

WEATHER FORECAST

Nebraska—Fair, Wednesday; not much change in temperature.

CITY EDITION

THE OMAHA MORNING BEE

VOL. 53. NO. 207.

OMAHA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1924.

TWO CENTS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

There is no man so friendless but what he can find a friend sincere enough to tell him disagreeable truths.

—Balzac Lytton.

FIGHT IN SENATE ON OIL COUNSEL

May Refuse to Give O.K. to Lawyers

Move on to Vote Against Confirming Appointments of Strawn and Pomerene as Prosecutors.

Urge Sweeping Probe

Washington, Feb. 12.—An organized fight in the senate against confirmation of Siles H. Strawn and Atee Pomerene as special government counsel in the oil cases promises to furnish another dramatic chapter to the rapidly unfolding story of the naval oil leases.

Definite indications that Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana, dominant figure in pressing the inquiry, is opposed to the lawyers selected by President Coolidge provided the chief development of the day in the oil investigation.

The oil committee considered the nominations at two executive sessions, but without reaching a decision. Between times it heard six witnesses at public sessions in efforts to obtain more light on the circumstances surrounding the leasing of the Teapot Dome reserve to Harry E. Sinclair and the California Elk Hills reserve to E. L. Doheny.

Coolidge on Top. Members of all senatorial groups showed a disposition today to treat as a closed incident the refusal of President Coolidge to entertain the senate's request that he demand "immediately" the resignation of Secretary Denby for his part in the leases.

Senator Wheeler, democrat, Montana, announced that on Thursday he would introduce a resolution proposing a full investigation of all of the official acts of Attorney General Daugherty and of all branches of the Department of the Interior under the stewardship of Mr. Daugherty.

George Creel, former chairman of the committee on public information, told the oil committee he had been employed by Doheny as "publicity consultant" five months after he left the government service, but had resigned after the matter became a subject of disagreement with his chief.

His salary was at the rate of \$10,000 a year. He also disclosed that he had interested himself in obtaining a lease for oil wells in Teapot Dome and had taken the matter up successfully with Secretary Daniels.

Operator Seeks Fraud. J. Leo Stack, Denver oil man, with whom Creel was associated, and who had contractual rights in claims in Teapot Dome, testified that he had become convinced soon after Sinclair obtained the lease that there had been "bad faith, fraud and secret dealings."

The committee sought, but with little success, to establish definitely who supplied the \$200,000 for the purchase of the Albuquerque (N. M.) Journal by Sidney Weil from Carl C. Magee in May, 1922, but it was in evidence that Joshua Reynolds, chairman of the board of the First National bank of Albuquerque, had taken it over from Weil after 30 days.

Magee told of attacks he was making on Albert B. Fall in his paper and of efforts he made to sell the plant. He said he received an offer from the Los Angeles Herald, which he asserted, "represented Doheny money," and also that Frederick G. Bonilla and J. H. Tamm of the Denver Post had sent a man to see him but he refused to deal with them.

Man Dies in Crash Near Central City

Central City, Neb., Feb. 12.—A collision which resulted in the death of Gust Carlson, farmer residing near Horville, occurred on the state highway just outside of Central City Tuesday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson were driving south when a car, driven by Chris Thomsen, coming from the west, collided with them. The impact was so great as to completely overturn the Carlson car, leaving it right side up.

The occupants were thrown out and Mr. Carlson was killed instantly. His wife was not seriously injured. The body of Mr. Carlson was brought to Central City. He was about 35 years old.

The Sale of Sales

A complete clearout of all used car stock—that is the object of the Pre-Auto Show Used Car Sale. Auto dealers are offering wonderfully reduced prices on all used cars for this week only. Buy YOUR car this week.

Read Autos for Sale on the Want Ad Page

Congratulations, Mr. Beal

An Editorial

Some day in Omaha murderers will be convicted of murder. Some day the awakened civic consciousness of the citizens of Omaha will furnish juries that will realize that in their hands lies a most important part of the duty of law enforcement.

The spectacle of Griffin, the gangster, being released with a verdict of manslaughter is a sad travesty. Sadder still is the opinion expressed in certain quarters that it is all right for bootleggers and thieves to kill each other in private quarrels.

What becomes of law and government when such opinions are held even by a small section of the community? The answer was plain in revolting details on the witness stand at the Griffin trial. Testimony that so far differed from testimony given at the time of the crime, while the details were still fresh in memory, point either to "fixing" of witnesses or fear of the private vengeance of the gangsters.

