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SIFTING THE OUTLANDERS.  
Secretary Davis of the Department of Labor has presented to congress a measure designed to regulate immigration, which has some features that deserve commendation, and some that will require careful examination before they become law.

Extension of the law to include Canada and other American countries is intended to do away with the extensive "bootlegging" in immigration that is now a source of considerable annoyance to the authorities.

Conditions for admission proposed by the secretary will require scrutiny, because in some regards they represent a new thought. Mr. Davis has taken quite an advanced position on the subject of immigration, supported to a degree by his experience in dealing with the general phases of the problem, and his advice should have weight.

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CHAUFFEUR PINK OF PERFECTION.  
Mabel Normand's chauffeur is a devoted servant, to say the least. When he found his mistress was overstaying her time, and was likely to be late at another engagement, he broke up the sitting by shooting the host. Such attention to business should have recognition. Also, some notice should be given to the young man's promptitude in suiting the action to the thought. He explains:

"Well, I'm not any too strong physically, and I didn't want to take any chances, so I pulled my gun and let him have it."  
What could be sweeter? Then, too, we must not overlook the foresight displayed by the youth. He was to drive Miss Normand on her round of New Year calls, so he went into her room and secured her revolver. Just a little prudence, you see; he could not tell what might come up during the day, and wanted to be prepared for any emergency. In the movies they do it, you know. How often has that youth watched the hero or the villain draw a pistol and use it swiftly, taking no chances. In the immortal words of Josh Billings and Shakespeare combined:

"Thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just,  
And four times he who gets his work in first."  
Yes, Mabel's chauffeur is not only devoted, but efficient, and we do not wonder that she was ready to go when he threatened to leave her employment if she did not immediately proceed with him. Yet, will not this incident be likely to prove embarrassing? In the future young men who entertain Mabel and her girl friends will probably take the precaution of disarming her chauffeur before the party begins.

BATTLE WITH THE BOLL WEEVIL.  
The old darky song about the bugs will soon have to be revived, for science is going into a close examination of the boll weevil, and is discovering some interesting facts about his personal habits and behavior. When these are all catalogued, it may be found out that as a bug the boll weevil is in a class by himself.

Up to date the principal traits of the destructive critter is that he is stubborn, and does not like the society of man. In fact, when caught and placed under observation, the boll weevil does not carry on after his normal fashion at all. This has made his examination rather tedious, although it does establish the fact that the bug is possessed of more sense than some men, who would act perfectly natural under any conditions and think it smart to do so.

Besides being tenacious of life, the boll weevil has a noticeable aversion for poisons of any sort, and resolutely declines to be entrapped by ordinary devices. He is a dainty feeder, his first meal in the spring being made from the tender tops of the cotton plant shoots. Just as soon as the flower appears, the weevil discards the leaf, and takes himself to the bud, where the feeding is better. He may come out of his hibernation several miles from any growing cotton, but his instinct leads him unerringly to the field.

This is his weak spot, and is relied upon to accomplish his undoing. Science plans to produce a trap that will imitate a cotton field, and so lure the dreaded foe of the boll to his destruction. When the odor that attracts the pest to the cotton is discovered, it will be used to bait a trap, and the rest will be easy. Seems a pity to delude so persistent and resourceful a bug as the boll weevil, but science owes a higher duty to mankind, that needs the cotton more than it does the insect.

UNHORSEING THE HOUSE AUTOCRATS.  
Revision of the rules of the house of representatives, to accord with the desires of the progressive republicans, is under way. Chief of the changes proposed will be that to prevent the pocketing of a bill by a committee chairman. According to Representative Nelson, who has the charge, one new rule will require that chairman call committees together to consider any matters referred, and making provision for any action the house may deem proper if such chairman fail. Another rule will forbid the chairman of the rules committee pocketing any rule proposed for governing procedure at any time.

