking story, the sequel to which is not in sight. No amount of evasive testimony can overcome the unescapable conclusion that a colossal blunder was made by some one in authority at the pumping plant. Failure to wash the big settling basins, a vital process in the furnishing of water, has its bearing on the events that led up to the catastrophe. Neglect of a huge pumpage loss, which must have shown on the daily records at the station, is another, and other things that should have warned a trained and capable engineer are disclosed in the general story of what went on during June, July and August, preceding the mud bath the city got.

On top of this is the culminating incident of the open mud valve, and a decrepit and worn out pump set to fill a great basin against the onrushing stream of waste water that "sounded like a young Niagara." Everybody agrees that valve did not just pop open; it was not in any way automatic, and it was so situated that somebody had a lot of trouble in getting it open. But it was open at a most critical time, when the welfare and comfort of all the citizens of Omaha were in danger because of a deficient and polluted water supply.

Who opened that valve? Until this question is answered the inquiry will not have been complete. It now seems as if it were a question for the courts to settle, through the extraordinary powers of a grand jury. If to threaten an individual with a deadly weapon is a crime, surely to threaten 200,000 people through a scanty and diseased water supply ought to be considered an act worthy of punishment. Some one is just now worrying in fear of being discovered. He should be brought out into the open, that he may face his crime, and receive a punishment that meets the serious nature of his action.

IT'S A LONG TIME TILL JUNE.

Eastern sagamores now accept the candidacy of Gifford Pinchot as a factor to be reckoned with. This rests on the precedent set in Pennsylvania of allowing the governor to dispose of the state's vote in the national convention, more as a mark of local confidence in the governor than an expression of determination to secure his nomination. Whether or not the Pinchot aspirations will go further must be developed by the passage of time. The presence of the energetic governor, who is an open champion of progressive policies, will be interesting to all.

This is particularly true because of Hiram Johnson's avowed purpose of running. Johnson was the second name on the ticket when the bull moose movement split the republican party in 1912. Pinchot was then a most enthusiastic follower of Roosevelt, and naturally gave his support to Johnson as well. Nothing in this can be construed to debar him from entering the lists as a candidate for first place, but from the standpoint of expediency, it would seem unwise to divide the strength of the progressives between two such champions. Neither Johnson nor Pinchot yields easily, having once made up his mind, and if a contest does come up between them, it probably will be to the finish.

So far as that will affect the chances of Coolidge, little can now be actually said. A natural conclusion is that Mr. Coolidge will be a strong candidate, his entire prospect resting largely on what may happen between now and June. His course with congress may turn the entire situation, and either make him so popular as to do away with all other candidates, or it may have the opposite effect and eliminate him. What is especially noteworthy just now is that most folks seem to be keeping their minds open, and their eyes and ears as well. Voters are from Missouri, and require to be shown.

Jan Smuts is giving Europe good advice when he tells the statesmen over there to quit their foolishness and get down to business. His invitation to Americans to horn in, however, falls on deaf ears. He is not talking to us.

Henry Ford's supporters do not seem to be discouraged by the indifference of their champion, probably because they realize what it may mean to them if they only can get him interested.

Seems that the contractors for government hospital buildings took a long time to find out that the war was over.

Colonel Harvey's first speech in England got a great deal more of attention than will be paid to his swan song.

Iowa's decision on the bus question will be worth watching, for Nebraska has some interest in the situation.

Governor Walton got away to a good start, but he is making a mighty lame finish.

Provisions of the treaty of Versailles bother nobody.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis
THE BEGINNING.
You'll find the beginning a struggle, you'll shiver and vision our gloom,
You'll think you are lost and you'll shudder to meet the extent of your gloom,
You'll long for a lift from another and pray to be freed of your strife,
And facing the gruesome of failure, you sigh in the morning of life.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials 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.

Explains Red Cross.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In answer to the article appearing in one of the Omaha papers concerning the resolution presented by several members of the Saunders County chapter of the American Red Cross, in which certain statements were made concerning Red Cross activities, I am glad to say that it is very unfortunate that publicity should have been given to the resolution introduced by these members, first, because the resolution itself was not presented to the Red Cross, and not even seriously considered by any of the delegates in attendance at the regional conference.