The "law" of the underworld, that absurd inversion of law and morals that has been so often exploited and denounced, seems to have been exemplified here. Criminals right their own wrongs, redress their own grievances, try their own cases and set their own penalties. Such perversion of the law is as dangerous as it is absurd. It amounts to government within government, with the added menace that it is opposed to legitimate government.

Congratulations are due County Attorney Beal and his assistant, Mr. Gross, for the manner in which they presented their case. Witnesses upon whom they depended, turned hostile, and made their task doubly difficult. Congratulations are due the jury for disregarding the story of the mythical "Smithy."

Juries are not to be criticized if they do not have a united public opinion behind them. A public opinion that insists upon punishment quick and adequate for those who think the law of the gang is the law of the land.

The brutal haystack murder has been closed with a verdict of manslaughter. There are a half dozen others in the county jail awaiting trial for murder. A wholesome public opinion, upholding the hands of the county attorney will go far toward a proper trial and an adequate verdict for those who are guilty.

Not only is Omaha a good place to live but a place for good people to live. It can be made a most unhealthy place for thieves and murderers.

Omaha's Muddy Water Episode Influences Howell on Denby

Public Excitement, Then as Now, Led to Hasty Judgment, Nebraska Senator Feels—Wants to Wait for Facts Before Condemning Secretary.

By P. C. POWELL, Washington Correspondent The Omaha Bee. Washington, Feb. 12.—One need go back only a few months to find an experience in the life of Senator R. B. Howell, which he admits had much to do with his vote against the resignation of Secretary Denby before the latter was given a trial or the president was given an opportunity for thorough investigation.

That experience had to do with the muddy water episode in Omaha. In a single day the water in Omaha became mostly mud. Within 24 hours, Senator Howell, who was manager of the plant, was the most unpopular man in Omaha. He was charged with being absolutely responsible for the muddy water. He was accused of starving the plant for the sake of advertising a large surplus in his campaign for senator. The board of directors of the Metropolitan Utilities district were called upon to discharge him immediately.

"Locally at that time there was as much feeling against me as against Denby," he said. "If the board of directors had taken the same action toward me at that time that the senate has taken against Denby, I would have been disgraced to a certain extent."

"Instead, the board waited until a thorough investigation was made. Then it had an open hearing known in Omaha."

"Mind you, I am not holding a brief for Denby. But I do demand a fair trial for a man, the same as was given to me."

Those in touch with the situation in Omaha remember that the investigation revealed washing of water for laundry had been neglected, unknown to Howell, and a mud valve had been opened at the water plant at Florence permitting thousands of gallons of precious water to escape into the river when it was so sorely needed in cleaning the water basins.

Howell did not even demand discharge of any one. He awaited the investigation when everything was explained in public. Resignations in the water department followed.

That for Howell to take such a stand required courage is best known to those in Washington. With the exception of Curtis G. Kansas, there wasn't a man in the farm belt who didn't vote the other way.

Continuance Granted in Milligan Grain Case Trial

Geneva, Neb., Feb. 12.—Four days of testimony in the Milligan grain case failed to adduce testimony sufficient to convict and a continuance was granted by Judge Brown. Two of the 16 cases, involving \$2,300, were dismissed. The plaintiffs will either take depositions in Chicago, Kansas City or Omaha, or the cases all will be dismissed.

The 16 suits were filed by farmers residing in Milligan county in the vicinity of Milligan and were to recover money alleged to have been lost by them because of gambling transactions.

Married in Council Bluffs

Following persons obtained marriage licenses in Council Bluffs yesterday: Lois Osberg, Polk, Neb. ... 27 Helen Johnson, Polk, Neb. ... 28 Frank Rose, Peoria, Ill. ... 29 Hazel Graff, Des Moines, Neb. ... 30 Everett Thomson, Primrose, Neb. ... 31 Hazel Dawkins, Primrose, Neb. ... 32 D. H. Keschmeyer, Palisade, Neb. ... 33 Josephine Medares, Willow Island, Neb. ... 34 M. C. Wheeler, Hastings, Neb. ... 35 Ruth Hughes, Hastings, Neb. ... 36 David Kenney, Omaha, Neb. ... 37 Ida Haggood, Omaha, Neb. ... 38

Howard Makes Issue Out of Tax Exemption

Congressman Green's Proposal to Levy on All Bonds Opposed by Nebraska Representative.

