

THE MORNING BEE

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GUNMEN AND THE CONSTITUTION.

We are in receipt of a letter from an Omaha attorney, who takes exception to the stand of The Omaha Bee on the subject of gun toting. He appeals to the Constitution of the United States.

"The first 10 amendments to the present constitution are limitations on the United States government according to many decisions of the courts, including the supreme court of the United States," he writes.

"The second amendment provides 'a well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.' This precludes a national gun-toting law, and is the reason why the states have legislated in regard to this matter.

"There is a reason for everything even for lawyers who defend the accused.

"The constitution is a grand old document that Governor Bryan and others should see more of and I am sure they would appear and speak more sanely and learnedly and likewise disclose the same by their writings as well as their mouthings.

"Take this letter in the spirit in which it is sent—in your wholesome friendship. I do not criticize you to your competitors but tell it to you. An investigation may prove that my contention is correct."

The second amendment to the Constitution of the United States was declared in force in 1791. Considerable water has run under the bridge since that time.

When the Constitution of the United States was adopted common people in many lands were forbidden to own or possess weapons of any kind. That was a privilege for "superior" classes. Common people even were denied the right to arm themselves and fight for their native land.

When Napoleon overran Prussia, the farmers and mechanics, cloth-hoppers and the like, were forbidden by their king to take up arms against the invader.

Only the aristocracy and those especially set apart as soldiers could fight. Blucher raised an army, despite the royal ban, and the common people of Prussia twice turned the tide of war against Napoleon. Twice were Blucher and his men forbidden to participate in the triumphal march of the allies through Paris.

They were commoners, and even rebels, for they bore arms without royal permission. Look up what Poultey Bigelow has to say on this point in "The History of the German Struggle for Liberty."

The American colonists all had arms. They needed them for many reasons. In order that the citizen might be fully impressed with his responsibility as a defender of the nation, he was given the constitutional guaranty that his right to bear arms should never be infringed.

When the original United States militia law was passed, it contained a provision that required citizens liable to military duty to provide their own arms.

Each member of the trained bands was called upon to report himself at stated periods with a weapon of his own choice of selection. A wide variety of arms was displayed by the citizens entitled to bear them.

In time the necessity for uniformity in armament became imperative, and the government began to arm and clothe its soldiers. This did not infringe in any sense on the right to bear arms.

Instead of the militia or soldiers keeping their weapons at home, or carrying them to their daily tasks, the guns and other equipment were conveniently stored in arsenals.

At no time has it been contended that citizens can not have weapons at home, can not use guns or other devices for hunting game or for any other of the legitimate purposes of sport. Yet even here the government has stepped in, and some severe regulations of the use of weapons have been enacted into law. Men are forbidden to discharge firearms in the city limits, to pursue and kill certain game out of season.

Nothing in this implies that a man has a right to convert himself into a walking arsenal, and parade the streets of a peaceable community, armed, but with his arms concealed. Ready at any minute to suddenly assail and murder another.

The police power of the federal government is ample to safeguard the citizens in many other ways. Sanitary and quarantine regulations look to the health of the public. Morals of the community are protected by laws which forbid and punish immoral acts. Possession of burglars' tools subjects the holder to punishment. Why is it not equally sound to punish the possessor of murderous tools, when he conceals them on his person?

Only by great stretching, almost to downright inversion, can the constitutional provision that gives every man a right to bear arms be construed to permit the carrying of concealed weapons. If it can then all our state and municipal laws on the subject are wrong, and should be wiped out. It may not be altogether out of place to note another fact. A great many of those who most persistently tote guns in time of peace were strongly opposed to toting a rifle when the war was on.

The Constitution of the United States is a splendid document. The guarantee of our liberties. It is the duty of every man to defend it. Its defense, however, does not lie in searching out ways to twist or distort its provisions in order to justify a practice that public morals and public policy condemn.

MILK, CHEESE AND OTHER THINGS.

