

THE MORNING BEE MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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THE TRAIL OF THE SERPENT.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Oliver Goldsmith's sorrowful comment is true only when it can be applied in its entirety. It is not true of the United States. Wealth has accumulated here. Beyond any dream that might have floated through the mind of the doctor or any of his companions or contemporaries. But it has not brought with it the decay of men.

In no other land in all the history of the world have the people been happier or enjoyed more of the good things of life. Never were public works more extensive or given more for the enjoyment of all. We read of the glories of civilizations that fell apart, long ago. Whose dim shadows loom through the mists of the past. In them we descry certain proofs of magnificence. This was the lot of very few. For the masses life was a dreary succession of days of toil, stretching out a slow count between the cradle and the grave. Devoid of all that now is looked upon as the common right of all, the people then existed solely that some ruler might exalt his greatness. Religion, politics, industry, commerce, all partook of and survived by the favor of the one man.

Even Rome's greatness, the most superb model of antiquity, did not possess the substantial foundation that underlies the life of the United States. We marvel at the monuments which have survived. We forget that on all sides in the modern city are structures as magnificent in their relation to man as any ever reared to gratify the vanity of a Roman ruler. We hear of the viaducts of the aqueducts, the other achievements of Rome's builders. Where did they ever set up a Roosevelt dam, or dig a Panama canal, or erect anything to approach the Quebec bridge? Did they even construct a highway equal to those we use today?

Our schools, our churches, our hospitals, our theaters, parks, playhouses, every conceivable external proof of proper use of wealth testifies to the greatness and the soundness of American life.

Across this is being drawn the trail of the serpent. Selfish and greedy men have sought, and with some success, to degrade American citizenship by setting up the idol of wealth as itself to be worshipped. We have seen such examples as that of the baseball players, who sold their honor to gamblers. Of a cabinet officer, who accepted large sums of cash for which he betrayed his trust. These who accept bribes are in themselves no whit worse than those who bribe them. All deserve and should receive severest condemnation.

Against the serpent is arrayed the strength of America. Men whose integrity and honor are unshaken have risen to combat the evil. That it will be checked none doubt. Our country is in no greater danger of dissolution than when Andrew Jackson waged his conflict against corruption in high places in the early part of the last century. Or when, under Grant, the "whisky ring" scandal and the Credit Mobilier shook the nation. The Tweed scandal in New York, and the corruption the Lexow committee uncovered and wiped away, are but places where the serpent has touched.

America is strong, clean, and will endure, because its spirit can not be subdued by bribery. Wealth we have, but manhood as well, and so long as men control wealth there is no danger. The "bold yeomanry," both praised and lamented by Goldsmith, still rules the destiny of the United States of America, and government of the people and for the people will not perish, because it is sustained by the people.

LITTLE MYSTERIES OF FATE.

Life turns on little things. "For want of a nail a shoe was lost." The old nursery jingle is familiar to everyone. It illustrates in its simple way just how great things turn on small. A story is just now current of how Clemenceau was once defeated for president of the French chamber of deputies because he lacked one vote. He lost that vote by twitting a stingy member on his greediness as they were going into the chamber to attend the session.

Executors of the late Senator Dillingham of Vermont rummage in his old papers. They find a letter from Calvin Coolidge, then just out of college. In it the young man asked that he be given an opportunity to study law in the Dillingham office. This letter was not answered until a fortnight after its receipt, and during that time the now president had made other arrangements, the pursuit of which altered his entire career. If the future senator had promptly replied to the missive, the future president might now be a highly respected country lawyer in Vermont.

Hundreds of other similar instances may be cited in support of the proposition. Verily, "there is a destiny which shapes our ends."

TALK IS KING AT WASHINGTON.