These changes will greatly liberalize house practice. Committee chairmen in the past have smothered a great many measures by refusing to hold hearings on them, or to make report. This has, of course, done away with a great deal of frivolous legislation, but it also has stifled many bills that might have been of service, entitled at least to a hearing on their merits. A change in this practice ought to work for good. So should the chairman of the rules committee be divested of the autocratic power he now possesses. It may be necessary at times to rattle the house with a rod of iron, as Thomas Brackett Reed disclosed, but it will be worth while to find out whether the house can not function without the intervention of despotic authority. Failure to get results should rest on the whole body, and not on one or two members.

PSYCHOLOGY LANDS A PUNCH.  
Old John Barleycorn is welcome to any satisfaction he gets out of the new year. If any dependence is to be put upon surface signs, the old boy is further behind the procession than ever he was, and is going back fast. New Year's festivities were not less jubilant, but far drier than ever before. This was generally noticeable, and for the main reason that the celebrants did not care to risk the danger of bootleg hooch for the doubtful pleasure of a fleeting kick, with the certainty of a headache and a feverish thirst to follow.

Once upon a time good whiskey, mellow rum, trustworthily brandy, Chartreuse, Benedictine, sugar, eggs, milk, orange peel and nutmeg, could be stirred together in proper proportions, and the result would be that which certainly allured. No longer. Now the drink is of raw liquor, fiery and scorching, from a bottle, or, if "busted" at all, it is with water or ginger ale, and this has taken most of the romance out of the affair.

Another reason is that man is an imitative animal, fond of doing what he sees others do. On this basis fashions are established, and it is quite fashionable to mount the water wagon these days. That always has been true, but now it is easier to stay on after one once has taken his seat. It looks as if the simple psychology of the affair were in truth doing more to make the country dry than all the efforts of the enforcement brigade.

Jim Dahlman is showing good judgment in seeking to have the city share in the scavenger tax sale. More than a million and a half is due to Omaha in delinquent taxes, and this sum will come in right handy, now that the time has come for making up another budget.

Fourteen hills have been set aside as exclusive to coasters, but drivers should be careful on all others, for the boy and his sled are ubiquitous, and likely to be encountered anywhere.

The supreme court has ruled that a man's love nest is his domicile sufficient for the service of a divorce summons. Well, for that purpose the ruling ought to fit.

Skaters are not the only ones who welcome the cold snap, for local firms figure on cutting 200,000 tons of ice within the next few weeks.

Governor Al Smith insists that the Volstead act be modified, but his real job is to convince congress that his plan is a good one.

Any time the people of the United States enter into a conspiracy to get a law passed reducing taxes, congress will do well to take heed.

In view of treatment very generally accorded to prisoners in these reform days it is strange that any should endeavor to escape.

Looks as if the democratic factions are on the point of digging up the hatchets that they buried in the last campaign.

Police department funds for the year should be disposed of with the pill box service ever in mind.

Facts are stubborn things, hence so much writhing in administration circles down Lincoln way.

Mabel Normand certainly has hard luck in picking her male friends.

THE OMAHA MORNING BEE: Friday, January 4, 1924

"The People's Voice"  
Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column for expression on matters of public interest.

Soldiers' and Mothers' Pensions.  
Gibbon, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Before granting a pension to the Mexican-American soldiers of the Mexican-American war, 1846-1848, received but \$7 per month. In August, 1854, congress raised the private soldier's pay to \$11. The first few months of the civil war were paid in currency, and their pay was raised to \$13. Near the close of the war their pay was again raised, this time to \$16. But it was all paid in currency, and at the close of the war 40 cents in gold or silver would pay for a dollar, face value of the paper with which the soldiers were paid. The Spanish-American war soldiers received \$12 per month. And soldiers now receive \$21. World war soldiers (overseas) received \$33 and a bonus of \$60, and one month's extra pay when discharged, giving them four and a half times what the Mexican-American soldiers received. Counting on a gold basis, this was more than four and a half times what they were paid when they were discharged, giving them over two and a half times what the Spanish-American soldiers received and over one half more than soldiers now receive.

