

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY
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OCEAN MUST COME TO THE FARMS.

President Coolidge gave such an unequivocal endorsement to the general campaign for improved waterways in the middle west that even a totally deaf congress might have been convinced by the gesture. The gathering of governors at Chicago, where the St. Lawrence project was up for further consideration, got much comfort out of the words of the president. The whole country is interested in this, as well as in the improvement of the rivers. The president's recommendation to congress deals specifically with

The improvement of the waterways from the Great Lakes toward the Gulf of Mexico; and the development of the great power and navigation project of the St. Lawrence river, for which efforts are now being made to secure the necessary treaty with Canada. These projects can not all be undertaken at once, but all should have the immediate consideration of congress and be adopted as fast as plans can be formulated and the necessary funds become available. This is not incompatible with economy, for their nature does not require so much a public expenditure as a capital investment, which will be reproductive, as evidenced by the marked increase in revenue from the Panama canal. Upon these projects depend much future industrial and agricultural progress.

Right here is a good place to call attention of those who are so earnest in their support of these great national undertakings to the fact that they have need to be on the job. Panama canal managers are approaching the public with a proposal for a second isthmian canal, to take care of the traffic which the existing ditch will not be able to handle, if the increase is as proportionally great as that of the Suez canal. Within 26 years the maximum of the present canal will be reached, and within 30 years thereafter it will be urgently necessary to have a second canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific in order to care for the commerce.

It is well, though, to keep in mind the point the president has made, that the work does not entail an expenditure, but a capital investment, from which the nation will draw returns, both direct and indirect. Capt. A. W. Hinds, marine superintendent of the Panama canal, estimates that from 1930 to 1950 the net receipts will average \$35,000,000 a year, or \$700,000,000 for the term, more than enough to construct the new canal.

Demand for water carriage of commerce is growing steadily in the United States, and the program for river improvement should not be overshadowed by the possible need of another isthmian canal. Needs of the great producing region must get immediate consideration. When a proper system has been worked out and put into operation, the people will not be hard to win over to the idea of extending a service that is so useful to all.

UP TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

That mass meeting at the city hall to discuss speeders might have gone a little further. A frank, untruncated declaration in favor of a license law to govern motorists would have more nearly met popular approval. To leave the decision at the discretion of the city council without recommendation one way or the other will not produce the effect desired.

Some of those who went to the mass meeting did so in hope that an unequivocal stand would be taken against the speeder. The pretense that action by the city will have a deterrent effect on a state-wide movement is absurd. On the contrary, no better argument for state-wide action could be produced than that Omaha has found it necessary to take the step proposed.

It is high time that someone stand up publicly and slay this absurd notion that whatever Omaha wants will be opposed by the state at large. Omaha is the metropolis of Nebraska; it does not assume to be the standard for all the state, but its citizens are citizens of Nebraska, thoroughly alive to the fact that what is good for the state is good for the city. If Omaha folks favor licensing of auto drivers, and a great many of them do, such attitude will not deter other folks in Nebraska from giving their support.

The purpose of the meeting was turned aside, and its outcome is not what reasonably might have been expected. We urge that the city council be governed by the spirit rather than the letter of the resolution, and that the city be given such an ordinance as will minimize the danger that now exists because anybody who can climb into the driver's seat is permitted to operate a car.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Money enough—is there any such thing? Does any man succeed in amassing all the wealth he covets? Can you recall the old story of the ephemeræ in the Paris garden, who boasted he accumulated all the honey on one leaf, and would retire, but who winked out his little life before he had finished talking? Then there is the parable of the man who said, "Now I will take mine ease," and that night his soul was required of him.

John Borg, a Wall Street broker, with \$2,000,000 safely laid away, tells the world that he has enough, and will now give the young men a chance. He started life as a \$4-a-week office boy, and stuck just long enough to get a start as a speculator and then as a broker. Now he intends to rest while others gather in the dough.

