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BEE TELEPHONES
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

At midnight, the tick of the clock, and one year dies and another starts. No motion of the heavens is disturbed, the inexorable march of all natural events goes on without interruption. It has been so for longer than any one imagines, and will be so to the end. Einstein was not the first to teach that time is not; in the early dawn of the Grecian philosophy that doctrine of relativity was deeply embedded in the dogma that sought to account for creation, for life, for matter.

Yet man gets great store by the reckoning of time; less perhaps by its immediate passage than in anticipating the moments to come. A very few projects are undertaken simply for the moment; building is for the future, always, looking ahead to years that will come, even after the builder has laid down in that unbroken sleep that finally touches everyone.

Still, a New Year is a great event in the life of any. So the one just commenced ought to be. Plans that were laid yesterday may be pursued today and accomplished tomorrow, but the great effort should be put on today. When Omar was complimented on having corrected the calendar, he replied, "Why, I did but strike out dead yesterday and unborn tomorrow."

In a material way, 1923 held much that is notable, all of which has been chronicled and commented upon. Omaha made great advance in all substantial lines, showing a growth in all directions that is the occasion of real pride to the citizens. The year 1924, just begun, is big with prospects and programs. Energetic men are planning many things to be done within the next twelve months, all of which look to the increase of the city's importance.

Spiritually and intellectually Omaha kept progress in 1923 with the material advance. This is attested by the new churches and schools that were completed during the year, the extension of altruistic and philanthropic efforts, of new and higher standards raised for esthetic endeavor, and a general forward movement in every aspect of the cultural life of the city. It is indeed gratifying to record this, with full appreciation of the efforts of those who have labored so zealously and so effectively to make it true.

Omaha citizens should carry on in 1924 with better spirit than ever before. No abatement in the healthy rivalry among the citizens, that wholesome competition which makes a city great should be noted. Yet this rivalry or competition should not be permitted at any time to interfere with the good of all. Factional advantage or domination should go to the discard. A good resolution for everybody in Omaha to make and carry out will be to put the welfare of the city above that of any party or group, beyond the interest of any individual or clique, and to all work together throughout the year to make this city an even better place to live.

We wish each of you: A Happy New Year.

"ONE OF OURS."
It was quite appropriate that Mrs. Luther Drake should use the title of one of the author's most popular books when she referred to Willa Cather in her remarks Sunday afternoon at the unveiling of the portrait. That ceremony was of high significance, even though it did not attract due public attention.

Willa Cather is a native of Nebraska, and it was here she got the training that has proved so serviceable, laying the foundation of her success among her own people. Educated in Nebraska schools, she tried her hand at writing first for a Nebraska newspaper, and developed at first the principles of expression while so employed. She also got her first insight into human nature in that office, and from the people she came into contact with drew the inspiration that has led her well up the heights to literary greatness.

That she should have a wider field in which to spread her wings is natural, and she sought and found in the circles of the east that response which has brought her to that development which makes her admirers in Omaha proud to place her portrait in the gallery at the public library. They honor her as one who has achieved distinction, and who has given to the world a message it needs. To quote from the words of Mrs. Drake:

"Because of Miss Cather's art the beauty and hardship of the lives of our pioneers will live when they would otherwise have been forgotten. She has sung the songs of this new land. We praise her because she is one of ours, but we praise her still more because we have reason to believe that she is among the immortals, and that her work will live."

SCIENCE FOOLS WITH NATURE.
Every now and then some scientist bursts out with the announcement of a triumph that is going to revolutionize the whole scheme of things. Making Dame Nature do stunts is pastime for them. Probably the most interesting of recent disclosures in this line is that one Carnegie investigator has changed a female dove into a crowing male. On this is built up a speculative edifice that leads into the realm of the fantastic. It is a wide open game, and anybody can exercise his imagination in trying to determine what will happen when science can make the little girl's wish come true and turn her into a man.

