

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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STILL GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN.

Ever and anon we are served with the information, piping hot, that Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the big chief of organized baseball, is about to get it where Cora displayed her beads. But before we who have tears to shed are given opportunity to shed them, along comes the news that Judge Landis is still the big chief, with those who would oppose him again eating out of his hand and purring with contentment.

A virile and appealing character is Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis. Born, as his given name would indicate, at a time when the country was suffering the storm and stress of civil warfare, he has been living the turbulent life. There is nothing of the pacifist about Judge Landis. It may be that he is averse to starting a scrap, but once started anywhere in his vicinity and offering him any excuse whatsoever to get into it, he is right in the middle of the melee and rejoicingly taking a most active part. As federal judge he may have been at times spectacular, but all the time he was showing that he was on the side of the people. His \$29,000,000 fine assessed against Standard Oil did not stick, but that was the fault of neither Judge Landis nor the law and the evidence upon which he based the penalty.

When organized baseball was in danger of going to wreck upon the rocks of public suspicion, after the expose of the Black Sox conspiracy to throw championship games, it was to Judge Landis that it turned and called upon for help. A devotee of the game, and knowing it from the inside out, and a passionate lover of cleanliness and honesty in sports, Judge Landis accepted a position that practically made him the czar of the baseball world.

There is no disputing the fact that it was Judge Landis, because of the confidence the great sport loving public had in his honesty and fairness and executive ability, who restored the game to public confidence and made organized baseball as strong as ever in the affections of the people. Naturally there arose those in the circles of organized baseballdom who grew jealous of his authority and his popularity. But just about the time such as these think they have perfected the combination that will humble them, they discover that they are grievously mistaken. And a mighty good thing for the game that such is the case. The stench of that gambling conspiracy has not yet entirely dissipated, and every time there comes an effort to humble the man who saved the game there arises a suspicion in the minds of the fans who have not yet forgotten.

It is quite true that Judge Landis draws a big salary for being the court of last resort in the world of organized baseball. But it is equally true that he is worth every dollar of it because he has the confidence of the people who make the game profitable. Judge Landis has had some tough fights on his hands since he took up the duties of his present position, but to date he has given ample evidence that he is the worthy son of the sire who was among the blue-clad soldiers who swept up the sides of the mountain for whom that son was named, fought and won the battle among the clouds and set Old Glory floating from its summit.

The baseball Mahomet will continue for some time to come to go to the Mountain.

JAZZING UP THE BIBLE.

There is no more intent to be sacrilegious in writing that caption than there is on the part of those who would rewrite the Bible and give it to us in what they term modern language. But, after all, isn't that just about what it all amounts to, this new version, written in what is termed newspaper style?

There is nothing in these attempts to modernize the Bible that has any appreciable appeal to those who love the old book for its wonderful imagery, its sublime poetry, its inspired history and its moral teachings. Every new revision results in the injection of more and more of modern thought and modern ideas of what it should contain, with a resultant loss in its appealing power. The great scholars who gave us the King James translation approached their task in humbleness of spirit, and with no other desire than to retain as far as possible the original thought of the inspired writer. The great preachers and priests and teachers who took the King James version in hand and went forth as leaders in religious thought and education wrought a work that has not been excelled, probably not equalled, by their successors who were not content with the King James version, but must have something a little more in keeping with modern human thought. Certainly the new translations have not had the effect of making any clearer the obscure passages and it is equally certain that in many cases the modern translations have merely lowered the sublimity of the original.

Between the progressives and the fundamentalists, between the liberals and the conservatives, and between this translation and that, is it any wonder that controversy in the religious world waxes greater while the impress of religious thought and living seemingly grows weaker and weaker?

The Bible does not need any more translation. It is not in need of being modernized. It is in no need of being set to popular phraseology. What is needed most of all, is more Bible reading and study, more willingness on the part of all the people to profit by its wisdom and its admonitions, more effort on the part of nations and of individuals to follow its precepts and walk in the paths it has surveyed for the feet of mankind.

The world has had quite enough of the wranglings and janglings of theologians, and an ample sufficiency of commentators who insist upon others accepting their ipse dixit as to what this or that passage may mean. What the world needs most is to discard all these things and to take the old book at what it says, and says so clearly, and start over again with a firmer determination to live by it and die by it.

It is not because the Bible is a complex book, impossible of understanding without the explanations offered by warring theologians, that the world is stumbling along these days. It is because its wonderful truths and beautiful teachings have been too nearly hidden by the smoke screen of translators, and modernists and controversialists. The sooner the world gets back to the Bible as it is the sooner the world will be brought back to God.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION PLANS.

Two things that came out of the room of the republican national committee on Wednesday will interest everybody. Cleveland is to have the republican convention in June, and it will consist of 1,036 delegates, instead of 984, as when Harding was nominated. Nebraska, under the new apportionment, gets 19 instead of 16 delegates.

The purpose of increasing the number of delegates is to give to sections where the heavy republican vote is cast a greater proportional representation, and not to decrease the vote from the south, where the prospect of gaining any republican success is remote. For many years the subject has been before the republican national committee. It has seemed unfair that votes from a section wherein the ticket to be named would receive but slight, if any support should have an equal voice with the republican states in naming that ticket.