What does \$2,000,000 mean? Look at it as wages. If Mr. Borg had been steadily employed at the rate of \$40 a week, which is average pay, it would have taken him 1,000 years to have handled the sum he now retires on, and if he had saved but half his weekly pay, he would have been stubbing along 2,000 years to reach his goal. Or, had he deposited \$1,000 in the bank on the first Christmas day, and made a similar deposit each succeeding Christmas day, he would not yet have put \$2,000,000 in the bank. To be sure, interest would have helped him out long ago, but just as a matter of straight saving, he would still be toiling away to attain the mark he fixes as enough.

Mr. Borg's \$2,000,000 mind marks him as a modest man, when put alongside the Rockefellers, the Fords or the Stinneses, but he can console himself with the thought that it ought to provide for his wants and keep the wolf from the door. Also, if he associates only with those who have an equal amount, he will not be crowded.

A CHRISTMAS LESSON.

In the hurry and hustle of the everyday we sometimes fear that the finer things of the old days have disappeared from our midst, and we long for the joys and pleasures of days gone by. And there are those who will tell you that even Christmas has lost its old-time thrill.

The thrill gone from Christmas? There was never a more shallow falsehood told in the world than that, and it requires only a small amount of discernment to prove the fallacy. One need look no further than the shop windows, in city or village, at Christmas time for the proof. The decorator's art is revealed as beautifully at any other season and the crowd scarcely pauses to comment upon it, but let there be a gleam of holly or sparkle of tinsel in the decoration and the most cynical scorners of the spirit of today will stop to admire it.

Perhaps it is the thought of that most attractive of all Christmas displays, the toy shop window, that gives us the feeling of something lacking, for we no longer gaze breathlessly at the tree with its gay garlands and glittering stars which seem like fairyland to the children who stand spellbound before it. We long for the old-time thrill, and wonder if all the beauty and faith of life belong only to childhood.

We go our way with a sigh. And then from a neighboring church the chimes break into one of the grand old carols which have inspired the hearts of countless thousands. We pause in our meditation to listen. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," the turmoil of our souls is hushed as by the touch of a kindly hand; "Silent Night, Holy Night," the cynicism slips from us and in its place is a sense of peace, and at last when the chimes burst into the triumphant notes of "Joy to the World," we feel the old-time thrill of Christmas in our heart. Not the childhood thrill for a longed-for toy, but the deeper thrill that comes to those who have learned in the school of life that the beautiful faith of their childhood is not lost, but only the symbols which represent it are changed.

LIVING LONGER IN NEBRASKA.

Although the census shows Nebraska to have a lower death rate than other states, yet we cannot insure longevity to those who would take up their residence here.

A good deal depends upon the state of mind. Doubtless if one brought habits of high pressure here he would not live any longer than in New York city or Memphis. No particular virtue can be claimed for the altitude or the climate, but only for the comparative simplicity of middle western life.

Those southern folk who came into the state in the days preceding the civil war brought an influence for taking life easily. Added to this was the sturdy stock of north Europe, with Bohemians from the south for a seasoning of good spirits and simple pleasures.

Here is a state which knows how to enjoy itself without verging on riot and live from day to day without mental or physical panic. Ten o'clock is the bedtime hour—and we're not ashamed who know it.

If Mr. Ford is responsible for the lack of snow in these parts at this particular season of the year, he need not expect the moral support of our boys and girls during the coming campaign.

The fact that Charles Gates Dawes is going to listen in on the reparations committee's proceedings promises that monotonous will give three shrieks and flee for the tall timber.

While the next wheat crop is showing up green, Chairman Green might well make a move that will surely make possible a small margin of profit on the crop harvested a few months ago.

Senator Borah declares that he is not a candidate for president on any ticket. The senator is to be numbered among those who are able to see through the hole in a grindstone.

The fact that Florida strawberries are selling for \$2.50 a quart in these parts seems to have been overlooked by the men in charge of Nebraska's blue sky department.