Some indirect charges were made of oversteering of Red Cross with governmental activities. Investigation will show that such a charge is absolutely unfounded and unwarranted, as the work carried on by the Red Cross is in co-operation with, rather than acting in place of, the government. Furthermore, I believe that if investigation is made by the introducers of this resolution, and the members of the Red Cross to which they referred to was a combined report of all the chapters of the entire United States and represented the activities of all chapters in all their various branches of activity. This resolution which was introduced also took exception to the peace-time program of the Red Cross, the contention being that the activities of the Red Cross should be limited to the emergency and should not be taken up with the Red Cross but should be handled by local taxation. In this respect the Red Cross is merely acting as an agent of the people of the community and the necessity of such a program and continuing with the program until such time as it is proven to be of no value to the community, that is, a valuable asset and then assumed by the community or county by means of local taxation.

It should be born in mind that the Red Cross is a semi-governmental agency, chartered by congress, directly responsible to the government and the member of the Red Cross is not a member of the Red Cross, but a member of the community, and it is the duty of the community to take up with the Red Cross but should be handled by local taxation. In this respect the Red Cross is merely acting as an agent of the people of the community and the necessity of such a program and continuing with the program until such time as it is proven to be of no value to the community, that is, a valuable asset and then assumed by the community or county by means of local taxation.

Saving the Suckers.

In the proceedings now under way in Fort Worth, Tex., against alleged oil stock frauds, two notable figures are to be seen: Frederick A. Cook, Arctic explorer, as defendant and Joseph W. Bailey, former senator, his lawyer. Both are men of considerable eminence in the public eye. Both fell and have more or less remained under a cloud for years. Armed with gum drops, Cook sailed forth, and Bailey, who was a member of the senate, in spite of the kiss of the king of Denmark as a mark of appreciation of Cook, Admiral Peary delivered the coup de grace to the voracious "discoverer of the North Pole." In the height of his career in the senate, Bailey's stock tumbled to zero when he was accused of accepting money from the Standard Oil company.

But the government in its zeal to put a stop to swindling is taking no more account of the fact that the oil in Texas has furnished a fruitful field for the Get-Rich-Quick Wallingfords, and the hardest and most dramatic battle is now on against alleged swindlers and racketeers. It is only one of those who have been caught in the net. Twenty others are charged with similar offenses. These are said to have been his associates in the company. Every effort is being made to get the prospective buyers to be on their guard against the swindler and his wiles. It is to be hoped that the government will be limited as much as is in its power.

Raising Children.

President Coolidge's request that the schoolboys be allowed to pursue their education without so much of the disturbing glare of publicity, commands respect for its common sense. It is a commendable suggestion, and as an example to other parents in the manner in which the president and his wife have met what is the chief problem of all parents. When it is a question of raising children, the father's accession to the presidency, that one of the Coolidge boys was working in a Connecticut valley tobacco field, the other being at Camp Detrick, and the third, who is now "Most men will say that Coolidge is going at it the right way; but how many of them have got the nerve to do it themselves? The real happiness of a large portion of the next generation depends precisely on the question whether parents "have the nerve" to deal with a problem which is as old as the race, but which has been intensified and complicated by the automobile, the movies and a hundred other facts of these changed times. It is to be hoped that the parents in comfortable circumstances—the more comfortable the more "nerve"—to insist upon the performance by their children of daily tasks which might more easily be done for them? It takes "nerve" to see that a boy tastes the pride of having shared in the home manufacture of a playing or useful implement as well as the pride of having had it bought downtown. It takes "nerve" to curb the soft abuse of modern luxuries, while at the same time keeping the child's mind on the things that lead to fellowship with childhood and to a natural, healthy desire for enjoyment and adventure. Upon the question "How many parents have got the nerve" depends more than is easily expressed.

Following President Wilson.

President Wilson refused to enforce that provision of the Jones merchant marine act which calls for the abrogation of 30-old commercial treaties in order that tariff taxes might be reduced 10 per cent on imports carried by American ships. He refused because he knew that retaliatory measures by foreign nations would be provoked to the incalculable injury of American industry and commerce, and that the president of the United States would be setting himself above the law.

Now President Coolidge also refuses and sets himself above the law. He follows President Harding, who as a candidate said he would obey the order of congress and as president found it inexpedient to do so. Republicanism is preserved, but the president Coolidge have followed the same course. But it was not so dictated. It was passed by congress in response to the pressure of the shipping lobby.

