

THE MORNING BEE MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher N. B. UPDIKE, President BALLARD DUNN, Editor in Chief JOY M. HACKLER, Business Manager MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIGHT ON THE STATE PRIMARY LAW. Efforts made at Lincoln by the late legislature in the direction of straightening out Nebraska's primary election laws seem only to have put additional kinks into the statute.

These had to do chiefly with the selection of members of the county committees and the delegates to the county and state conventions. Attorney General Spillman has just given out an opinion that harmonizes the conflict, at least to the extent that it will permit legalized party functioning.

This sounds like a common sense view of the situation. It is open, of course, to criticism and perhaps objection, that in event of a contest of any sort, the county committee will have the duty of deciding between the contestants, and thus may be accused of taking sides in a local factional squabble.

The incident opens for argument again the whole system of primary election laws in Nebraska. Admittedly cumbersome, every effort to simplify their operation by amendatory legislation has either failed entirely or produced a new complication.

A law should be enacted that will safeguard not only public but individual interests, leave all political parties free to manage their own affairs within the law, and at the same time be simple enough so that its provisions will not be oppressive or restrictive.

FEDERAL AID FOR COUNTY ROADS. When the voters of Douglas county authorized a bond issue of \$3,000,000 for paving roads in the county outside of Omaha, they overlooked one little point.

The Douglas county program was only partly included in this. The people here did not wish to interfere with the work that was going on out in the state, and did not participate very extensively in the good roads movement as carried on from the state engineer's office.

A result is that Douglas county has a mileage of hard surfaced highway that would be creditable anywhere, and of which our people are reasonably proud. Not all has been accomplished, however, for there remains \$600,000 of the original appropriation and several miles of construction unfinished.

This brings us to the proposition that is being considered; the federal government is being asked to unite with the county in carrying on the work, so that the remainder of the local fund may be doubled. The state program has slowed up materially, and so action by Douglas county will not interfere with anything that is planned elsewhere.

Up to the moment no charge has been made that Ailee Pomeroy was ever attorney for an oil concern. Harry Sinclair knows there will be a reception committee waiting for him. Armed with subpoenas. One thing few of us get excited over is when to wear a white vest and when not to.

Cordell Hull now realizes what it is to go off half-cocked. Mr. Groundhog did his stuff, all right.

horses, wagon, implements and such into anything you have to offer. So it goes. Some of these offers are born of the good old Yankee custom of just trading. David Harums are not all dead yet. Others may represent a desire to get rid of a dead horse or a white elephant. But all are interesting, and very likely a real story lurks behind each offer.

FAITHFUL UNDERPAID SERVANTS. "Neither rain nor snow or heat of day or gloom of night shall stay these courtiers from their duly appointed rounds."

This inscription from the freeze of the general postoffice in New York tells emphatically the story of the mail carrier. In all weather, under all conditions, he follows his duty appointed round. He carries the commerce of the nation in his sack, the social life, the sorrow and the joy alike of all. His fidelity is such that he is taken as a matter of course, just as the rising and the setting of the sun.

These men are especially selected, chosen by competitive test, and not appointed because of political influence. They are servants of the people in the truest sense of the word, and on their capacity and steadfastness depends the orderly progress of the nation's life in so great a degree that none can say what would happen if the mails failed.

A measure is pending before congress to secure for the mail men an increase in pay. Admittedly they are underpaid. Living costs have increased as much as 100 per cent since 1913, and now are an average of 65 per cent above the figures of 10 years ago, yet the wages of postal employees have advanced but from 10 to 20 per cent. That is not enough to be fair.

The postal employees are asking that the limit be increased to \$2,400, which is little enough for the service given. Such an increase would enable them to keep a little nearer to the increased cost of living. We believe it is just, and we believe the public wants to see justice done these faithful servants.

BOOST AND THE WORLD BOOSTS FOR YOU. A creed for a community is a good thing. It should be the embodiment of what the community stands for, what it hopes for, what it aims to become.

Omaha has received considerable notice for several slogans, among which are: "Buy Nebraska Potatoes," "Buy a Thousand Bushels of Wheat," and now it is "Buy More Cows." Farmers have been hearing the slogan for some time. The slogan was a mortgage lifter, and now with low hog prices, hogs are being fed at a less or very small profit. Hadn't we better be a little conservative in our campaigns?

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Homespun Verse -By Omaha's Own Poet- Robert Worthington Davie I WONDER. I wonder—don't we sometimes long To his afar where life is long— To drift away from veal and woe. Forget the dreary thoughts we know. And leave behind us that which clings Incessantly to common things Until our daily throughfare Is burdened and enthralled with care? I wonder—don't we sometimes yearn To go where magic beacons burn. Where we may rest in peace and smile, And live with dream a little while; Where everything is to our choice; Where with the worst we may rejoice. And with the best so happy be That we are lost in ecstasy? I wonder as I roam the trail, And pause at times amid travail, And see my neighbors strive to wear The smiles that can not be despair— If they don't yearn to glide away To some Utopian realm of play— Where days inspire, where nights beguile,— And live with dreams a little while.

Omaha. To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Our attention has been called to an editorial in last Thursday's Bee entitled, "What Dairy Cow Can Do." The article was, no doubt, inspired by the efforts of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce to increase the number of cows on Nebraska farms. We feel that a few comments on this editorial may not be out of place.