Senator La Follette seems to have recovered from the illness just in time to make a dramatic appearance upon the scene. But of course it was not premeditated.

If you can contribute to The Bee's Free Shoe Fund, and haven't, you need expect no sympathy from us if your corns and bunions keep you awake o' nights.

There may be no Santa Claus for Rev. Dr. Baltzly, but there is for a whole lot of us, which is our great gain to Rev. Dr. Baltzly's loss.

Those Columbia wheelers who spend their salaries in Omaha have nothing on a lot of us. We do too, and then some.

While singing loudly of "Peace on Earth, to Men Good Will," some of our charches might well practice what they sing.

Mike Kovakervitch, who paid \$250 to get a wife, will discover later that it isn't the initial cost, but the upkeep.

The hip-pocket boys on New Year's eve would better look out lest "Dad" Rohrer get them on the hip.

Doubtless the throne of Greece will look too slippery for even an oil magnate like Harry Sinclair.

George of Athens, ere we part, tell us what gave you the start.—After Byron, a long ways.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis
JUST A MAN.
He gets lots of pleasure from reading his books;
He gets lots of pleasure from watching his boys.
And he is a father who joyously looks
Down where his children are playing with toys.

He honors his neighbors—he's glad when they call;
He's never too busy to ask them to stay.
He lives for the virtues that come to us all,
But oftentimes some of us turn them away.

He hasn't been blessed with the laurel of Fame.
He's striving to master his problems, and to free.
As one who is faithfully playing the game,
And learning far more than the fellow who knows.

He's only a man—and the kind whom we meet
As often we travel the changeable way.
His eye is sincere, and his smile is complete,
And all that he sponsors an Angel could say

"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.

May It Be Soon Forgotten.
Beatrice, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The Interchurch World movement, which started off with a flourish of trumpets a few years ago, has applied to the New York courts for dissolution. It would have been better for the churches of America had it never been born. It was not its better discussed report on the United States Steel company strike in 1919 that caused its dissolution. It died because it was a sickly plant that started with the seed of unbelief in poor soil by hands unaccustomed to the task.

While it is perfectly proper and wholly desirable to apply business methods to church support, the bond by no means greater business on earth than the betterment of men and women and the saving of their immortal souls, it is not seemly to apply the methods of high finance to the spread of the gospel. Instead of solidifying the religious forces of America, it resulted in jealousies that brought sharper divisions. It increased a church overhead already too great and made possible the scandal of high-salaried secretaries and clerks.

It was early discovered that the proposal to evangelize the world by rigid lines would not work out in practical life; that to replace sentiment and sympathy with cold facts and methods of high finance was to hamper instead of forward.

The indisputable fact is that practically all of the church organizations that joined in the interchurch world movement have since broken up. The secretary of the various boards and societies, who thought they saw in it a plan to relieve them of all financial worries. The great body of church members, who thought they do not confound "God" with any of the city of Ravenna, which we spell R-A-V-E-N-N-A. JAS. BURTT.

Teacher's Thoughts on Evolution.
Albion, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I read a few words along the line of evolution. Remember, I am not trying to defend the Bible. It needs no defense, but will remain firm and secure long after its usefulness as a moral code has passed. I would say a word to those who have no time—or think they have not—to study and read for themselves, against the folly of listening to the babbling and ranting of those who would lead them from the right way.

As one example of the work of those who would take the Bible from the world, let us look at the work of Voltaire. He was turned out of France and what followed was what might have been expected—the French revolution, the reign of terror—and during that time of horror La Fontaine, the pupil on whom he depended to carry on his teaching, was cast into prison, where he had time to read the Bible and he was converted.

The scriptures tell that "a thousand years are as a day" to the Lord, so whether the days He mentions in the time of creation were thousands or long as we count time, or only our days of 24 hours does not matter, for He who made the "laws of nature" is, of course, above, or master of the thing He created. These days are light punishment. "They used to burn 'em at the stake," Gene points out.