Daily Prayer

And make confession unto Him.—Josh. 7:19.
Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for keeping guard over us during the night. We laid us down and slept, we awakened because Thou didst sustain us. Thou hast opened up to us the gateway of this new day and set before us open doors of fresh opportunity and privilege. As we go forth to our duties let us remember, my prayer, Thy presence go with us. Strengthen us in our weakness, guide us in our ignorance, and inspire us both to will and to do according to Thy good pleasure. Enable us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto Thee, which is our reasonable service. We commend our souls to Thy hands, O God, and beseech Thee that Thy Spirit may so control their hearts and guide their lives as to save them from forgetfulness of Thee, and from the influence of Thy claims. Remember those in authority over us. Put Thy fear in their hearts, that they may faithfully discharge their respective duties. May Thy Spirit rest upon our people, causing us to lead peaceable, quiet and orderly lives. Hasten the triumphs of Thy Kingdom, until all hearts shall be brought under the rule of Christ, and the whole family of man shall constitute a brotherhood bound together by the bond of Christian love. These blessings we ask, with the forgiveness of our sins, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION

for September, 1923, of THE OMAHA BEE
Daily ..... 72,518
Sunday ..... 75,942

Does not include returns, left over, samples or 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 27th day of October, 1923.
W. H. QUINCY,
Notary Public.



What have you seen? Are you ever attracted by the voice of the world of nature which surrounds you? The Omaha Bee's observations from our readers on observations of nature.

A TRUE STORY.

JIMMIE, THE TOAD. Jimmie was a wise little toad. Every evening during the summer after dinner the family, consisting of three members, would sit at the dining table. Presley Jimmie, a fat little toad, would come hopping along. It was the season for lightning bugs and they were plentiful in this section of the country. As soon as Jimmie got near to the bench he would open wide his mouth ready for his treat, which was nothing more or less than lightning bugs. And he was insatiable in his demands. After he had swallowed several alive, you could see them light up in his stomach through the thin walls of his skin on either side of his body. One evening Jimmie was out for his night for six weeks, and then no more. Perhaps his death was caused by eating too many lightning bugs.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from Other Newspapers—
Legislation by and for special interests which will obviously be disastrous to all other interests cannot expect the backing of public sentiment or ready enforcement, and congress will have to take notice of the fact.

Armless South America.

In the midst of the loud alarms which are being constantly sounded over the probability of new wars, and the necessity of preparing against them, it is interesting to be reminded that there is a whole continent full of nations which together do not possess battalions enough to carry on ordinary battle maneuvers, and whose armies are powerless against the continent. The continent is South America, which has several large and important republics, with long seacoasts, and which might be considered as subject to the usual basis of war.

Agustin Edwards of Chile calls attention to this situation in an article published in Our World. There is more accessible sea coast in South America than upon any other continent. There are great seacoast cities which could easily be destroyed by a few battleships. If any nation should need warships it would seem that Brazil and Chile and Argentina do. And yet these three great republics have between them only five battleships of the prewar type.

These republics are, of course, as helpless as the rest of the world in their military and naval possessions would seem to indicate, for they are in a measure under the protection of the Monroe doctrine. The Monroe doctrine gives them a measure of protection. It remains true, however, that their chief defense is in the fact that they do not assume that there is any necessity for defense. They mind their own concerns and do not think in terms of war and imperialism.

Red Million and a Half.

The committee on citizenship of the American Bar association estimates that there are in our country 1,500,000 reds.

One and a half million radicals, all of whom are red-headed anarchists, communists, bolsheviks and socialistic college professors. These figures are based on detailed returns from the secret service department and include the I. W. W. and all other organizations of the same kind. It is estimated that \$2,000,000 was spent last year on radical propaganda, and that 5,000,000 red radical newspapers and magazines.

The radical movement in our country will have to be checked by the common sense and patriotism of the masses of the people and by better enforcement of all laws.

Speaking of Waste.

The millions which Henry Ford appears to believe are "wasted" annually in tobacco smoke are probably inconceivable beside the amount that poor people, who can ill afford the outlay, have invested to propel the country's flippers so enthusiastically crowded on the multitude by Henry Ford—whose "35 down and 35 a week" proposal has us the look of about anything but the assistance of wise domestic economy among the comparatively poor. If any other man has done more to invest in reckless extravagance in America than Henry Ford, we await suggestions as to his identity.

Something to Ponder Over.

Either we will maintain a government of law or we will have no government worthy of the name. If the latter state of affairs were brought about there would be happiness for none. There would be no property rights in anything, not in possession, not in production, not in power to ponder. Nor would there be freedom of any kind. This for the "reds" to reflect upon. The constitution must be preserved through respect for and obedience to its every provision.

Where Prohibition Pays.