In very truth, the wish almost has come true, for long ago the dear things began taking over what had been considered as exclusive belongings of man. Now they vote, hold office, wear breeches, smoke, run their own business affairs, practice law, medicine, and other of the learned professions, swear and do about everything a man can do. How science can extend this activity is hard to see.

Nor is it easy to understand what the gain would be were woman to give over the attributes that set her apart as the last and most perfect of created things, and assume the lesser characteristics of man. Why should she doff those charms of person, of tenderness and soft allurements, of femininity to wear the coarser and far less attractive qualities of the masculine? She dominates the brutes now, and the suggested change would be a step backward. But, maybe the scientist is wrong. What may work on a cooing dove may fall when applied to a woman.

ONE CLASS DID NOT SHARE.
Produced more, spent more, saved more. That is the record of the United States for 1923. It can not be touched, or even approached by any other nation. Cold figures sometimes become exciting, as in this instance. Americans have so often been told they are favored above all others they have come to take it as a matter of course. Yet they do not always recognize the blessings they enjoy.

One of the greatest contributing factors to the result of 1923 is that the American market is preserved to home producers. The only ones who are not fully protected are the wheat farmers and livestock growers and they are pleading right now for justice that is due them. Canadian wheat is pouring over the border at a price that holds down the selling price of wheat in the United States, and to the detriment of the farmer who raises wheat on the great plains of the middlewest.

It is stated that the combined value of the farm crops for the year is \$900,000,000 more than for 1922. This, of course, is encouraging, but the wheat raisers share very lightly in the sum. Well enough to tell them not to speculate in the raising of wheat. Unless wheat is raised the country will go without bread. And the farmer in Nebraska, using high-priced land, can not compete on an even basis with the farmers of Canada, where land is cheap and taxes low.

The United States generally is prosperous, and the outlook for continued prosperity is good. Authorities state that wages will continue high, and even advance. Factories will run full tilt, making goods for home consumption, and in this way the producing, consuming and saving will go steadily on. But the depression among the farmers must be lifted before any genuine prosperity can be enjoyed by all. One section of the great agricultural industry can not be kept in subjection while all other industries go ahead. Such a condition is unnatural, and unless something is done to relieve this situation, it will affect in time all others.

This is the chief argument in favor of the requested increase in tariff on wheat, the best possible reason why it should be granted, and a fair glimpse at what may be expected if the remedy is not applied. Wheat growers ask only what they are entitled to, a square deal.

GOOD FELLOWS IN POLITICS.

It happens so often. He was known as "Honest John," or "Honest Sam," and he was known as a good fellow. He made friends wherever he went because of his open-handed generosity and his willingness to go to the front with his friends. And sooner or later some friend whispered to him that he really ought to run for office because everybody knew him and liked him, and most of them were under personal obligations to him.

So "Honest Sam" succumbs to the lure and runs for an office of tremendous responsibility, an office requiring him to handle large sums of the taxpayers' money. Elected by a handsome majority, often in the face of an adverse political majority because of his social prominence, "Honest Sam" is inducted into office amidst the acclaim of his admiring friends. And of course his friends are legion after he is elected.

Then trouble begins. "Honest Sam," long accustomed to handing out his private funds with lavish hands to impecunious friends, soon becomes unable to distinguish between public and private funds. Of course he is honest at heart and never had any intent to rob the taxpayers of a penny. Every dollar taken from the public till is taken with the firm intent to return as quickly as the friend gets back on his feet. But friends of this caliber seldom get back on their feet, and it is altogether too easy for them to decide that because it is the taxpayers' money and they one of the taxpayers, there really is no reason why it should be returned. The result is that sooner or later "Honest Sam" is caught short by an examiner. He is a defaulter and must take his punishment.

It has happened time and again. It will happen again and again because human nature is weak. The victim is disgraced, his family disgraced, and a community suffers financial loss. It would seem that the time has come to keep the "Honest Sams" in private life, for bitter experience has taught us—or at least it should have taught us—that the "Honest Sams" and the "Honest Johns" are usually the ones who get caught.

A letter on which 50,000,000 marks postage was paid contained a 10-pfenning gold currency piece, worth 2.28 cents. If you get hold of the right kind of money in Germany, it is easy to get along.