Complete organization of the Nebraska Dairy Development society discloses a list of officers and directors that invites public confidence. Carl Gray of the Union Pacific is president. H. P. Davis of the University of Nebraska is secretary. Other well known men of affairs throughout the state are on the list. This gives assurance that the work of the society will be prosecuted with vigor and intelligent direction.

Again it is well to emphasize the fact that this organization is not for the purpose of putting

up cheese factories, creamery stations or milk depots of any sort. Its purpose is to assist the farmer who owns cows or who desires to own some in the practical business of milk producing. Precept and example will be the main commodities dealt in, to the end that the development of the dairying industry in the state will be symmetrical in all its branches and not haphazard in any.

Too much has been said about the possibilities of Nebraska as a dairying state, without taking into consideration what is involved in making the change necessary in agricultural practices to bring about the result hoped for. Considerable of a start has been made. As the expected extension takes place, the growth of milk production should see a corresponding growth in the use of milk. More butter, cheese and other similar products will be looked for and doubtless will be forthcoming.

The world needs the additional butter and cheese. Demand for dried milk and condensed milk is steadily expanding. There is no good reason to dread the future for fear there will be no market for milk or milk products. First it is needed to spread knowledge of proper methods of dairying. This will be the biggest job for the newly launched association. It is on the right track and it will do good.

TAX RATES GO DOWN.

The house has reversed itself on the revenue bill. All of which supports the conviction that the so-called Garner bill was purely political in its nature. By an almost unanimous vote the members adopted the measure containing the Longworth compromise. Republican insurgents returned to the fold, making the democratic effort hopeless.

Garner's substitute was noteworthy chiefly because it would not have provided revenue sufficient to carry on the ordinary activities of the government. In his zeal to embarrass the administration, the democratic leader cut his garment without regard to the cloth. Savagely assailing the rich men of the country, he set a maximum surtax that looked formidable, but would not have increased revenue.

Then he cut the rates on small incomes so low that the government's loss would have put the revenue below the safety mark by hundreds of millions.

This fact had the effect of sending republicans who were opposed to the Mellon plan back into line for any reasonable compromise. The Longworth plan provides this. It maintains a higher rate of surtax on the big incomes than the Mellon plan. It puts such a levy on the smaller as will bring in money enough to carry on government business.

At the same time, the small taxpayers get a reasonable reduction. The normal rate on \$4,000 or less of net income is fixed at 2 per cent, one-half the rate under the existing law.

In 1921, the last year fully reported on, 6,602,196 returns on personal income of \$1,000 or over were made. Of these 5,767,415 were for \$4,000 or less. So the Longworth bill makes a reduction of 50 per cent in the taxes on five out of every six who pay income tax at all. This will not sustain any charge that the republicans are neglecting their pledge to reduce the burden of taxes. Above the \$4,000 line the ratio of reduction is less. There is a cut of 37 1/2 per cent up to \$8,000, and 25 per cent above that figure. At \$10,000 a surtax of 1 1/2 per cent attaches, and this increase continues until the maximum of 37 1/2 per cent is reached at \$200,000. All of that amount or above pay the maximum.

Only 535 taxpayers will be affected by the maximum surtax rates. There are 5,767,415 who will benefit by the reduction of one-half in the normal rate of tax on incomes of \$4,000 or under.

We do not doubt that the insurgent group in the house will show in other ways its power to enforce the course of legislation. It holds the balance between the two greater groups. By concerted action it can shape any measure on which there is a party division. In this instance it has defeated the plan of the secretary of the treasury. It has also defeated the narrow partisanship of the democrats. Bound by caucus to support a measure that was defective on its face, the democrats sought only to be troublesome to the republicans. They adopted this plan, no matter what the effect might be on the country. The insurgents moved to secure something different from what the administration sought. In this they succeeded.