Unrestricted oratory still rules in congress. Party leaders are considering plans for shutting off some of the flow of words. This is urgent if the actually urgent work may be concluded before June, in order that adjournment may be taken in time to attend the convention. This just now seems hopeless. In the house the revenue bill is being considered under an agreement that will shut off a great deal of debate. The various schedules of the Mellon bill are to be presented in one group. The Garner measure is to be offered as a substitute for the whole. This is to circumvent piecemeal consideration, although it does not prevent any member from offering an amendment to any clause, paragraph or provision, and addressing the house on his motion. The bill is now in committee of the whole. How long before a vote

will be taken none can say. From the house it goes to the senate, there to repeat the debate. Having declared a 10-day holiday in the oil matter, the senate may take up some of the many matters before it. What will be taken up will depend upon the humor of the members. It is not easy to get down to dull routine work of framing and passing laws after the excitement of a month like that which has just passed. Especially when we are promised that "to be continued in our next" means that the 10-days interim will in all probability be devoted to arranging a new program for further hunt after oil offenders.

It is well for the country that the disclosures have been made. It will be better if prosecutions end in punishment. Yet some very necessary laws are waiting on the action of congress. A few weeks of earnest work, devoid of speech making, will be greatly appreciated by the country.

WALL PAPER AND HUMAN DESTINY.

Now, please give this careful thought. It may affect your future life and happiness. Then, again, it may not. It all depends on how you are disposed to react to such disclosures as we are about to make. You are fat or lean, pink or pale, happy or unhappy, according as your home is papered. You react, consciously or unconsciously, to the tone of the wall paper. Why? Listen to H. A. Gardiner, researcher for the Smithsonian Institution, talking to the International Association of House Painters and Decorators, at Atlantic City last week:

"Shades of wall covering have an effect on avoirdupois. Guinea pigs placed in light colored compartments become fat and those in dark colored boxes become thin. Light colors of high reflective values appear to favor rapid growth of animals, while colors of low luminosity retard development. In compartments painted dark colors no young were born in a period of four months, while a baby guinea pig was born in the same time in each white, tan and pale blue compartment."

Whatever else may come of this thought, it reminds us that among the ancients purple was esteemed of divine origin, and was sacred to the rulers. At Constantinople, after the Roman had become the Byzantine empire, heirs to the throne had to be "born in the purple." That is a room hung, furnished and decorated with purple alone, was used as the bedroom at that critical period in the life of the empress. In a way this may account for the fact that some of the most remarkable of rulers came from that bedchamber. Their lives certainly were hectic. Justinian, for example, who gave his time to compiling the "Pandex," and other monumental labors, the while his empress, Theodora, carried on. Well, if interested in this lady, look up Gibbon and see what he has to say about her. He is well supported by Smith, Milman, Guizot and other commentators.

Wall paper may direct our ends after destiny has shaped them, but everybody has to take some chances in this life.

SHENANDOAH'S FLIGHT MAY WAIT.

The north pole has been there for a long time. Probably it will not get away or greatly change its shape if the Shenandoah expedition be postponed for a year. While waiting the project will get consideration from congress. Perhaps the support of an appropriation. Money to defray the expense of the trip, which is estimated to cost \$350,000, will have to be provided in the naval supply bill.

A very respectable number of people throughout the country are not yet entirely convinced of either the practicability or desirability of such an undertaking. At a time when money is needed for so many other things. When tax reduction is clamored for on one hand and the adjusted compensation measure is being so urgently pressed on the other, people are likely to view a little coldly what on the surface looks like a mere exploit, and not a worth while undertaking.

President Coolidge is a good friend of both army and navy. Naturally, too, he is inclined to consider these matters from a practical standpoint. If he can be convinced that good is to come from the journey to the north pole, he will undoubtedly give it his approval. If, as has been indicated already, the whole affair is conceived to heighten the local reputation of certain officers of the navy, it should be abandoned.

Debate in congress may delay the start, if it is ever made, but the navy will be better off if it does start with approval of the public. A mere acquiescence in the scheme is not an endorsement, by any means. Uses should be found for the big dirigible, and probably will, but the proposed plan of visiting the north polar regions in search of unclaimed land has not greatly excited the popular imagination. Further consideration will be helpful.

The Detroit News rejoices that there are a few old-fashioned homes here and there where comparatively little shooting occurs. Yes, and now and then one may be found where there is no still busy at work.

Among other laughs handed us during the present grave crisis is that one about the "soft drinks concession" in Madison Square Garden during the democratic national convention.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson asks aid for the hungry little child of Germany. It is greatly to be hoped that this will not go over the heads of those in authority at Berlin.