On the other hand, a great reluctance is felt by republicans when it comes to disfranchising the thousands of voters in the south who are hopelessly held down by democratic policies. One hundred eighty-six electoral votes are practically assured the democratic nominee in advance. No matter who is put at the head of the ticket, he starts with 186 votes, and must secure by his campaign but 80 additional votes in order to be elected. The republican nominee is compelled to go out and contest for 266 electoral votes, failing to secure which he is doomed to defeat. The unfairness of this is not to be denied.

So long as the oligarchy controls the "solid south," so long will there be a demand for the direct election of the president by vote of the people, rather than by the electoral college. If the democrats are eager to see the last vestige of state sovereignty swept away, they will cling to the antiquated system that permits them to disfranchise the greater part of the voting population in the southern states, and at the same time to have full representation in congress and in the electoral college. Other parts of the country have long resented this domination by a group that is traditionally opposed to the progressive policies of the republican party.

Were elections free and untrammeled in all the south, the situation would be different. So long as in Texas, for example, 16 out of 18 congressmen go to the polls without opposition, and all are democratic selections, there will be discontent throughout the nation because of existing conditions.

PLEASURES OF A POLAR EXCURSION.

A more or less hectic prospectus for the North Pole expedition, issued by a member of the Geographic society, talks of a "paradise to be found by the explorers. One of the great advantages will be plenty of floe ice to alight on, should engine trouble or anything of the sort develop, with the further boon of continuous daylight, by which to make repairs. After the flora and fauna are located and described, and this includes whales, seals, polar bears and a lot of other mammals, the fish will take up some time. When all the animated life of the region is dealt with, comes the prospect of a great adventure in real estate. An area three times larger than Texas is to be looked over. At present no one knows if this is dry land covered by ice, or just sea water, mostly frozen over.

The outlook for a pleasant summer's journey is bright for the aviators who will take part, and it is certain that much of valuable knowledge will result from the quest. Clearing up the one point as to whether the top of the world is solid or liquid will be worth while.

And, if nothing else happens, to revert to the prospect alluded to, the explorers may serve science to some extent by pulling up a few blades of grass to grow beneath thousands of feet of ice, so the agronomists of today will be able to note the texture of what grew before the glacial epoch. Seriously, the expedition has much to attract the imagination, and its discoveries ought to be worth all the trouble they will incur.

And now they are stealing trolley cars for joy rides in Chicago. The notion that riding a Chicago trolley car is provocative of joy is one that demands the attention of alienists, not of the police.

Mr. Ford called on President Coolidge recently. It is rumored that Mr. Ford told the president the history of the Muscle Shoals case. Mr. Ford says history is bunk. The country agrees, in part.

The president is from Massachusetts, the senate majority floor leader is from Massachusetts, the speaker of the house is from Massachusetts—Massachusetts, there it stands it needs no—etc., etc.

The Toronto Star believes that the Baltimore woman who became the mother of quadruplets is the one who put the "more" in Baltimore. Also the "Bal" in Baltimore, we says.

Frank Crane says it is all a mistake to say that anyone knows a thing he can tell it. But it isn't any mistake to say that a lot of fellows who don't know it can tell it anyhow.

Nothing startling about the news of the discovery of lipsticks and rouge in an ancient Egyptian tomb. But did they find any mustache' dye or breath-killers?

Atchison's need now is a larger payroll, declares the Globe. And so many of us can sympathize with Atchison, too.

As Mr. Ford dropped from sight in the South Dakota primaries, did he bid McAdoo?

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—

Robert Worthington Davie

NEBRASKA WANTS A SONG.

Nebraska wants a song that is in words her vales and hills,

In melody the audible refrains of rippling rills,

In beauty everything she holds devoutly to her breast,

In love the fervor of a son who knows Nebraska best,

And from some hamlet in the state a bird-tongued bard will spring

With soulful cadence in his voice and of her virtues sing,

And chant her glory till his song with pure elation thrills

Her folk from the Missouri's bluffs unto the far Sand Hills.

Nor shall the sweet "My Maryland" surpass his masterpiece

Which in Nebraska homes will ring till all good tidings cease;

And Iowa, Oh, Iowa, will slumber in repose Until another anthem comes from whence the tall corn grows.

Have faith ye mariners who roam the realms without success,

Some modest bard will write the lines and bring your happiness,

And there will be rejoicing in the land that has for long been searching ever vainly for a true Nebraska song.

The Omaha Morning Bee: Friday, December 14, 1923

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee invite you to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from Other Newspapers

Two-Way Interpretations.

From the Sioux Falls Press.

There is no chance for confusion or misunderstanding about President Coolidge's rejection of the league of nations, but argument already is under way as to the president's exact position on a world court. Some of the republicans from Council Bluffs, who is trying to make light of Mrs. R. J. Rogers' article written several days ago, respecting the working of watchmen 12 hours. Regardless of position, salary, etc., 12 hours is too long to work even a horse, for 36 days a year, with no relief whatever.

Should like to quote what the secretary of state, Washington, D. C., wrote: "In my opinion the world is within sight of the time when no workman in the United States will be forced to labor from sunrise to sunset, and that we are within a few years of the day when we shall have realized the hope that each man shall have eight hours for work, eight hours for play, and eight hours for sleep."

Those who have not taken time to read all of the president's message to the Congress, however, will be surprised to learn that the various governments apply the same idea to domestic affairs and analyze its effects. What would be the force of effect of state court edits or federal court edits if based upon the understanding that people could use their own pleasure about accepting or obeying the verdict?

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proposed pending before the senate

for a permanent court of international justice, "with the proposed reservations clearly indicating our refusal to adhere to the league of nations."

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