We believe the great support the Mellon plan has received throughout the country is born of a desire for reduced taxes. Opposition to it rests largely on the mistaken idea that it would largely benefit the rich. The Longworth compromise provides for a substantial lowering of all rates, and ought to satisfy the people. What the senate may do is yet to be determined, but the sentiment there is also in favor of lower axes. The next revenue law will leave a lot of money in the pockets of the people that is now taken for government use. One of the most important features of the new bill is the reduction in the taxes due this year.

Our wonder is not that New York theater-goers submit to being bilked by ticket speculators, but that they should be willing to pay a premium to see the shows billed to us as "great New York successes."

Gold to the amount of \$45,000,000 was imported into this country during January. Unlike some other things imported it hugged the Atlantic seaboard very closely.

The winner of the Bok peace prize of \$50,000 probably spent as much time on his essay as some of those oil attorneys did in earning their \$250,000 fees.

Mr. McAdoo is going to build his own broadcasting station. Perhaps he can find some abandoned oil derrick to use for his aerials.

Some of the professional child savers might consider for a while that beet field children seldom find their way into the reform schools.

A lot of time may be saved in this work of saving the boys by first saving the homes.

Mr. Graff seems to have decided to open up a rift in the democratic lute.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davies
HER FATHER.
I think of her father—such pictures I know
That memory retains of the dear Long Ago!
How well I remember his sneezes that cold
'Twas time to be hastening home in the fold.
How clearly I hear him suggest his desire
While I was content by the side of the fire,
And dreamily whispered the things that today
From thought and expression are hidden away.
Unwisely I tarried—the silence was great!
Eleven was early and twelve wasn't late.
I wasn't too sure of the welcome I had
Until I was running away from her dad.
I think of her father and evenings of yore—
His sneezing and coughing disturb me no more,
He's ever congenial and truly benign—
For he is the dad of the helpmate of mine.

What of America?

By EDWIN G. PINKHAM.

Clinton Gets Away and the War Shifts to the South

You can form no idea of the perplexity of my situation. No man, I believe, ever had a greater choice of difficulties, and less means to extricate himself from them.—Washington to his brother, written during the Jersey campaign.

WASHINGTON'S army, augmented to about 15,000 men by the spring of 1778, was still too weak to attempt an attack on Philadelphia and its commander wisely waited until the news of the coming of the French fleet under d'Estaing had warned the British that it was time to be gone. Clinton, who had succeeded Howe, abandoned the capital in June, withdrawing toward New York, and Washington, who had disposed his forces for that contingency, took up a parallel march prepared to strike the retreating enemy on his flank.

The attack was planned to be made at Monmouth courthouse, and Charles Lee was assigned to command the van and engage the enemy at that point. Lee was opposed to the center and had spoken against it in council. When overruled he had at first declined to command the advance, and then when it had been given to Lafayette had begged it back. Lee, soldier of fortune, had no heart in the American cause and no convictions of any kind. If his sympathies were asked to center with the British, the reasons for his conduct at Monmouth never have been made entirely clear, but what is clear is that he displayed no zeal, disobeyed his orders and was for maintaining an offensive put his men upon the retreat the moment the enemy showed resistance. Only the arrival of Washington with the main force saved the day from being a disaster. As it was the chance of delivering a decisive blow had been lost, and after desperate fighting Clinton managed to draw off his army and reach New York.

Much has been written about what Washington said to Lee when they met after the battle and many have heard the encounter, but many saw it, and Washington's appearance probably has been accurately described as that of "an avenging deity." He never else had done or failed to do, he had given orders he could not now explain to the white, hot Washington; and whatever else he heard himself called by that usually cool and reserved commander and one time copyist of the "Rules of Civility," he unquestionably heard himself called a "damned poltroon," which probably was sufficient to apprise him of the degree of esteem in which his superior held him.

All that it seems necessary to say further about Charles Lee is that he was not of that Virginia family that produced Light Horse Harry, Richard Henry and Robert E. Lee. Charles Lee was of an English family, and before he came to America had fought in the Polish wars and in Portugal. He fought only for gain and distinction, and his career up to his final ruin at Monmouth had been distinguished only by vanity, jealousy and insubordination. A court-martial retired him to private life, where he died obscurely.