By P. C. POWELL, Washington Correspondent The Omaha Bee. Washington, Feb. 12.—The resolution introduced by Representative Green of Council Bluffs, calling for discontinuance of tax free securities in an attempt to divert money into how active channels, defeated last week in the lower house, may be the basis of a political battle in congressional elections in Nebraska.

When the resolution was voted upon in the house, Congressman Sears, Simmons, McLaughlin, republicans, and Morehead and Shallenbarger, democrats, voted for the bill. Congressman Edgar Howard, democrat, voted against the bill.

The Columbus congressman says he is proud of his vote. He accepts his action on this resolution as a basis for his campaign for reelection and has issued a statement defending his vote.

In his statement, Howard's clever pen aligns predatory interests against him. He also takes a wallop at Congressman Green, who has served the Sixth Iowa district for 12 years. How active campaign statement, in full, follows:

"I voted in favor of the Steagall amendment to the Green resolution. That amendment provided that federal land bank bonds should be excluded from operations of the Green resolution."

"Mr. Green and all his Wall street following voted to kill the Steagall amendment, thus clearly demonstrating that the main object of the Green resolution was to kill the federal land banks and the general credit system. Upon making that discovery I voted against the Green resolution."

"I have no apology to offer for my vote. I received more than 4,000 letters and telegrams from my home people with reference to the Green resolution. The letters were 20 to 1 in opposition to the Green plan to kill the federal land banks."

"I should have voted for the resolution if the Steagall amendment to exclude the federal land bank bonds from its operations had been adopted. But when it became apparent that the chief object of the Green resolution was to kill the federal land banks, I felt that I was voicing the sentiment of my agricultural district when I voted against their program."

Spark Lit Shanktown Blast

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 11.—An electric spark caused by the "farting" of a mining machine in an atmosphere charged with dust and explosive gas was given as the cause of the explosion at the Shanktown mine of the Barnes & Tucker Coal Co., January 26, which resulted in 36 deaths, the report of the investigators, filed today, showed.

We Can Buy More Oil Land, but Public Confidence Will Be Harder to Replace



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The Day in Washington

The annual treasury Postoffice department appropriation bill, carrying \$729,000,000, was passed by the house.

Navy orders were made public completing preparatory steps for the flight of the Shenandoah to the Arctic this summer.

A provision allotting \$1,500,000 for the New York-San Francisco airplane mail service was eliminated from the postoffice appropriation bill in the house.

The soldiers' bonus bill was side-tracked by the house ways and means committee until the tax bill is disposed of on the floor of the house.

The senate oil committee heard testimony of George C. Leo, J. Leo Stack, Carl C. Magee, Sidney M. Weil and others in its investigation of naval oil land leases.

A house Indian affairs committee questioned the legality of a ruling by Albert B. Fall as secretary of the interior, which permitted leasing of certain Indian lands.

Toun's Car Runs Into Auburn Store

Auburn, Neb., Feb. 12.—Sunday evening a family of strangers driving from Las Vegas, N. M., to Iowa parked a car in front of the show windows of the Smith Motor Co. When they were ready to start on their journey the driver cranked the car, which proved to be in gear. The car charged over the curb, wrecking an oil pump, across the sidewalk through two of the large plate glass windows. Into the show room where it smashed the front of two cars on display. It drove the cars back through the immense show case.

A special curbing had been built in front of the garage to prevent such an accident as twice before cars had crossed the sidewalk and done more or less damage to the building. On account of the increased curbless protection the motor company had not renewed the plate glass insurance and the loss is quite heavy as the owner of the runaway car is in straightened circumstances, having only enough money to enable the family to reach Iowa.

\$40,000 Munny Building to Be Erected at Hastings

Hastings, Neb., Feb. 12.—Hastings is to have a new municipal building, to house the water and light departments and provide offices for the mayor and other city officials. Construction work will start at an early date. The city council has voted to spend \$40,000 for the erection of the building, the funds to come from the surplus of the municipal water and light departments, which now amount to more than \$42,000. The building will be located adjoining the new auditorium owned by the city.

Omaha Bishop Is Stroke Victim at Miami, Fla

Paralysis Affects Left Side, Local Pastor Learns—Was to Deliver Lectures in South.

Bishop Homer C. Stuntz of Omaha was stricken with paralysis at Miami, Fla., yesterday, according to a telegram received here by Rev. J. E. Wagner, pastor of the First Methodist church.