The identity of "John T. King," the benefactor of Dry Leader Anderson, remains as much of a mystery as the identity of the man who struck Billy Patterson.

The failure of Ambassador Weldfelt to half mast the flag over the German embassy at Washington is going to regretted just that way in Germany.

When Frank Buitta gets to Europe we hope he will not get his wires crossed or be connected with the wrong number too often.

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

'Tis the laughing of a cherub or a little fellow's grin. That makes the world delightful and so dear to linger in; And the sign of life is really just a very little while; For it's ever animated with some little fellow's smile-- With some fellow's animated gestures, with some little fellow's fun. From the dawning of the morning till the sunny day is done, And his joyfulness endears him to us elders who have been Mischief-loving little urchins with his fervid little grin. There is optimism shining in his honest little eyes, There is pride that seems uncommon for a fellow of his size, There is gladness--there is goodness--there is seriousness and grace In expressions that are ever radiating o'er his face. He is just a little fellow, but he plays a mighty part In the lifting of depression from an older fellow's heart, And the blessedness of living is exemplified within The sincerity and sweetness of a little fellow's grin.

What of America?

By EDWIN G. PINKHAM. The Character of George III and His Government. He who shall propose it (to tax the colonies) will be a much bolder man than I.—Walpole.

THE event that embarked the English government upon the course that led in a few swift years to the loss of the American colonies was the accession to the throne of King George III, which occurred in 1760. If we are to understand the history of the American colonies, we must know something of his character and government and of the political state of England at the time. It should be pointed out that had been unknown to the English constitution for generations; that never had been recognized, in fact, and that had been abandoned by George III. He set himself on the throne since the expulsion of the Stuarts. George set himself from the beginning to the policy of instituting a personal rule in which the ministry and parliament should be reduced to nullities. He surrounded himself with courtiers and favorites who fawned on him and did his bidding, and the views of these men—which were merely his own handed back to him—embellished with every flattery—outweighed the advice of statesmen and generals.

"The narrow understanding of the king rendered the colonial problem. He could see no difference between the attitude of 3,000,000 Englishmen in America demanding their rights, and that of the Middlesex electors in meeting George III. Wilkes to parliament in opposition to the king's wishes. He treated both as rebels. He would have treated his parliamentary opposition in the same way if he could have seen a way to do it.

To the king, any Englishman at home or in America, who raised a voice against the administration of his government was regarded as a traitor. Samuel Adams, James Otis, John Hancock—every American who wasn't a Tory—were Wilkesites. They were his personal enemies and he should be outwitted as Wilkes was. George, like James II, had no use for character, principles or ability in a general, minister or member of parliament. If they could not be bought or intimidated, they should be put to personal use. All such qualities therefore were driven from places near the throne; and the government, the army and crown officers in America were filled with royal spies, men with just ability enough to keep on the right side of the king by telling him the things he wanted to believe.

John Stuart, earl of Bute, known to the people as "Bute," was an example of this class. Of him Prince Frederic said, "Bute is just the man to be envied at some small proud German court where there is nothing to do." If the character of George, George and Grenville, his stamp act minister, is well illustrated by a remark of Macaulay, that neither the king nor Grenville could be governed by the other, but were perfectly agreed as to how to govern anybody else.

"The political and social state of England made it easy for George to institute his regime. Parliament was controlled by a few powerful families who parceled out seats in the house of commons to their supporters and took in the royal treasury, the seats were bought and sold almost openly. Their prices were quoted pretty much as stocks were quoted on the exchange, and we can read the prices today in the memoirs of the times.

"A note," writes Lord North to the secretary of the board of treasury, "should be written to Lord Falkmouth in my name. His lordship must be told that I hope he will permit me to recommend to three of his six seats in Cornwall. The terms he expects are 2,500 pounds a seat, to which I am ready to agree." "Gasconade," he writes again, "should have the refusal of Gregory if he will pay 1,900 pounds. If he will not pay he must give way to Mr. Best or Mr. Peachy." Again: "Let Cooper know whether you promised Masterman 2,500 or 3,000 pounds for each of Lord Edgecumbe's seats. I was going to pay him 12,500 pounds, but he demands 15,000."