Now the soldiers can get a pension over two and a half times what they were paid in line of duty, until they were 75 years old when they received their pension. Now the soldiers can get a pension that age before expecting any further help from the government. Soldiers who were disabled while in line of duty should be properly cared for, and the government is now paying out over \$1,000,000 per day for that purpose. But how much are they paying for the benefit of the disabled mother? The average mother, in raising a family of children, does far more for her country, than the average soldier. Some of them lose their lives and some their limbs, and some their death's door while bringing the future soldier or citizen into the world, and then spend 20 to 40 years of the best part of their lives in bringing their children to maturity, all without pay or remuneration, except the consciousness of duty well performed.

Now compare the services that the mother has rendered to her country and humanity in their lifetimes, devotion to duty, to that of the soldier who served two or three years on the army and all expenses paid by the government, and how many of them get a bonus if they are discharged. The soldiers who spent their money for insurances, liberty bonds or allotments, and who were interested in drawing on in the future, which with what they should have earned since the war, should place them in good circumstances, while those who spent their money for themselves, and who did not need, should not expect to get a bonus if they are discharged. But those who squandered their means and who do not deserve a health in dispensation do not deserve a bonus if they are discharged. A bonus is what they are entitled to, and most likely do them more harm than good.

But the soldiers disabled in line of duty should have all the help they need, and the same should be done with the disabled mother. Let the husky able-bodied ex-soldiers wait until all other veterans have had to do, and all old age renderers then unable longer to earn a living, when no one will question their right to receive assistance. ELLIOTT LOOMIS.

Women And Trusts.  
Red Cloud, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Not long ago we witnessed the wife of President Harding starting a White House boycott on the use of sugar on the tables of the homes of this city. In order to keep the sugar trust to give the people sugar at a reasonable price. Five hundred per cent increase between the whole sale purchase and retail sale prices were known to be outrageous, so the good mothers and wives of the country joined in this boycott, and finally the price of that commodity was forced down and again reappeared on the dining room tables of the homes. What do you think of a situation which permits the sugar trust to rob and plunder the public in such manner, and can stand on the sidelines and watch the trust rob the people of their money, and then a boycott which has its beginning in the home of our president.

Who's rights are the most important in this greed, or the people in demanding a commodity at a reasonable price? We have witnessed those who control the wheat market steal the same from the farmer after he has sweated in the hot summer sun to raise the crop, to keep hunger out of our homes; we have seen the packing company trust rob the cattle raisers when their stock reaches the market, and the same trust product resold to the consumer at an outrageous figure, and we have seen children and others compelled to go without food, they should have had in order to bring a criminal trust to time.

We have seen a president's daughter start a "wear a calico dress, campaign to bring about a reduction in price of wearing apparel. We have seen the value of property and certain industries destroyed overnight by orders coming from men representing these industries, who have seen the railroads donated by congress hundreds of millions of dollars without right or reason; we know it is an admitted fact that cents out of every dollar appropriated by congress goes toward war propositions or something emanating therefrom; we know the railroad system of government shelter and paternalism works to their satisfaction, and is not overthrown, it will only be a few years until every criminal trust and corporation in this country will be seeking the shelter of congress, or board or commission—especially created to look after their business—and thus permit these commercial conspirators to escape being responsible for the consequences of their vicious schemes. They will not only escape responsibility for reprehensible acts, but they cannot be reached by legal procedure. Should this scheme not be defeated before it has time to take root? Think it over.

There is a way to control this criminal element in our commercial life, and that, too, without attacking honest industrial enterprises, but the women must become interested in the matter and show a willingness to support the position which is manifestly right if the nation is to escape being permanently placed in the clutches of these grasping vultures and conspirators, who are dangerous to society, and the general welfare of all the people. Observe what sort of men you have at Washington, and ascertain what the positions are and has been on such questions as those enumerated herein. This done, the women should have no difficulty in forming a correct opinion as to who is laboring for the control of the country. Congress is today controlled by

LISTENING IN  
On the Nebraska Press  
With vivid recollections of the outcome of a whole lot of investigations in Washington, the Scottsbluff Star-Herald isn't sanguine of any startling results into the booze scandal investigation down there.