It appears that whenever the citizens of Scottsbluff want to get real action they walk into the Star-Herald office and tag Editor Harry Wisner of the school board, headed the dairy commission that gave the industry its real start in that section, and how he is chairman of the committee before an American would come to Washington to investigate irrigation matters.

PERMISSIBLE FIB FOILS TRAGEDY.
I was cravin' Christmas mornin',
Slummin' Star-Eyed Lady ran
Galn't me in our alley, sayin'
"Wha't's the matter, Little Man?"

I sobbed out: "I hunc my stockin'
Hopin' Santa Claus would come,
But there's naught in it this mornin'—
'Cept a hole—a no sugar plum."

"Oh, my dear," she answered, smilin'
"Try—again tonight. I've found
Santa saw so many chimneys
He just didn't quite get 'round."

'Tis 'tonight! Half asleep, dreamin'—
Some nice sifers me—up I come!
Sakes alive, I feel my stockin'
Burstin' full o' sugar plums!

Nen I peeks through moonlit window
Santa's sleigh is gone! But—Land!
Neath our fire-scape—am I dreamin'
Or does Star-Eyed Lady stand?

—Alta Wrenwick Brown.

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for November, 1923, of
THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 73,950
Sunday 79,265

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

"The cohesiveness of the loaves and fishes is mighty and will prevail," sagely observes Editor Cass Barbery of the Madison Star-Mail, having taken due note of the senatorial deadlock.

Fred Howard of the Clay Center Sun is all pulled up because "Clay Center's sewer bonds sold at a premium."

Frank Kimmel of the McCook Tribune sagely remarks that "Calvin Coolidge may not inspire your enthusiasm, but he will convince your confidence."

"President Coolidge's message to congress," says the Wayne Democrat, "is a mighty good message for all those who like that kind of a message."

Editor Temple of the Shelton Clipper has been making some survey and reads himself of the opinion that "the reason some parents spank so much is because other methods of rearing children require some mental effort."

"What is needed just now is a revival of law observance," declares the Tekamah Herald. "There is too much inclination to do as we please and waste a lot of time in pointing out the faults of others."

"More emphasis on spiritual values is a duty we all owe future civilization," moralizes E. W. Huse in the Wayne Herald.

Editor Brown of the Kearney Hub explains the paucity of republican and democratic candidates for senator. He asserts that none of them is anxious to compete against Norris.

"O, boy," the world ain't going to the devil," gleefully shouts Don Van Dusen of the Blair Pilot. "It is going on to glory and greater glory, and it's up to us to move up with it towards the perfection that God has established for it."

"Harry Sinclair seems to be a pretty good fellow," observes the York News-Times.

Evidently Gus Buechler knows. Not that a eastern clergyman says there is no room in this country for immoral plays, Gus uses his Grand Island Independent to declare that the clergyman is right. "There isn't even standing room," says Gus.

"A lot of fellows who laugh when a dog chases its tail will buy hair restorer," chortles the Aurora Republican.

"The newspaper misquoted my address is what John Sweet of the Nebraska City Press lists as 'Favorable Fiction.'"

"Iceland wants prohibition, but she wants the kind that Uncle Sam is enjoying," sarcastically remarks Adam Breeds in his Hastings Tribune.

According to the Aurora Register, a young man of that city describes his application for a marriage license as "filing his first papers under the new marriage law."

Gene Bemis of the York News-Teller says that to be called a professional reformer these days is light punishment. "They used to burn 'em at the stake," Gene points out.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

The Farmers and The Omaha Bee.
From the Colorado Union Farmer.
We take off our hats to The Omaha Bee. They gave the farmers a square deal at Omaha. It is our belief that they covered the convention more thoroughly and satisfactorily than has any other paper in the United States in the past 10 years. We hope the farmers of Nebraska appreciate this sort of courtesy. If the farmers of that state are not loyal to such a daily, then there is something the matter with the farmers. E. B. Finner, reporter, and Eleanor Hinman, feature writer, covered every phase of convention activities in a way that brought favorable comment from practically every state delegation.