The majorities thus returned to parliament, took their orders, of course; and their votes were graciously accepted by the king as the voice of his people. There was no other voice in England, for the king would not permit petitions to be presented to the throne, and frowned on all public meetings, resolutions and addresses in which his subjects had a part. Even when the city of Manchester (which, by the way, had no representatives in parliament) presented a most loyal and dutiful address to the king, exhibiting a spirit which he commended to Lord North, he nevertheless warned the minister that it was a bad precedent.

The people of England thus had no share in their own government. A privileged class returned to parliament by vote controlled by the great landed families, represented communities in which their faces and perhaps their names, were unknown. Many constituencies were represented had no population at all, if we except the gamekeepers and groom of the family that owned the land. On the other hand, many great industrial towns had no representation, and the aristocracy of the government being almost exclusively the aristocracy of the land.

Even the opposition in parliament represented a party which was not a party. Its leaders, with a very few exceptions, were merely political opponents of the king's ministers and wanted nothing but those ministers' places. In other words, they would have been "the king's friends," out of office they were merely the opposition hiding their time. Nor was the king above trafficking with the opposition leaders and intriguing against his own ministers when it suited his policy to do so. He hated Pitt, but he called Pitt to office the better to discipline his chosen tools. Never was statesmanship in England so low, never were the political liberties so nearly extinguished as when George III was perfecting his repressive system against his subjects, both at home and in the colonies. The character of the government he meant to build up, and incidentally his own stubbornness, are illustrated by the declaration with which he received Pitt's proposal to restore constitutional government.

"Rather than submit to the terms proposed by Mr. Pitt, I would die in the room I now stand in."

Such was the character of the king and the political condition of the country he ruled when, after nearly a century and a half of colonial self government, the relation of these dependencies to the crown suddenly presented a question to which no answer could be found in the history of English government.

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SUNNY SIDE UP Take Comfort, nor forget That Sunrise never failed us yet. Calia Theater

AMBITION. I'm going to the Auto Show at the Auditorium. A-hoping I can rig a scheme to get a car, by gum! It may be I can get a Stutz, a Packard or a Nash, or a Packard, or a Chevrolet or Hupmobile, a Marmon, or engage

Some man in conversation until I can speak away. With one of Wills-St. Claire's machines, an Elcar or a Gray. But, anyhow, I gotta hunch if I can work it right, I'll get a Ford, perhaps a Cole, if not a Wills-Knight.

And, if the man who handles it will only turn his back, I think I've got a scheme framed up to get a Cadillac. I'd like to have a Marmon, or a Lincoln, or a Nash, or a Packard. And I'll take care of either if I'm not required to put up cash. I don't care what the price may be if terms are made to suit. I'll get a Hudson, Franklin, Dodge, or Chandler that's a beauty. An Overland would suit me well, a Maxwell or a Star. In fact, I'm not particular, just so it is a car. The Studebaker takes my eye, the Auburn looks all right. The Oldsmobile, the Essex and the Jewett suit me quite. I rather like the Reo, and the Gardner seems to be a pretty good one. A car that stacks up just about the way that's suitin' me. The Buick, Chrysler, Durant, Dort, the Oakland—I admit I'm not a bit particular, most any make machine will make me feel just like a king, the mislus like a queen.

I'm going to the Auto Show at the Auditorium. And spill some conversation in the hope that there will come some kind of terms that I can meet. Some pulling of the wires, that will permit me to overlook upon the rubber tires. I'll really like to own a car all shiny like and bright. And that is surely what I'll do if terms are offered right. I'm not a bit particular, as I remarked; I mean I'll take most any kind of car that's run by gasoline.

We hereby announce our candidacy for the office of sheriff of Powder River. We feel sure that we possess some very special qualifications for the job, among them being the fact that we are rather near-sighted, and therefore very likely to overlook a lot of things. We are also rather hard of hearing, which will make it a bit difficult for us to hear the rattle of chips, the whip of the wheel, or the flap-flap as the dealer turns of 'Tige over. Our sense of smell, too, is slightly deficient, making it difficult for us to trace down some forbidden things, although we admit our sense of taste and our reactions are still normal. If these things fall to qualify us as a likely and suitable candi-

"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.