Ohio's prohibition director asserts that bootleggers produce much revenue for the state. The same argument for the old-fashioned saloons used to be frowned upon severely.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Yelps Aren't Votes.

Those light wine and beer fellows who say a majority of voters want to loosen up the Volstead law would be surprised if it came to a vote. The yelping of one coyote can sound like a herd.—Portland Oregonian.

Vice President Baldwin, Burlington Railroad, Replies to Senator Norris

I have just read the lengthy article of Senator Norris in your issue of Friday 19th inst., written as a reply to my article in your issue of 11th inst. In answer to the original article of date September 23d.

Many of the statements of Senator Norris in his reply are extremely vague and general in their character, such as the experiences of a supposed hay farmer in northern Nebraska, without date or name or rates or dates, or even the showing of an alleged supposed true shipment from Florida to New York without names or dates or amounts or rates; and two carloads of lambs from some unnamed western point with no date or rates, and coal shipments without places or dates or rates or anything upon which to base an inquiry. Is that a fair statement of the facts? If the senator would give names and rates, and dates and amounts, so that there was an opportunity to make inquiry I feel willing to express an opinion that the facts would disclose that excessive freight rates were not, in any instance, the cause of the losses. If the senator has any other information he has imposed upon, take the specific case of his unnamed "man in northern Nebraska," with a hay rack, and the name and date and point of shipment, the story is that "Two years ago (October, 1921), he cut his hay and stacked it and it remained in stack until it rotted. In the Kansas price market it had been the same as the year before he had been able to have shipped the hay and made a little money. Freight alone was the cause of a total loss of his labor and the income from his ranch." Now, what are facts?

From the Omaha Bee, October 23, 1923. In the Kansas price market for 1921, freight alone was the cause of a total loss of his labor and the income from his ranch." Now, what are facts? In the Kansas price market for 1921, freight alone was the cause of a total loss of his labor and the income from his ranch." Now, what are facts? In the Kansas price market for 1921, freight alone was the cause of a total loss of his labor and the income from his ranch." Now, what are facts?

One broad universal reason is that business the world over is suffering from the depression in prices in 1920. It started in Japan and spread everywhere. The packers of Chicago lost over \$60,000,000. Every man with a large stock of goods in his warehouse shrank to half its market value, and many were ruined. Freight rates had nothing to do with it. It was the reaction of the world's economy after our civil war; it happens after all wars.

Many farmers had bought livestock and land at the inflated war prices, and borrowed money to make partial payments, and suffered from the drop in price the same as the packer and shoe dealer, but suffered more if his bank pressed him for payment. Other small farmers bought automobiles on the installment plan before the war, and were pinched because their automobiles were not worth that amount.

Take wheat prices. In September, 1923, our exports of grain were only \$33,000,000, compared with the same period of September, 1922. For nine months of 1923 such exports were only \$25,000,000, a sheer decline of \$10,000,000 compared with the same period of 1922. Any farmer knows that such a falling off in demand affects the price many times as much as the freight rates. Our stock market in freight rates would stimulate the foreign demand for his wheat, and the foreign demand makes his price.

I say that freight rates have caused the troubles of the war or the troubles of the western farmer is to state an absurdity. It is a pure invention of the senator. Our stock market in politics only, and to divert the farmer's attention from the facts. Not one farmer in a thousand would admit that he has lost money under a law which changes if some politician did not suggest it to him. He knows that the freight rates are made by the Interstate Commerce Commission, which represents him honestly and faithfully. He knows that good service is the all important thing to him, and that he cannot expect good service unless the rates fixed by the commission permit the company to pay its expenses and make a reasonable return upon the investment, and the commission is the best judge of that.

No more misleading idea was ever spread among western farmers than the idea that their losses are due to excessive freight rates. The senator is badly mistaken as to freight rates, and is to be commiserated compared with his lack of correct information by the Burlington company to its stockholders is this: "For the three years before the war the Burlington company made an average dividend of 8 per cent. The war began in 1914 and the dividend declared in 1912 was 8 per cent; in 1913 it was 8 per cent, and in 1914 it was 8 per cent. Why further Senator Norris say it was 22 per cent for the three years before the war? For the time that the government had this great railroad it paid to the stockholders annually 22 per cent on their stock holdings." The government took possession January 1, 1918, and relinquished possession March 1, 1920, a period of 28 months. The dividend in 1918 was 8 per cent; in 1919 it was 8 per cent; and in 1920 it was 8 per cent. 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