According to Grant Shumway, the state fish hatchery at Valentine planted 150,000 fish during the year. Nothing is said about suckers.

Football was a very popular sport in Nebraska during the fall, but it will now give way to snow shoveling, which is not so attractive.

Dakota wheat raisers know what is involved, and therefore they are in favor of the 50-cent tariff to protect the home market.

Now that we know who the Bryan brothers are not for, will they please let us know whom they do favor?

One of the things we do not fancy is being marooned in a big balloon, unable to go up or come down.

Other things beside hooch come from Canada.

Homespun Verse
—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

LOOKING BACK—THE NEW YEAR.
In looking back on the Old Year lies
In the used-to-be of the dreamer's eyes—
There were those among us, faithful and dear,
Who soothed our aches and sorrows here,
Who lessened our trials and cheered our way,
And gave us ardor and made us gay—
Of them we dream and their lives reverse,
And count with our loss of the faded year.
In looking back on the Old Year dead,
We cherish rapture and pleasure fled,
And link with them the joy that goes
Fleeting on through the year's repose,
And leads us up through smiles and tears,
While sunset graces a score of years—
But new years dawn with rependence true
Of joy for the deeds we strive to do.
In looking back we lament to see
The Past in the shape of Memory,
We yearn the return of sweetness gone;
But lonely a while as we travel on—
But scattered along our paths we find
Signs of the year—and years—behind,
And gladly learn as we forward tread
That Past is a part of the years ahead.

Your Might Have Been
By CAROLYN RENFREW.
It leans from the clouds of the future,
From the ghostly aisles of the past;
And will glide appealing beside you
As long as life's journey shall last.
It shines with the light of high purpose—
Voicing a power to win—
In the uprush of spirit through matter—
The face of your Might Have Been.
Through the rush of life's strife and turmoil
Steals a voice that is never at rest.
Through the hush of the whelming silence
It moves on its saving quest.
Into the soul's secret chambers—
Stealthily creeping within—
It is calling, imploring, calling—
The voice of your Might Have Been.
The pathways of wrong have their turnings
Leading up to the highways of right,
And every valley of darkness
Has an opening toward the light.
And a voice is ceaselessly calling,
Come up from Self's byways of sin;
Come from your ceaseless self-seeking
And be what you Might Have Been.

"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"
Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee, Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to give expression on matters of public interest.

Suffering in Germany.
Andernach, Rhine.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Hunger and poverty rule in Germany, but nowhere to a larger extent than in the densely populated, occupied territories of the Rhineland and the Ruhr. Hunger is a daily guest in numbers here, and it is expected to be beyond the reach of the average means, due to the tremendous depreciation of currency and the lack of work. These conditions unfortunately cannot be remedied in the near future owing to the present political and economic conditions prevailing in this section.

It forms the basis of a plan that can be worked out justly and practically. In this connection, the writer believes that the soldier is unjust in his claims, often amounting to criticism. That the stay-at-home wage worker received a 100 per cent increase in his pay, while the soldier's pay was reduced to 75 per cent, is a gross injustice. The fact that the soldier's pay was reduced to 75 per cent, while the stay-at-home wage worker received a 100 per cent increase, is a gross injustice. The fact that the soldier's pay was reduced to 75 per cent, while the stay-at-home wage worker received a 100 per cent increase, is a gross injustice.

Money for the Bonus.
Kansas City, Mo.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In considering the bonus, the questions to be decided: Do the majority of the people favor it, and is it just?
This is a government of the people, and the opinion of the majority should prevail. In almost every case where the question of the bonus has been submitted to a vote of the people, it has been endorsed by a large majority. This is true in Illinois, this might well be called a representative state, and the bonus carried here by over a quarter of a million votes.

What Ravenna Needs.
Ravenna, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The critic of my Sunday night sketch works in one of the finest institutions in Lincoln, not so large.
Ord has a fine club house or community center. I have been told, I wish every town in the United States had such a recreation building as in Lead, S. D.