"Pittsburgh Plus" Uneconomic.
From the Chicago News.
At what is said to be the final hearing on the "Pittsburgh plus" system by the federal trade commission, leading American economists are testifying as disinterested witnesses. They are being asked whether the practice of pricing rolled steel on a Pittsburgh basis and adding the cost of the freight from Pittsburgh to any destination, whether or not freight is paid, is in accordance with any economic law or principle known to them. Their answers are in the negative—a most emphatic negative.

Pittsburgh is an important steel market, but by no means the only real steel market. Every market has or should have its own natural territory, and prices within that territory should be determined by the free play of the factors of supply and demand.

The Chicago steel market has steadily grown in importance and would have grown faster had not "Pittsburgh plus" hampered it. It has hampered other steel producing centers. The defenders of that strange practice have wholly failed to justify it in the eyes of business men, and it now appears that they have no theoretical or quasi-scientific backing for their claim that some subtle economic law caused the imposition of the "Pittsburgh plus" in the first place. It needs no combing and artificial arrangements to prop it up.

It is said that other industries besides steel have submitted for decades uncomplainingly to the practice known as "Pittsburgh plus." If this be true, the necessity for freeing industry from unfair, uneconomic and oppressive methods of business is more imperative. All localities that are not allowed a chance to develop naturally. Neither legislative nor other stratagems interference with the normal course of production and commerce should be resorted to by a nation that believes in private enterprise, reasonable competition and the suitable reward of skill and ability.

A Reform in Tennis.
From the New York Herald.
In the current issue of American Lawn Tennis, William T. Tilden II, the world's leading tennis player, suggests that the nation holding the Davis cup should play through the annual cup contests instead of playing only in the final round. The international committee of the United States Lawn Tennis association, it is understood, has been giving considerable thought to such a change. Before 1912 in this country, and prior to 1922 in England, it was not the custom for the champion to participate in the early rounds of the championship tournament.

The system was finally abolished as not wholly democratic and sportsmanlike, and now in both the United States and England, the champion takes his chances with the others and plays through.

The old system is still retained, however, in the international competitions for the Davis cup. The nations battle for the privilege of playing the cup-holding nation, which stands aloof until the challenge round. This practice puts the tennis teams of the challenging nations at a much more serious disadvantage than it did the players in purely national championships.

Not only do the players of the cup-holding nation have the advantage of defending the cup on their home courts, with a friendly gallery, accustomed climate and accustomed food, while the players of the challenging nation have to adjust themselves to changed conditions, but the players of the surviving challenging nation are further handicapped by having to play their matches in several different countries before they get the opportunity to play the cup holders.

No doubt the plan to have the cup holding nation play through each year faces certain practical obstacles and intricacies. As a mere sporting proposition, however, it deserves to be seriously considered. The Davis cup is now contended for by nearly a score of nations. The adoption of the playing through system would help to keep interest alive. The United States, as the present cup holding nation, can propose that system with more grace than any other country.

Senatorial Wood-Sawing.
Senator-elect Magnus Johnson says he wants a Washington residence where he can saw wood, but this does not necessarily mean he has concluded he can saw no wood in the senate.—Boston Transcript.

Worth Hearing.
"You are beautiful," he murmured. "I suppose you have heard that before."
"O, yes," said the girl. "But it still sounds new."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Photographs
from sittings made before December 23 will be delivered in time for Christmas.

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Abe Martin

Th' tariff has been discussed for 40 years an' 'th' people' hain't onto it yit. "Well, sir, 30 years ago 'day, oranges sold for 5 cents in th' grocery an' 10 cents on th' Cleveland division o' th' New York Central lines," said Tell Binkley this mornin'.

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