Figures in this editorial state that two-thirds of the Douglas County Cow Testing association earned net profits of \$145 and \$149 on butterfat alone. This was for a period of six months. In this connection we wish to say that the six months' figures recently released by the Douglas County Cow Testing association are not "net profit" figures. They are figures showing the value of butterfat produced minus the feed cost. No deduction has been made for labor, and everyone will admit that feeding and caring for a cow a deduction has been made for interest on investment, cost of raising the cow to producing age, or depreciation.

It is interesting to sound out the opinions of men who are marketing milk in Omaha. What is their opinion? Not the least favorable, especially since notices by the milk companies that the best cows are to pay for milk is being slashed, the reason given being too much milk. Wallace's Farmer, in the heart of the corn belt and recognized as a conservative farm paper, says in its issue of January 28: "There is great danger in this sudden bias and cry after dairymen. It is a highly specialized type of farming and, in our opinion, the average farmer in the corn belt receives smaller pay per hour for the time he spends in the cow field than he receives in any other branch of agriculture. He spends taking care of his crops or hogs."

A national and state campaign is about to break, and full soon the speckled and the savors of the dear peep will be turned out. If you think that the politician as we know him today is a new species, you are mistaken. They knew how to play the "black and white" game thousands of years ago. Absalom had most of our modern political savors backed off the board when it came right down to soft-sapping, hand-shaking and palvering. If you want to get a composite picture of the whole modern tribe of self-seeking politicians, get down the old family Bible.

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SUNNY SIDE UP Take Comfort, nor forget That Sunrise never failed us yet Celia Thaxter

NEBRASKA. You may search from Athabasca, through Brazil back to Alaska, and you'll find that old Nebraska has "all backed up" the board. From where poles give icy rattle, down to equatorial latitude, you will never find such cattle as the kind Nebraska scored.

From the islands of Pacific with their climate so specific, down to jungles dense, towering, there's nought with her can compare. Talk to me of golden treasure, of rewards that bring pleasure, none compare in equal measure with Nebraska's wondrous share.

When all hearts we'd set a-flutter all we have to do is utter facts about Nebraska's butter, and we make 'em give a cheer. 'Tis a land of milk and honey, nights of rest and days so sunny, that we wouldn't take no money for the joys of every year.

Every farmstead, town and city has its girls so golden and pretty, and so fond of their country, that we love 'em most to death. Talk to us of California! We arise right here to warn ye that we'll only laugh to scorn ye, so ye'd better save your breath!

So many railroad people read this department that we'd be more careful in future in making statements pertaining to the railroads. A few less than \$13 watchful readers thought that we had added railroad statistics to the list. The office boy will please bring on a copy of the Railway Age.

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"From State and Nation" -Editorials from Other Newspapers- Souvenirs of Childhood.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin. It isn't everybody who is rich enough to buy a school house, even the little red school house in which he learned—or failed to learn—his three R's. But of course Henry Ford can afford it and that is just what he has done. When he was a little lad on his father's farm not far from Detroit he used to trudge two miles to the typical country school of a half century ago. Probably he wore leather boots with finger straps and copper toes. If he didn't he should have done so, to make the picture complete.

And now, having put his name on a little slip of paper, he owns the somewhat dilapidated building in which the sorely tried teacher used to make him and others write their names 100 times or more for punishment. How little he thought then that the time would come when the scrawled letters of that childish significance would have a banking value beyond the dearest memories of our lives. Call it sentiment or sentimentality or what you will, the fact remains that in most normal people there is an appeal in the recollection of the days and scenes, now lost forever, when we think we were happy and free from care.

Unfortunately most adults have found it next to impossible to recapture the spirit of their childhood by returning visit the old home or the old school or the old church or the old swimming hole or the old lot in which they once played ball. "The old place has changed since I was a child," they say; and more than likely it has. But it hasn't changed one-half as much as they have. If Mr. Ford still possesses enough of the spirit of boyhood so that he can by the purchase of the old school house revive again in memory the happy days of childhood—then he has something that all his millions could not buy.

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Sometimes a feller that's born great gets a party wife, but the fellers that achieve greatness all seem to have married a woman. Mrs. Ike Clark completely collapsed, 't'd'ar, an' her husband talks some of 'git-tin' a doctor if he kin find one. Copyright, 1924.

Tribute to the American Mercury. From the New Republic. Certainly it would be useful to have, in this profoundly imperfect America, a journal whose chief and only function it was to point out, without attempt at or suggestion of remedy, like the barter on a sightseeing bus, all the atrocities and imperfections. This function the American Mercury seems likely to assume and to perform in the spirit of Plutarch in the American Bed. Well, fleas are valuable, and we have done a good deal of biting ourselves. But it is discouraging to find, so early in the Mercury's career, such a lack of variety, gaiety, humor and discrimination in its attack, and so strong a tendency to use the same vocabulary whether speaking of a deep cancer or of surface garbage. We do not expect Mr. Mencken to understand anything in America (except its language), but we did expect, though we are now prepared to admit we had no business to, that not all of the Mercury's complaint would be uttered in the same tone of voice. On the whole, we expect no startling deviation in the future from the two numbers already before us: Messrs. Mencken and Nathan will continue shooting at mastodons with birdshot, and at tame skunks with an elephant gun.

Omaha. To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I read in papers that a fellow name Doherty, "old man," he says gave another fellow the name U. S. President, a check or blank full new U. S. bills that had not yet come before the quarter millions worth, and the fellow got for it more every year, for Doherty can use his name as lawyer for him and the fellow follows. I never found out what was the law, but he must be a law lawyer before he amounts to much.

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