

THE MORNING BEE
MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publishers
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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Omaha Bee is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the recognized authority on circulation audits, and The Omaha Bee's circulation is regularly audited by their organizations.

Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1908, at Omaha postoffice under act of March 3, 1879.

BEE TELEPHONES
Private Branch Exchange, Ask for extension at the Department or Person Wanted. AT lantic 1000

OFFICES
Main Office—17th and Farnam
Co. Bluffs—15 Scott St. Se. Side, N. W. Cr. 24th N.
New York—World Bldg. Detroit—Ford Bldg.
Chicago—Tribune Bldg. Kansas City—Bryant Bldg.
St. Louis—Syr. Trust Bldg. Los Angeles—Higgins Bldg.
San Fran.—Hollbrook Bldg. Atlanta—Atlanta Trust Bldg.

MAKE THE POSTOFFICE BIGGER.

Something more than passing interest should be felt in the report of the postoffice commission with regard to Omaha. The main theme of the report deals with the need for a new postoffice building here. One huge building to house the various scattered and dislocated activities is the recommendation. In that building will be handled the work that is now carried on at the Eleventh street station, at the Union and Burlington depots, and most of what is done at the main office. All this is needed to properly carry on the service. The main office will be left for the use of the local carriers.

Such a building has long been needed. It was proposed several years ago by The Omaha Bee. Its erection at that time was needed as badly as now. Makeshift and temporary accommodations have been forced upon the postoffice here. This can not be continued indefinitely. Proper facilities for taking care of the enormous volume of business transacted must be provided. Some thought of the construction of new working quarters for the postoffice in connection with the projected union depot has been had. The two may even yet be co-ordinated. The postal service should not be required, however, to wait on the action of the railroads.

Recommendation that the local delivery by parcel post be discontinued should and no doubt will receive attention from business men. The reason given is not sufficient. It is not special accommodation for Omaha business men that is involved. It is the future of the parcel post. Before this service was added to the postoffice, an objection of a similar nature was brought forward. The parcel post has answered all objections, and has satisfied the public.

Local delivery service has greatly swelled the volume of business at the Omaha office. It was instituted after a careful survey. Big downtown business houses provide the bulk of traffic handled, as naturally would be expected. Customers have found the system to work admirably.

As an economic measure, the argument is all in favor of the postoffice. A single concentrated service has many advantages over the old system of scattered individual delivery. Instead of several fleets of delivery cars, racing around the city, covering the same routes, sometimes two or three stopping at one house, we have the orderly arrangement whereby mail trucks proceed over regular scheduled routes, carrying parcels and so reducing confusion to the disappearing point.

St. Paul was chosen for the first experiment along these lines, and Omaha the second. In each city the trial has proved the case. Now the commission reports in favor of abandoning the service. It is "special" to the two cities named, it is argued. A far more useful program would be to extend the delivery to other communities, as was the original plan. Cost of delivery is easily determined. It was well worked out long ago. Instead of curtailing the postal delivery, the parcel post should be extended in all ways. The Postoffice department is the one agency of the government that comes closest into the lives of all. It ought not to take any backward step.

THE PROFESSOR AND THE RABBIT.

Once more the professor wiggles his wand, shakes the hat, and presto! out pops a rabbit. Garner of Texas, whose substitute for the Mellon plan was adopted by the house, has added a leanto in the shape of an amendment to tax stock dividends. This is mighty nice, and will cause great jubilation among the downtrodden.

It has just one drawback. Twice the supreme court of the United States has decided that stock dividends are not subject to income tax or excess profits tax, or tax of any kind. A stock dividend is paid from accumulated earnings, which has been employed as capital. When distributed as stock, these earnings become capital permanently employed and no longer available for dividend purposes. Therefore the stock dividend does not represent increment for any taxable year, and consequently is not taxable.

Of course it is irritating, even aggravating, to see large sums of money so escape taxation. Yet that is one of the loopholes through which a very considerable sum gets away from the tax gatherer each year. The tax is laid on personal income, and until earnings are distributed they are not income in the taxable sense. Employed as capital the surplus goes to increase earnings. However it is subject only to the tax laid on corporations, and not to the normal or surtax laid on individual incomes.