Bishop Stuntz is head of the Methodist Episcopal church area comprising Iowa and Nebraska.

According to the telegram, which was confirmed by Associated Press dispatches, his left side is affected and he is in a semi-conscious condition. The telegram states that everything that can be done for him is being done, at a Miami sanitarium.

Bishop Stuntz was to have delivered several addresses at Miami, after a conference with colored ministers of Florida at Gainesville. The bishop left Omaha a few weeks ago to spend the winter in the south.

Mrs. Stuntz left last night for Miami. Howard Rushton, close friend of Bishop Stuntz, accompanied her. They will reach their destination Friday morning.

Rev. James E. Wagner, pastor of First Methodist Episcopal church, also a very close friend of the bishop, has wired the Florida sanitarium for more details on his friend's condition.

Ellsworth Womn Badly Scratched as Cat Runs Amuck

Scratched, Neb., Feb. 12.—With a feline ferociousness seldom witnessed, a strange cat attacked Mrs. F. J. Ellsbery, wife of a local merchant. Mrs. Ellsbery suffered a badly scratched arm, lacerated from elbow to the wrist. In an effort to thrust the cat away with the free arm, the apparently deranged animal bit into the palm of the hand, tearing out small bits of flesh. The attack occurred when Mrs. Ellsbery reached down to pet the cat.

Heresy Charge on Ex-Bishop

New York, Feb. 12.—Charges of extreme heresy have been preferred against Rev. William Montgomery Brown of Gallon, O., a former bishop of Arkansas and a member of the Episcopal church, by Bishops A. C. A. Hall of Vermont, Joseph M. Francis of Indianapolis and William L. Gravatt of West Virginia. It was revealed today.

Coolidge Says Nation's Prosperity Dependent on Healthy State of Farms

President, in Lincoln Day Speech, Urges Industry to Sacrifice for Agricultural Relief.

Sees a Burden in Bonus

New York, Feb. 12.—National and international political and economical affairs of the present time were touched on by President Calvin Coolidge in an address delivered here this evening at a meeting of the National Republican club held in commemoration of Lincoln's birthday.

The text of the president's speech follows:

One hundred and fifteen years ago today Abraham Lincoln was born. How great he became can not yet be accurately measured, although nearly 60 years have passed since his death. Probably there has been no one justly entitled to be termed "the greatest man in the world." As there are many different talents, so there are many different kinds of greatness. This makes comparisons somewhat barren of results.

But measured by ability, achievement and character, America has long placed Washington and Lincoln as the two men in our history prominently entitled to be termed "truly great." In this opinion we have the general concurrence of mankind. While others approach them, they are not outranked by any of the other figures which all of civilization has produced throughout its record of thousands of years.

In a way all men are great. It is on that conception that the American institutions have been founded. Perhaps the differences are not so much as many suppose. Yet there are differences which set off some men above their fellows. What those differences are in a particular case is a matter somewhat of personal opinion. To me the greatness of Lincoln consisted very largely of a vision by which he saw more clearly than the men of his time the moral relationship of things.

His great achievement lay in bringing the different elements of his country into a truly moral relationship. He was the commander in chief of the greatest armies the world had then seen. They were victorious. Yet we do not look upon him as a conqueror. He directed the raising and expenditure of vast sums of money. Yet we do not think of him as a financier. He was the man who followed cost many lives and desolated much territory. Yet we think of him, not as placing a burden on the nation, but removing one from it, not as a destroyer, but a restorer. He was a liberator. He struck the fetters not only from the bodies but from the souls of men. He was a great moral force.

Restored National Unity. When Lincoln had finished his course he had made the foundation of freedom stronger and firmer on which to build national unity. Strengthening that principle was the chief accomplishment of his life. He pointed out that the nation could not endure half slave and half free. The mighty work which he did finally left it to endure all free. He restored national unity by restoring moral unity.

The questions which he considered in his day we need have no hesitation in concluding were finally and definitely settled. There is no difference of opinion, no argument about them now. The conclusions which he drew have long since been the settled policy of our country.