W. H. Weekes of the Norfolk Press says he knows a violinist who plays "Off in the Stry" with so much feeling that he can smell the alcohol in the still.

Editor Will Cram of the Fairbury Journal says the proposition to create a new cabinet position, secretary of education, is a scheme to centralize control of public schools and bring about the "dollar matching" between states and the federal government. And William is opposed to it.

Editor Grosvenor of the Aurora Sun, noting the loss of the little black book down in Washington, opines that there will be little worry so long as the cork-screws are easily located.

The Grand Island Independent suggests that President Coolidge's two years of service as vice president may have created in his bosom a feeling of sympathy for the other political prisoners.

The Elm Creek Beacon sarcastically suggests that the congress needs to get aside as "National Trouble day."

Having been notified that there is a counterfeit thousand-dollar bill in circulation, the Tecumseh Chieftain man is in a constant state of worry lest he find one or two in the day's receipts.

John Sweet of the Nebraska City Press chides Ole Bick of the Harvard Courier for referring to the peace prize man as Edward W. Bock. "Bock," complains John, "is a word no longer mentioned in polite society."

The Gordon Journal asserts that a million dollars' worth of muskrat hides will be shipped from northwest to the present time, in the coming spring season. The hides average \$1 each.

"The greatest menace to the American people," asserts the Eagle Beacon, "is caused by the boring from within and the undermining of the character and integrity of the American people by communistic and socialistic experiments."

"From State and Nation"  
Editorials from Other Newspapers.  
A Task for Psychologists.  
The commission to investigate Germany's ability to pay should be composed of psychologists rather than economists. The immediately important question is not: How much is Germany able to pay? She has paid all she can for the present. The pertinent question now is: What conditions have to be satisfied before she can pay anything more? The most conspicuous of these conditions is surely psychological. She must be supplied with a sufficient incentive to perform the work. It is astonishing how generally economists and publicists in discussing the reparations question have overlooked this consideration. Different economists have reckoned Germany's "capacity to pay" at anywhere from \$20,000,000 to \$100,000,000 per year, but with one or two exceptions they have ignored the question of incentive. They have assumed the efficacy of the usual economic incentive to pay in reparations, but they have failed to perceive, as Germany was being treated, this incentive would soon cease to work. For the primary motive of Germany in paying has been the desire to enjoy life, which the victors would impose upon her if she refused or failed. Yet the destructive inroads which these aviators inflicted on her future ability to pay in order to exploit her immediate capacity to pay made it impossible for her in any event to avoid the suffering. The time was bound to come when she would willingly come to pay, and would incur the penalties. The time could never come when the present generation would by any conceivable sacrifice earn its deliverance from these penalties. The harder they worked and the more costly their sacrifices, the greater would the future demands upon them be. They had no conceivable chance under the present terms of achieving the pursuit of happiness.

The Father of Nebraska Literature.  
From the Fremont Tribune.  
Our attention has been brought, rather belatedly, to an issue of "Nebraska History," the quarterly publication of the Nebraska Historical society, bearing the date of April, June, 1923, containing historical matter of unusual interest to all residents of Fremont, whether they have lived here few or many years.

Practically the entire issue is devoted to a review of the life and work of Orsamus Charles Dake, a man whose name may not be familiar to the present generation of Fremonters, but whose spiritual and material labors in our city were among the important factors in its founding and infant development.

Professor Dake may properly be called the father of Nebraska literature. He was the first resident of this state to compose poetry and prose, dealing with the legends and history of the prairie region for publication. His first book, "Nebraska Legends and Other Poems," bears the date of 1871 and in literary style and excellence is well qualified to hold a permanent first rank in the works of all Nebraska authors.

In the half century following the publication of this book, scores of men and women of Nebraska have tried to interpret the life and thought of the home state by means of the written word. A few of them have succeeded in this to a greater extent than has Dake. Far more of them have failed to achieve the success that attended his efforts. Dake was not only a pioneer in Nebraska literature, but he was the first in the field and will therefore always be accorded the recognition he deserves.