The supreme court's decisions regard the proposed tax on stock dividends as being in the nature of a capital levy. This is so abhorrent that even the British labor party has abandoned it as part of its program of policy. Mr. Garner must know of the decisions on this point. But he is busy building up a plan to go to the country on. He shows no scruples as regards deception of voters. What he wants is to make a record, whether it will stand fire or not. If he can deceive enough of the people, that will meet his requirements. The rest will be for the courts to deal with. It does not seem probable that the supreme court will reverse two decisions covering the same point.

MR. HOWELL FOR NAVY POST.

The president could do infinitely worse, than take the suggestion from the Spanish-American War Veterans, and name Senator Howell to be secretary of the navy. Nebraska would lose a senator, who gives promise of being of great service to the public, but the country would gain a good cabinet officer. Senator Howell is a graduate of Annapolis. He served with distinction in the navy during two wars. He has proved himself capable in many ways of han-

dling big things. His capacity and ability as an organizer and manager has been well tested in connection with the public utilities of Omaha. Not that they are comparable to the naval establishment of the United States, but they do afford some proof of the faculties of the man.

President Coolidge needs just now someone who is not only familiar with navy practice, but in whom the public will have confidence. We submit that R. B. Howell is the man. His integrity is unquestioned. His character is unblemished. He is entirely committed to the conservation policy as exemplified by Theodore Roosevelt. His life record has shown his fidelity to public interests.

If a western man is desired for the position, we know of no one who is better qualified than Senator Howell. It would be a good thing for the country to have such a man as Howell in so important a place.

MAKING A RAILROAD OF A RIVER.

A new challenge to the giant Commerce is noted in a prospectus just given out at Minneapolis. The Mississippi river from St. Louis to the head of navigation at St. Anthony's Falls is to be turned into a railroad. Not by the laying of rails and ties. The old Father of Waters is not like that Texas stream that was paved with asphalt and turned into a boulevard after receiving some millions of government aid. The plan is to establish a unit barge line, to be operated just as a freight carrying railroad is operated.

The barges will be collected into tows of suitable length, each in charge of a competent towboat. Division points will be designated, the same as on the railroad, and tows will move between these as trains are moved. Barges may be switched out at any point between, or picked up, to accommodate shippers.

Plan sounds simple enough, and according to the forecast, it has the elements of workability. At St. Louis connection will be made with the government barge line, operating between that port and New Orleans, and thus the main line of the great system will be put at the service of shippers. In time it is to be extended, until more than 14,000 miles of inland water ways are brought into use.

While this is being projected for the Mississippi, the St. Lawrence canal project is not dallying. Negotiations between the governments of Canada and the United States are proceeding at a satisfactory rate. The pretense that the only matter up for consideration is the agreement between the state of New York and the province of Ontario, concerning the waters of Niagara, is misleading. Neither New York nor Ontario is possessed of treaty-making powers. Control of boundary waters long ago was settled between the two countries.

The real subject for discussion between the governments is terms on which the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water canal may be constructed. Canada is much more favorably disposed toward the project than it was a year or so ago. Congress, too, is taking notice, and the men who have worked so earnestly and effectively to bring about the result begin to see the fruits of their labors ready to pluck. It will be a welcome day for everybody in the great empire between the Alleghenies and the Rockies when the now idle water goes to work.

CUT OUT DUPLICATE OFFICE HOLDERS.

Senator Wilkins of Dixon county presented to the county treasurers while in session at Omaha one very practical proposal. He urges that the county treasurer be made treasurer for all public funds in each county. Many years ago the office of city and county treasurer in Omaha and Douglas county was set up. This carried with it the office of treasurer of the Independent School District of Omaha. To this was later added that of the Municipal Utilities district.

The plan has worked admirably. Duplication of offices has been cut out, salaries have been saved, and confusion in many ways avoided. The people deal with only one treasurer. If that is possible in Omaha and Douglas county, it should also be possible in any other political subdivision of the state.

Much comment has been heard in late years about the number of political offices that are required to administer the government. Here is a good chance to shorten the list. Elect one treasurer, and let him be the guardian of the public funds in his county. By this means money and work will be saved for the taxpayers.