"Don't Rock the Boat."

Grand Island, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Permit me as an old time subscriber of The Bee to extend to you my congratulations upon the recent editorial entitled, "Do Not Rock the Boat, There is a Real Man at the Helm."

I think this is one of the best editorials that has ever appeared in The Bee, and I have been a subscriber to your paper for more than 25 years. It seems to me that it expresses sentiment which should control every fair-minded man in this country at the present hour. It is fortunate that time have a man in the White House like President Coolidge, determined to pursue a policy that will punish the guilty and absolve the innocent, who is not swayed by the fleeting passions of the moment, but whose actions are founded upon what he deems right and just to all men.

When criminal laws of a country are enforced by emotions or hysteria they fall far short of their general purpose. When, however, they are enforced upon the principles of a calm, judicial determination, whether or not a crime has been committed and the party charged is responsible, then they become the very foundation upon which our government must rest, and I believe the sentiment expressed in your editorial of this date is one of the clearest and most wholesome that has appeared for many days.

W. A. PRINCE.

Precedents for the Bonus.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Big business and the big moneyed men of the east would like to see the soldiers' adjustment compensation bill is strongest call of the soldiers "Treasury Raiders." Kindly note below a few previous treasury raiders.

Gen. Phil Sheridan received 160

Abe Martin

acres of land as an additional compensation for his services in the Indian war of 1855. Gen. Winfield Scott, for his services in the Mexican war, was given a similar bonus. Admiral Farragut, for services as midshipman in the year of 1812 and commander in the Mexican war, received the same number of acres of land in addition to his salary as an officer in the navy.

Are there any greater names in American history than these? Why not, then, do the same for O'Brien, Goldman, Schultz, Smith and the rest who went to the aid of their country in 1917? The principle is the same, only the names are different. This was printed in the American Legion Weekly of February 1, 1924, signed "A Veteran, Brooklyn, N. Y." This is the way I feel about this question, so why not give the boys what they really earned and are entitled to. SOLDIER—515232.

Official And Personal Welfare.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I quote from an editorial in The Bee. "I do not propose to sacrifice any innocent man for my own welfare, nor do I propose to retain in office any unfit man for my own welfare."

It seems that personal welfare has much to do with the acts of those in official position as well as in private life. You remember that when Uncle Joe Cannon went home to his people after a long term of service in the house of representatives his message to them was that "This government is a hell of a success." Now we are wondering if he meant from his personal welfare viewpoint.

A. L. IRELAND.

Complains of Car Service.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Some one has said there was liable to be a street car crisis in Omaha. I don't quite agree with him, what with a 7-cent fare, with skip stops and a toll to cross the bridge. I understand this bridge was started in the '60s, and was to be a free bridge when paid for (with a gov-

ernment permit). I wonder how long it will take to pay for this bridge at the rate of toll it collects every year (nearly a million dollars) and erected nearly or over 60 years ago? There will be no street car crisis if our Chamber of Commerce and our city fathers will do their duty, by stepping in when the street car franchise runs out in 1928 and saying: "You give us a 5-cent fare, needed extensions, no skip stops and free bridge toll, or, if you don't, we propose to place on the streets of Omaha the motor bus to take your place and you can take your rails out."

In fact, the motor busses are far ahead of the street cars, as they line in at the curb for passengers, and in snowy weather the snow can be pushed to the center of the street in a windrow, making passage for traffic on both sides of the street, going away with so many accidents. C. L. NETHAWAY.

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The Omaha National Bank Farnam at 17th St.

Jewett advertisement: In all the world no car like this! Get the facts about the New JEWETT. Includes image of a car and contact information for V. A. Bridge, Cir. Mgr.

NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION for January, 1924, of THE OMAHA BEE. Daily 74,669 Sunday 80,166. Includes contact information for V. A. Bridge, Cir. Mgr.

Savings and The CONSERVATIVE Loan Association advertisement: Loans for homes.