While Washington watched Clinton in New York, the war shifted to the south, where the British, by successful and detested from Washington, laid Georgia low and restored a royal government in that state. Heartened by these successes and strengthened by reinforcements from the north, the enemy pushed northward into South Carolina, and laying siege to Charleston forced its capitulation. In this congress insisted on sending Gates to take command in the south, disregarding the protest of Washington, who urged Greene for the task; and Gates, with about 2,000 continental troops, which he should not have and gave hurried battle to Cornwallis at Camden, S. C. Gates was defeated and his defeat became a rout. His retreat did not stop until he reached Hillsboro, N. C., 290 miles to the north.

The Carolinas were now defenseless.



Th' ole delightful peaches an' cream olelations have given way t' th' never magnaesia an' Ben Davis make-ups. Some folks have peace, but we don't believe that anybody ever had any peace that had plenty. (Copyright, 1924.)

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

are more savage in their unholly practices than the enemy himself. The only way to rid congress of such renegades is to deny them a place on the ticket of a reputable political party—to bid them to appeal to their own clique, and make their campaign openly as one of defiance of orderly government.

Would Have All Armed. Burckett, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: About carrying concealed weapons—the law as it is seems to be made expressly for the benefit of the robbers and holdup men. They care nothing for the law and will go well armed. But honest people are prohibited by law to have a chance to protect themselves and the robbers know it.

It is provoking to read of one or two men entering a car filled with people and robbing them with ease. The law prohibits them from carrying anything to protect themselves with. If all went armed they would prey on the meek. The law ought to be that all might go armed; then, if held up, to shoot to kill, or disable them. That is the surest and only way to stop such lawlessness. Honorable men would hunt no one but those that ought to be killed or disabled.

ANSON M. OTIS.

The Trail of Oil. Greeley, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your editorial, "The Trail of the Serpent," is brilliant and timely. But, however welcome or unpleasant, are you justified in rejecting Goldsmith's conclusion? In this respect the couplet quoted by you: "I'll fared the land to hastening ill a prey. Where wealth accumulates and men are forced to believe that this condition was brought about by the manipulation of enormous wealth in the hands of unscrupulous men, we hesitate to vote Goldsmith wrong.

If, as history tells us, great wealth and the evils flowing from it were the cause of the fall of all the great nations of the past, why should not the same cause bring about a like effect in America?

We have the wealth beyond question, and we have the dissipation and the corruption that follows it as day follows night.

Human nature has not undergone any great change during the centuries. Cassius was not the only one to bear an itching palm in the days of Rome's greatness, and there is some doubt as to whether he was the only one in our day. Indeed, it would seem that the modest and truthful Vanderbilt could easily have made a conventional speech without "flinging the edge of a shroud" there was so much material lying around loose.

It may seem all right for that bunch of cabinet members retained by Doherty at an enormous figure, in one instance at a quarter of a million. But did they not know then as now that it was paid not so much for their legal ability as for being the public that their actions in this matter were above reproach?

Doesn't it show treachery where loyalty and friendship was needed, and, I suppose, expected? Doherty's money was no more tainted then than before. It will be hard to convince the public that his actions in this matter were above reproach.

Perhaps it was patriotism, pure and undefiled, that impelled those four Wall street capitalists to subscribe a million dollars to bring about the nomination of General Wood. But, for some reason or other, the public took another view of the matter.

Questions Hiram Johnson. Nebraska City, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In the report of Senator Hiram W. Johnson's address at Lincoln the other day on this subject, "He (Denby) resigned today because he is no longer useful in public service."

A more voting layman cannot quarrel with the senator on the score of his judgment. But what about the usefulness of a public servant, in this case, a senator under the oath of his office, instead of attending to his duties while congress is in session goes about the country delivering speeches that are entirely extraneous to his official obligations? It looks very much like the old question of the mote and the beam.