CENTER SHOTS.
The average man's idea of Ricolet is that he was a woman dancer side show.—Little Rock (Ark.) Democrat.
Just because that skull is half an inch thick, and makes a good shield, should think it ancient.—Marion Stra

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION
for November, 1923, of
THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 73,950
Sunday 79,265
Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing, and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr.
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of December, 1923.
W. QUINCY
Notary Public

"From State and Nation"
—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Aluminum.
From the Salt Lake Tribune.
The metal we call aluminum was so rare 50 years ago that it was worth \$100 a pound and was, for the most part, used by jewelers. It is much cheaper nowadays, costing in the vicinity of a quarter a pound, and is made into a great variety of articles. Its existence was suspected long before it was known, where it is found in the earth's crust. Known as alumina, this substance is the basis of clay, and its identity was first established not quite a century ago by a German named Woehler.

Aluminum will not rust nor tarnish, and it is so adaptable that it can be hammered into sheets no thicker than cardboard, or even drawn out into very fine wire. One of its most remarkable characteristics is that it is a rapid conductor of heat, while it is also nonpoisonous. Our preserves, including meat and fruit, will one day be packed in aluminum containers. Baking tins, aluminum cooking utensils are already becoming a feature of modern domestic life, and aluminum tea and dinner services are being put on the market in rapidly increasing numbers.

Aluminum has made it practicable for chemists to make certain precious stones, notably rubies and sapphires. Considerable numbers of these gems are manufactured by adding coloring substances to powdered alumina and annealing it by means of a specially charged blowpipe.

Aluminum also plays an important part in the means of purification. Small quantities of aluminum added to steel in the furnace disperse the gas and insure the elimination of certain defects which at one time greatly hindered the production of first-class steel.

Conference on War Debts.
From the Brooklyn Eagle.
Continental Europe owes the United States more than \$3,000,000,000. The interest, none of which is being paid, is increasing this total at the rate of \$400,000,000 yearly. Unless some arrangement is made soon for funding this debt, establishing a lower rate of interest and evolving ways and means of payment it will have mounted to a point where any realistic settlement becomes impossible.

Some of them have even asked us to name terms on which we would be willing to settle. None of them is taking any account of what they owe us in the financial budgets which the governments are presenting to their legislatures. Practically all of them are spending on armaments a large proportion of their national incomes and are taking no steps to meet that expenditure out of additional taxation.

It looks at this time as though the "farm bloc" made the issue which will determine the outcome of the coming presidential election, and it is so plain the average person can easily understand what is intended for the general good, and what is not.

It is our hope that Prosperity and Happiness may attend you in 1924, and that your reserve account in the bank of good fortune may ever be larger. To this good advice let us add our thanks for your past favors and friendly regard, with a true resolve that our institution shall always continue to merit your confidence and valued patronage.

Assets Over \$12,600,000
Reserve Fund 455,000
Increase in Assets for 1923 \$2,199,152.54

Pays 6% Quarterly
18th and Harney Streets
35 Years in Omaha

New Year's Soliloquy
By Catherine Elizabeth Hanson.
Same old promise to be good—
Wouldn't keep it if I could,
Same old music, same old song,
Same old work the whole day long.
Same old struggle day and night,
Same old bills I have to pay,
Same old salary all my life,
Same old fashions, same old wife,
Same old friends and same old foes,
Same old clubs and same old clothes,
Same old habits I must shake,
Same old promise—made to break.
Same old sorrow to be drowned,
Same old world—just turned around,
Same old promise to be good—
Wouldn't keep it if I could!

Daily Prayer

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.—Eph. 5:20
But thanksgiving, which gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.—I Cor. 10:3
Our Heavenly Father, for all Thou hast given and all Thou hast forgiven, we thank Thee. For every gift of nature, and Thy favoring providence, and Thy great salvation through Christ, we thank Thee.
For blessings within us and around us for everything by which Thou hast brought good and drawn us to Thyself through all our lives and the lives of our kin, for our power of understanding, of loving, of home-making, of sharing friendships; for the good hope concerning loved ones who have gone from the ways of earth, and for our expectation of sharing heaven's joy with them through Christ's saving merit—we thank Thee.