After the office of treasurer has been disposed of, some other steps toward consolidating local governments might be taken. A great deal of duplication exists, which careful study could easily eliminate. Dixon county, for example, is a small part of the United States, but it has a far more elaborate system of government. The president of the United States appoints all the executive and administrative officers of the United States. Why could not such an office be created for the county, and one man, with the county board, look after all the business?

This would take no power away from the people. It would simplify the processes of securing official servants, and would produce results at least as good as the present method. Bad men might be appointed to office, but bad men sometimes get elected to office. That is a risk the public must assume in a republic. Senator Wilkins has suggested a beginning that may lead to better government for Nebraska.

Nor should it be overlooked that about half of the \$10,000,000 capital subscribed to the corporation organized for the relief of the agricultural sections of the northwest was subscribed by Wall Street banks.

With Grabey forming a Polish cabinet and Rykoff prominent in Russian public affairs, perhaps some of our public officials were merely the victims of telepathic impulse.

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

WHEN THEY GET THEIR RADIO.

It seems to me it's possible since Radios are here
That boys will be more apt to stay upon the good old farm,
And listen to the music that will give them zest and cheer,
And satisfy their yearning for the city's glare and charm.

When day is done they'll gather 'round the hearth and hear the news,
And share delightful music of the players far away,
And really be enraptured by the voices that enthrall,
And bring the needed pleasure at the finish of the day.

Their work will lose its horror and the sameness be no more,
While in their sunny homelands they contentedly will grow,
And live the things that often they relinquish to adore,
And live the lives of dreamers—when they get their Radio.

Algonquin, the little daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Artie Small, is named
after their favorite Pullman car.
Ever notice how a lady killer fades
after he gets married?

(Copyright 1924.)

What of America?

By EDWIN G. PINKHAM.

The Colonies Adopt New England's War as Their Own.

Britain, at an expense of three millions, has killed a hundred and fifty Yankees and gained a mile of ground.—Franklin's comment on the Battle of Bunker Hill.

THE second continental congress met in May, midway between Lexington and Bunker Hill, facing a posture of affairs that might well have appalled an assembly possessing more regular powers than this one had. Its proceedings gave evidence that it had small understanding of the nature of the crisis that confronted the colonies.

War had actually begun; blood had been shed. Boston was held by an invading force and was besieged by an army of 17,000 militia. A battle threatened at any moment. In this situation the congress was wholly unprepared to meet the emergency demanded. It was, indeed, without recognized authority and had no assurance of backing from public opinion outside of Massachusetts. It therefore, in a zigzag course that resulted in nothing but a series of inconsistencies.

It wasted time in debating a proposition to draw up a petition to the king, but at the same time refused to give back the king's stronghold of Concord, which had been captured by the British. It urged New England militia. It urged New England militia. It urged New England militia. It urged New England militia.

It was seeking to conciliate the king, it was sitting under the shadow of a national authority, the king hated above all Americans, except perhaps Sam Adams, and who was at that moment a proscribed outlaw whom it was the duty of every loyal subject to seize on sight. And at the same time the congress was debating what soft words to use to the king, it was voting to organize a continental army and buy powder to resist the king's authority.

Thus early were Americans given an exhibition of the futility of a government that lacked both power and responsibility. They were about to enter on a long war without any civil government except a factious council powerless, in law, to execute its own orders. Only by long and bitter experience were the colonies to discover that the source of their weakness, in war and in peace, was in the lack of a national authority.

The condition of the army around Boston furnishes a good illustration of the results of this weakness. It was an army neither in organization, equipment nor discipline. Almost every company that appeared was on a different footing from every other. The contingents came with their own officers and terms of enlistment of their own. It might be said there was no authority to prevent any man from going home when he wanted to. There were no uniforms and no stores. The army lived during the first months of the siege by a sort of miracle. George III, when informed of the facts, expressed an opinion not without weight from a military viewpoint. He said the larger the force the Americans assembled the better, for it must be sooner dispersed for lack of food. What the king overlooked, or had no information about, was the temper of the civilian population. If the army had no commissary the people had. Supplies were taken from everywhere donated by towns and individuals; and the soldiers not only had enough but frequently a surplus to sell.