FRANCIS KRAMER.

SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget
That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thaxter

THE GROUND HOG. (With apologies to James Whitcomb Riley) "Funny like," said the Ground Hog. "I saw my shadow that day."
"An' I dickered right in my hole ag'in."
"An' another long six weeks' stayd."
"An' some folks laffed an' didn't see Enything like prophet about'n me."

The Atchison girl who visited Omaha several months ago and located lost articles, incidentally helping the police solve some mysteries, so it is said, is going to New York to assist the police there. Before she goes, we hope she will visit Omaha again. We were not here on her initial visit. We faintly recall her as to the whereabouts of divers and sundry collar buttons, cuff buttons, etc. Also, we would have her locate several buttons that have been missing from garments for a long time.

An Englishman is touring our great country with a view to persuading us to substitute tea for coffee. We have been imbibing substitutes quite long enough. What few original liquid refreshments are left to us, we are going to fight for, and to the death if necessary.

The latest and one of the most welcome additions to the I Knew Him When club is George W. Loomis. George has just retired after more than 40 years of service with the Burlington. We knew him in the old days when the slightest hint to him would result in our being able to journey down to Big Lake, Mo., for a week-end fishing trip without the necessity of first taking into consideration the cost of railroad fare. Our fishing trips have been confined to extremely local distances of late years.

It would seem that not one of our little pet habits is to be left alone. It is now proposed to increase the tax on cigars another dollar per tax of a dollar, which means that the manufacturer to add a couple of dollars a hundred to the wholesale price, and the retailer another couple of dollars to his price. We have resurrected the old pipe for use in case of contingency.

More power to the prohibition enforcement officers of Sioux City in their efforts to prohibit vaudeville artists from joking about prohibition. Not that we are so much inclined to support prohibition officers, but because of the usual quality of the average vaudeville quip about prohibition. All we have heard to date has been even rotteness than the wares of the bootleggers.

In the nightly contest for the watch at Dick O'Kane's eatery we have managed to win it only once, our inability to contest with the night

Railroads Support One-Seventh of Population

THE railroads of the United States use in one form or another 30% of the Iron and Steel produced in this country. Of the more than 1,600,000 workers in that industry, the product of something like 500,000 is bought by the railroads.

Of Bituminous Coal the same railroads consume 28%. Engaged in the mining of this coal are 600,000 workers, of whom 168,000 are employed only because their product is needed for the making of transportation.

They also use 25% of the Lumber output, which takes more than 500,000 workers to supply, and the railroads are therefore indirectly employing 125,000 persons in this occupation.

The railroads have nearly two million employees of their own.

With their families, the employees of these few industries represent 12,000,000 people whose support is derived from the railroads. Including smaller related industries, not less than one-seventh of the entire population is dependent upon railroad work.

The railroads could not prosper without the other groups, nor they without the railroads.

Co-operation is the keystone of our highly specialized civilization; and in the last analysis each man works for the other.

Burlington Route

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R. Co.

Coughing spells

—how they embarrass you!

WHENEVER one of those violent coughing spells comes on—disturbing everyone around you and making you unpleasantly conspicuous—how uncomfortable you feel! You'd give anything to stop them quickly—and you can!

Dr. King will break your cough at once, and without any bad after-effects. It stimulates the mucous membranes to throw off clogging secretions and quiets the paroxysms of the throat and lungs. It has an agreeable taste. At all druggists.

DR. KING'S NEW DISCOVERY

What Is In Your Safe Deposit Box?

One of our customers gave us the following inventory:
Old photograph of his mother.
6 insurance policies (2 expired).
Gold watch that won't run; 2 rings.
Marriage certificate; 16 "old" letters.
Four \$1,000 bonds; 5 stock certificates.
Last Will and Testament.

"I threw away the old insurance policies," he said, "but I wouldn't give up the safety and satisfaction of that box for a hundred times its cost."

The cost is less than a cent and a half a day.

The OMAHA National Bank Trust Company