Help us, O Father, to live and work with the cheer of a grateful spirit, overcoming all trouble by the patience of hope and the wisdom of love. So may we share the fellowship of who follow Christ, both near about us and in all the world. Amen.
REV. WILLIAM ALLEN KNIGHT, LL.D., Boston, Mass.

A Family Practice.
Jones—How is your young cousin, the doctor, getting on with his practice?
Smith—Very slowly. The whole family is trying to help him out. But, of course, we can't be sick all the time.—Boston Globe.



There may be some controversy about who stopped the war, but nobody won anything. Folks that nain't got time 't' stop at railroad crossin's ought 't' realize that maybe someone nain't got time 't' gather 'em up an' put 'em 't'gether.
(Copyright, 1924.)

Everything Considered.
"So you want to marry my daughter, eh?"
"I do, sir."
"Young man, have you considered her family in this matter?"
"I have, sir. I love that girl so much I'd be willing to put up with anything!"—Birmingham Age-Herald
Enlightened Minnesota.
Minnesota has forbidden advertising signs on the main traveled roads. Most of the other states haven't ever got the grace to feel ashamed of themselves.—Cleveland Plain Dealer

A Handy Place to Eat
Hotel Conant
14th and Harney—Omaha
The Center of Convenience

The Popular Book of the Year
Is a Conservative Savings Account Book
Popular because it means so much to one's welfare. Every entry means so much more assurance that the years to come will NOT be LEAN years. It is a diary of one's THRIFTY impulses.
One Dollar or more will bring one of these books into your possession.

The CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
1614 Harney
South Side Agency, Krasky Bldg., 4906 South Twenty-fourth Street

Railroad Rates and Transportation Costs

Railroad Supplies Up 100%
Freight Rates - 32 3-10%
Passenger Fares 35 3-10%

Freight rates and passenger fares on the Union Pacific System have advanced less than half as much as the increase in the cost of engines, cars and other principal items of railroad expense.

Comparing pre-war prices with those of today we find:

Commodity	Pre-War Price	Present Price	Per Cent of Increase
Rail, per ton	30.00	43.00	43%
Freight Locomotive	26,000.00	64,000.00	145%
Freight Car	1,100.00	2,500.00	127%
Ties, each	.35	.84	140%
Steel (bridges, tanks, etc.), per ton	50.00	95.00	92%
Steel Passenger Coach	12,000.00	25,000.00	108%
Cotton Waste, per lb.	.05	.095	90%
Block Signals, mile	1,200.00	2,500.00	108%
Switch Lamps, each	4.04	8.40	108%
Fuel, per ton	2.11	3.38	60%
Average annual earnings, per employe	1,821.00	1,808.47	104.6%
Taxes	4,668,874.00	13,251,552.00	280%

In the face of these increases, freight rates on the Union Pacific System during the same time have increased only 32 3-10 per cent and passenger fares 35 3-10 per cent.
In 1913 we received for hauling a ton of freight one mile, 9.7 mills; for hauling a passenger one mile, 2.1c. In 1923 these rates were 1.285 and 3.035, respectively. The 1923 freight rate represents a reduction of about 11% under 1921 and passenger fares about 8% under 1921.

In order to earn enough gross revenue to purchase a pint of ink, it is necessary for us to haul one ton of freight 43 miles. For a day's wages of a freight train crew 2,680 miles; for a day's wages of a machinist 461 miles. For a ton of fuel 263 miles.
The railroads of the United States maintain the lowest rates and the lowest capitalization per mile, while paying the highest wages of any country in the world.
So long as the railroads' cost of doing business remains at the present high level a general reduction of freight and passenger rates cannot safely be made.
Constructive suggestions are always welcome.

C. R. GRAY, President.
Omaha, Nebraska,
January 1, 1924.
UNION PACIFIC SYSTEM