His time has passed. New developments have taken place, new problems have been met, lasting up to the days of the world war, for increased compensation to wage-earners, for the bettering of their conditions, whatever it has never been fully settled, does not appear to be present to be acute. The rewards of labor engaged in commerce, transportation and industry are now such as to afford the most liberal participation in all the essentials of life. What this tremendous opportunity now held by the wage-earner if wisely and justly administered, will mean to the well-being of the nation is almost beyond comprehension. It opens up the prospect of a new era in human existence. It justifies the assertion that while America has problems it is not in part it is your problem. I have already encouraged organization and co-operative marketing that organized agriculture may cope with organized industry. I have promoted tariff investigations for increased rates on wheat. I have extended relief through the War Finance Corporation and the Federal Reserve Bank system.

I shall not now discuss the details of legislation or enter upon a presentation of peculiarly agricultural remedies. I made specific recommendations in my message to the congress, and there are bills pending for carrying my suggestions into effect. What I am most anxious to discuss is the problem of the agricultural sections of our country; it is the problem likewise of industry, of transportation, of commerce, and of banking. I bring to you because I know that in part it is your problem. I have already encouraged organization and co-operative marketing that organized agriculture may cope with organized industry. I have promoted tariff investigations for increased rates on wheat. I have extended relief through the War Finance Corporation and the Federal Reserve Bank system.

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tion should be given to agriculture. This is an interest on which it is estimated that more than 40,000,000 of our people are directly or indirectly dependent. It represents an investment several times as large as that of all the railroads of the country. It has an aggregate production of over \$8,000,000,000 each year. Yet with all these vast resources of production and consumption, and the vast purchasing power for the products of the farm, which is represented by the prosperity of our industry and commerce, with here and there an exception, agriculture as a whole languishes.

Distribution Neglected. Production has outrun the power of distribution and consumption. The farm population is not increasing, but the improved methods of tillage and inventions in farm machinery have all contributed to increase the per capita output. It is in this direction that the agricultural schools and colleges have placed their major emphasis. Their education has been substantially all on the side of improved methods of production and none on the side of distribution, consumption, and marketing.

When there is a difficulty which affects so large a population, so large an area, and so important an interest as that of agriculture it is distinctly a national question. It scarcely needs to be pointed out that agriculture is of vital importance to our country. It is the primary source of sustenance, industry, and wealth. Everyone ought to know that it is basic and fundamental. Without a healthy, productive, and prosperous agriculture, there can be no real national prosperity. It is perfectly obvious that there is something radically wrong when agriculture is found in its present state of depression at a time when manufacturing, transportation and commerce are on the whole in a remarkable state of prosperity.

No one would deny, I suppose, that industrially we are very flourishing. Every standard by which prosperity is measured, whether it be production, movement of freight, corporate earnings, employment of labor, or bank clearings, all point to the same conclusion. Disregarding the abnormal wartime condition, for every important enterprise save agriculture the year 1923 undoubtedly holds the record. Earnings have been very greatly increased, and except here and there as in the case of some railroads must be looked upon with a great deal of satisfaction.

But agriculture has only partially revived. Its position has been improved, but the returns for the year are nearly 20 per cent in excess of two years ago. But the great food staples do not sell on a parity with the products of industry. Their average price is little above the prewar level, while manufactures are about 30 per cent higher. The farmer is not receiving his share.

The result has been a decrease in the value of farm lands, the choking of the avenues of credit with obligations which are worthless or doubtful, the foreclosure of mortgages, and the suspension of a large number of banks. To this depression there have been other contributing causes, but the main difficulty has been the price of farm products.

Entire Nation Dependent. Very likely you are wondering why agriculture should be discussed here in this metropolis. One reason is that I want to emphasize as forcibly as possible your intimate dependence upon agricultural welfare. That great interest cannot be affected without the necessity of your being affected. The farm is one of the chief markets for the industries of the nation. You have a direct economic and financial interest. You can not long prosper with that great population and great area in distress.

You have a political interest. The people of those numerous states cast an enormous influence upon the making of the laws by which you are governed.

Unsound economic conditions are not conducive to sound legislation. The farm has a social value which can not be overestimated. It is the natural home of liberty and the support of courage and character. In all the nation it is the chief abiding place of the spirit of independence. I do not need to dwell upon the moral requirement for the equitable distribution of prosperity and the relief of distress by the application of every possible and sound remedy.

This problem is not merely the problem of the agricultural sections of our country; it is the problem likewise of industry, of transportation, of commerce, and of banking. I bring to you because I know that in part it is your problem. I have already encouraged organization and co-operative marketing that organized agriculture may cope with organized industry. I have promoted tariff investigations for increased rates on wheat. I have extended relief through the War Finance Corporation and the Federal Reserve Bank system.

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