The army lay stretched out on a front of about nine miles, the wings at Dorchester and Malden and the center at Cambridge. The men lived as they could; some in tents, some in churches and everywhere, but mostly in huts contrived by themselves, of stone, timber or turf. There was hardly any discipline recognizable as military. The camps were everywhere, and the men were as free as birds. Farmers' wagons would be arriving all day, and the distribution of packages of food and articles of clothing would be made for miles and miles, interfering enough. A system of barter would come easily into effect, and John's new shirt, fashioned for him by his mother, might find its owner in Abner, whose new powder horn John might fancy more. The mothers and sisters were themselves frequent visitors in the camp, and contrived by touches of their own to make the huts of the soldiers more homelike.

When the besieged city of the British forces, that had bought Bunker Hill at the colonists' own price, was but a single remove from being a captive army, it was doubtful if it could hold Boston once the Americans were prepared to attack. There was certain it could not leave except by water. In this cramped position General Burgoyne must have recalled with mortification the unfortunate boast he had made on landing a month before, to the effect that he would soon make elbow room. The

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"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Likes Editorials.

Columbus, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I want to congratulate you on the editorials of February 13, "Congratulations, Mr. Deal," and one of February 14, "Mr. Vanderlip, Shame."

If there ever was a time when we need officers that will do their duty and public men of influence that should be careful what they say, it is now.

Have been out of the city for a few days, hence this late note of appreciation. G. H. GRAY.

Elizabeth Marbury Pleads for Germany's Starving People.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Maj. Gen. Henry F. Allen, who has accepted the generous leadership in the cause of common humanity to stay the stalking famine, as it threatens to destroy the lives of helpless men, women and children in Germany today.

This is a ringing sentence—not our own. It begins an appeal from Elizabeth Marbury, the most gifted woman now living in New York, and one of the most lovable.

German blood—there is not a drop of it in the veins of Elizabeth Marbury! Every drop of blood in her veins is pure gold, all the same—like her heart.

These, she says, speaking of the unfortunate sufferers in Germany today, are as much the victims of a war as the millions who fell before fighting guns. The aftermath of peace is a hideous mockery to these innocent sufferers. The war was not brought on by them. The terms of peace were theirs to make.

Empty stomachs do not indulge in words, she adds. They become articulate through action. All these people know at present is that they are hungry, that their children are dying for want of milk, that the sick and feeble can no longer hope for sustenance, that even for food that has not been fed. No nation has ever asked us for aid that has not been clothed. Therefore, are we at this crisis to be once again loyal to our own heart?

Shall we stand by supinely and allow the people of a country with which we have declared friendly relations to be left during the trying months of winter to die of the bare necessities of life? Shall any of us hate so that we refuse to help? Shall we steel our souls so that they become metallic and thus ignore the cruelty of want? Shall we do nothing while the voices of little children are pitifully crying for bread and while the old and feeble are appealing for those crumbs which are their share of our own tables of prosperity?

AUGUST MILLER, 4623 So. 33rd St.

Adam and Belief.

Council Bluffs.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Having read the letter in the "People's Voice" a "Critic of Fundamentalists," I feel like writing. In believing in the Scriptures as the inspired word of God, it seems reasonable to believe all or none. In 2d Peter, 2:17, we find a reason for a greater amount of knowledge. It is reasonable to me to believe that God created man sinless, and gave him knowledge to know that God was his creator, which is much more than most of us have today. But the serpent must have had a greater knowledge of God's plan or he could not have fooled the pair. They had partaken of all the trees but this one, as was their right. It was good to look upon, and it was food. No harm, so they ate.

If they had obeyed the voice of the One they knew was their creator, but they didn't. I wonder if we do? But too late. Death came by Adam because of transgression. And Adam had no power over the serpent until the promise God gave him in the 15th verse of 3d chapter of Genesis.

God drove them out, for they might have taken of the tree of life and lived forever, not against His will, but because it had the power to give eternal life.

I am not going to condemn Adam because I see in this plan the propagation of the human race. If it had not been I probably would not have been in existence, nor you. And if God had not preserved the tree of life I would not have had the chance to eat and live forever. Rev. 22:14; 1 Cor. 1:19-31.