But Fremont's interest in Professor Dake is not confined to his writings. He was born in New York state in 1823 of a well-to-do family and was given the advantage of a liberal education. He followed varied careers as a school teacher and as an editor, and in 1862 was ordained as an Episcopal minister, coming to Fremont in that year to found Brownell Hall, an

educational institution that exists to the present day.

In the following year Reverend Dake moved to Fremont to assume the pastorate of the Episcopal church which he built. He was also responsible for the building of an academy at the corner of Fourth and D streets. During his residence in Fremont he was regarded as one of the intellectual leaders of the community, and his record here was such as to cause his appointment on the first faculty of the University of Nebraska a faculty consisting of five members, all of whom were representatives of various religious denominations.

Dake assumed his post as professor at the university in 1871, the year of the publication of his first book. He died two years later in Lincoln.

Five in Five.  
"Geraldine isn't going about much nights, nowadays, is she?"  
"No, reading all the time."  
"No, indeed! She is trying to cram Dr. Eliot's five-foot shelf into her five-foot self."—Retail Ledger.

Abe Martin  
There we were, all weak and weary;  
Just an even fifteen hundred  
From the port of missing men, and  
How we lived the gods have wondered.

Some were loafers, some were cokers;  
Others vasaals of the fates,  
Drunks there were, and smoky-headed;  
Some were victims of their states.  
Old men, young men—good men, common men—  
Born of women—good or bad—  
Looking wistfully and sad.  
There were cripples and pro-beggars,  
Fagans, dips and gold-bitch crackers—  
'Midst this motley crew of starvers—  
Which even boasted bright hijackers.

Poets, too, and park-bench dreamers,  
And all trades were represented,  
In this nondescript assembly,  
Hanging on, though discontented.  
Fallen men of clergy were there:  
Erstwhile merchants, lawyers,  
Thieves,  
Hopeless drifters all among,  
For whom no one longs or grieves.  
There we were, all weak and weary,  
From the port of fifteen hundred,  
Ostracized and stigmatized,  
'Cause we once too often blundered.

Some yet cherished golden memories  
Of sweet hymns at mother's knee;  
Some were utterly oblivious  
Of family and Christianity.  
Some still dreamed of love and great  
deeds,  
And all things that might have  
been;  
Others for the call were ready  
For the land of equal men.  
Thus we stood in charity's broad line,  
Licking lips with fevered tongue,  
Languishing, while the boys sang  
anthems,  
Which for ages had been sung.  
Suddenly came, a prince, named  
Holmes,  
With five loaves, in equal parts,  
And he fed this organization—  
Stillling hunger—soothing hearts.  
There we stood, all satiated,  
Just an even fifteen hundred,  
Then to port we gayly drifted,  
And the gods no longer wondered.

And another said, I have bought five  
yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them.  
I pray these have me excused—Luce 14:19.  
Father in heaven, let not our mortal  
blessings confound our mind  
and fill us with a false sense of security,  
nor suffer us to be enamored by the  
dazzling prospects of temporal gain  
and carnal joy. Let us be mindful  
that the world's choice of sweet wine  
is inevitably converted into a cup of  
bitterness, and that the joy of today  
becomes the remorse of tomorrow.  
Thou canst not be denied, O God!  
All things are Thine, and man is  
accountable to Thee. Grant that we  
may be faithful stewards of Thy possessions,  
suffer none of Thy children for any  
cause to depart from the faith this  
day, but strengthen them, that their  
faith in Thy goodness and the merits  
of Christ's redemptive love may remain  
beautiful and strong. Make us  
strong according to the inward man,  
strong in our Christian convictions,  
strong in faith, strong in our  
advocacy of righteousness and truth,  
and strong in our loyalty to Thee.  
Above all, keep us from dishonoring  
Thee by any secret or open sin.  
Through Christ, our Redeemer Amen.  
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W. H. QUINN,  
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