I am not much of a believer in reading the Bible through in one evening, but I do believe if there was more reading and earnest studying of the scriptures there would be less room for criticism.

M. E. BOWLER, 3705 Avenue C.

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

THE CANDIDATE.
The whole blamed world is on the bum;
It's bound head-on for kingdom come
Unless it quickly can find some
Good man to save its bacon.

Some man who knows just what to do;
Whose soul is great, whose heart is true.
And that man's me, I'm telling you,
And I am not mistaken.

Whatever is, is rotten wrong,
And things can't go on this way long
And not raise revolution's song.
So some one man must save it.
Some man who has courage great,
Who always keeps his conscience straight;

Some man like me to challenge fate,
And not afraid to brave it.
Unless they choose a man who's right
The country will go down in blight,
And I'm the only man in sight
Who knows just how to do it.

I have the only proper plan
To save my poor, weak fellow man,
So don't pick out an also-ran,
For if you do you'll rue it.

For I am Me, and it is I
Upon whom you must all rely;
None other e'en approaches nigh
My strength to save the nation.
All other men are niggards small;
They simply will not do a-tall:
So trust in me and you'll not fail—
I'll save the situation!

Old maids' children are always the models for other folks' children.
Teaching children to hold policemen in fear or disrespect is to teach them disrespect for the law.
Too many men spend more time choosing a necktie than they do in selecting men to conduct public affairs.
Men who boast loudest of being self-made are tacitly admitting that after lathing upstairs they forgot to plaster.

An Omaha man asserts that so far as he is concerned his residence telephone is a total loss. When his wife is away he can't use it, and when she is at home the line is always busy.
Scented talcum is not a permanent substitute for the bathtub.
Some men never reach the age of discretion until they are too decrepit to indulge in foolishness.

A great many men will willingly give up "discretion" as long as there are so many laws that deserve scoffing.
A reformer is one who has unwillingly of enjoying something and is weary of seeing anybody else enjoying it.
A Council Bluffs wife calls her husband's hat "Saturday," because it covers the weak end.

You never heard of a man achieving wealth or fame by watching the clock.
Too many men spend all their time talking about their rights and never giving a moment's thought to their obligations.
Some men work hard enough to get "easy money" to enable them to make twice as much honestly.
There can be no charity without sacrifice. Giving something you do not want or need brings you no credit on the Book of Life.
Rotten politics is due to so many men and women holding that they are too good to take an interest in it.
Some institutions, like some men, make the mistake of thinking that they can build up simply by tearing others down.
Not all lynchings use a rope. Many use their tongues or pens.
Flattery is sweet music to the ears of the mentally shallow.
The wag of a dog's tail is like salvation—you must earn it. You can not buy it.

Of course salvation is free, but do not forget that you have to pay the transportation charges.
Some men look upon prayer as a convenient method of telling God what they want.
It is easier to claim success to be the fruit of wise endeavor. It is easier to attribute failure to other than ourselves.
A lot of men who imagine that they are thinking above the clouds are merely keeping one foot off the ground a part of the time.
Very few men but what pride themselves upon being able to run the other fellow's business a lot better.

Safety for Savings
Savings and The CONSERVATIVE Loan Association
Loans for Homes

When in Omaha Hotel Conant

SUNDAY SPECIAL
Nebraska Fatted Young

Roast Turkey
With Pecan Dressing and Fresh Cranberry Sauce
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Served From 12 Noon Until 9 P. M.

Why not give the family a treat even the wife will enjoy?
Hotel Rome Cafeteria
"OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY"

AUTOMATIC SOAP FLAKES
WASH BOILER WASHING MACHINE
The Wash Day Wonder
The purest of soap concentrated in flake form for fine laundering. Will not shrink wools or injure the finest fabrics. At all grocers.
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OMANZA
Smokeless, Sootless ARKANSAS
SEMI-ANTHRACITE. GET YOUR ORDER IN NOW and enjoy the satisfaction of FRESH COAL delivered from the car.
Central Coal & Coke Co.
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NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION
for January, 1924, of
THE OMAHA BEE
Daily 74,669
Sunday 80,166

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind.

V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of February, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY,
(Seal) Notary Public