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HENRY FORD WINS FIRST ROUND.

Henry Ford's offer to lease the Muscle Shoals plant for 100 years has advanced one more step toward realization. The house at Washington on Monday passed a bill to accept the offer. In terms expressed in the measure, the Detroit manufacturer will have the right to lease for 100 years dams Nos. 2 and 3 and the adjacent power stations at Muscle Shoals.

This is under the McKenize bill, which was passed by the house. The opposition supported the Hull bill, which was based on the proposals of a group of nitrate and power companies, the terms of which were on the surface at least more favorable to the United States.

Should this fall into the hands of existing companies, competition would be shut off to that extent, and users would not have the advantage that flows from rival concerns seeking business. On this argument mainly did the Ford advocates rely for support of their measure.

Muscle Shoals will stand forever as a monument to one of the chief blunders made by Newton D. Baker while he was secretary of war. It may turn out to be a triumph for him. A factor in the ordnance problem was a supply of nitrate, not for fertilizer, but for the manufacture of explosives and other munitions.

That situation demanded a remedy. It was determined to exploit the possibilities of Muscle Shoals on a magnificent scale. What might have happened there, had the war gone on, can be surmised. What did happen was that the war ended before the work was done, and the government had more than \$125,000,000 invested in a plant that was incomplete and consequently unproductive.

Henry Ford's proposal, made more than two years ago, that he be allowed to take over the plant, and start the manufacture of fertilizer as well as electric power, set in motion a train of discussion that is not yet ended. In his address to congress in December, President Coolidge recommended: "Subject to the right to retake in time of war."

A BIGGER HOSPITAL FOR A GREATER OMAHA. Among the plans for a greater Omaha, we suggest early steps to secure a bigger hospital. Conditions at the Douglas County hospital, described by an American Legion officer as "deplorable," are not a new thing.

The original proposal made by The Omaha Bee may be renewed at this time. That the necessary law be passed which will permit the consolidation of city and county relief agencies, to the end that one great general hospital may be provided, where all cases coming under public control may be cared for.

As faithfully he sends Kind greetings from their friends And I behold him—honest, true, And worthy of your praise, Which may be given now, If you Will not begrudge his raise

getting together on this most important matter?

Enough money is expended on the present inadequate service to more than support one that will be a public credit.

CHESTER H. ALDRICH.

The passing of Chester H. Aldrich will recall to many the days when the "bull moose" rampaged through Nebraska. No admirer of Roosevelt was more zealous than Judge Aldrich in the movement that split the republican party and yet he fell a victim to the very forces he had invoked. In 1910 he sought and received the nomination for governor on the republican ticket, having previously served as state senator.

Governor Aldrich lived to see prohibition become the law of the land, and to see the republican party reunited with the general endorsement of the Roosevelt principles. He was elected in 1918 to the supreme bench of the state, where he served with distinction until his health broke several months ago.

An untiring worker, a staunch advocate of whatever cause he espoused, he had his influence felt in Nebraska politics. His chief acts while governor were the veto of a measure to merge the telephone systems, the signing of a bill to put public stock yards under control of the state railway commission, and the appointing of a commission to draft a workman's compensation law.

ED MEREDITH FOR PRESIDENT. Another Richmond is looming up in the democratic lists, seeking the nomination for president of the United States. According to the St. Paul Dispatch, democrats in that city have been carefully sounding out the prospects of Edwin T. Meredith of Des Moines securing the Minnesota delegation for the New York convention.

This is almost the first intimation that the Des Moines publisher is actively in quest of the honor of leading the hosts of his party through the coming campaign. Yet the party might go farther and fare a lot worse. Ed Meredith has done a good many things that entitle him to recognition.

William H. Broughton, commissioner of the public debt, testified before a house committee that silver dollars could not be put into general circulation because they are unpopular. We unhesitatingly declare that Mr. Broughton was speaking for himself on that unpopular thing.

Mr. Bryan commends Musgrove of Alabama as a democratic presidential candidate, saying that Musgrove "would spend his wealth for the masses." It will be admitted that this would be much more satisfactory than merely spending one's glittering generalities for the masses.

There are 132,000 old maids in California—accent on the "old." It will require an awful lot of advertising about climate and sunshine to overcome that handicap.

The 2.75 per cent advocates in congress may raise a lot of froth in Washington, but the production elsewhere will probably remain as now, practically nil.

Are we to understand that those who have taken a bite at fake oil stocks are also to be barred from political preferment?

"The People's Voice"

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

An Important Nebraska Industry.

Scottsbluff, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The development of the beet sugar industry of Nebraska presents many important and interesting points. In this article we will endeavor to state a few general conditions and perhaps later develop the story in detail.

The Co-operative Beet Growers' Association, a Scotchbluff, Neb., co-operation marketing association covering the territory of the Great Western Sugar Company in western Nebraska, is keenly interested in presenting the facts of the beet sugar industry to the public.

These parties may be best described as the broad constructionists and the strict constructionists. The broad constructionists believed that the powers of the federal government were very extensive; that the constitution was a very flexible instrument that might be stretched to any length that the public welfare seemed to require.

This was a controversy bound to arise under a dual system of government. As they claimed to be, and the United States was also a sovereign, as it must be if it was to stand, where was the dividing line between their powers?

Frankly, I haven't much use for Messrs. Beebe and Taylor politically. I've watched their record often to take any stock at all in their professions of being progressive. And so I'd dearly love to debate against the two at the same time.

Resolved, That J. L. Beebe and W. J. Taylor, who have often taken any stock at all in their professions of being progressive. And so I'd dearly love to debate against the two at the same time.

Editor Lincoln State Journal, Lincoln, Neb.—My Dear Sir: Within the past few months I have noticed two or three editorials in your columns, almost identical in wording, in which you made the statement that over 27 per cent of the residents of the men who were called to the colors during the world war were afflicted with venereal diseases.

Abbe Martin. Fares—As Low as Any Service—Better Than Any Other Drivers—Best in Omaha Call AT 3322 BLUE CAB CO.

That of America? The Birth of the Party System

The fabric of American empire ought to rest on the solid basis of the consent of the people. The streams of national power ought to flow immediately from that pure, original fountain of all legitimate authority.

Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist, No. XXII. THE beginning of the government under the constitution there came gradually into existence the two great political parties, which, under various names, have continued to the present day.

But the arguments for the federal power that went to this conclusion were not accepted at first. The states were a citizen of his state or of the United States was at the bottom of the long controversy that raged over states' rights, and was finally determined by the 14th amendment.

The judicial power of the supreme court are the most extensive ever conferred upon or acquired by a tribunal. It is the only court in the world that can set aside an act of a national legislature.

There are those who pretend to hold lightly the concerns of old friend Jerry Howard, has for womankind. Not so with us. The fact that Jerry never married is convincing proof to us that he really means it.

Only one original power of the supreme court has been withdrawn from it. The judicial power at first extended to cases between a state and citizens of another state. This created alarm, but the defenders of the constitution in the battle for ratification declared a state could not be sued by a citizen of another state.

We shall see how the operation of this judicial power tended to consolidate the government and infuse the spirit of nationality into the nation. (Copyright, Kansas City Star.)

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

MOTHER GOOSE—REVISED. Sing a song of Washington, Teapot Dome and oil, Senate, full of suspense, The pot begins to boil.

Have you ever noticed that every oil and gas truck is driven by a man who carelessly leaves a chain dragging behind his truck? For a long time we marvelled that only gas tank drivers were subject to this form of carelessness.

Then the experts and scientists and efficiency men got to work, but they couldn't stop the explosions. Finally a driver who didn't know a kilowatt from a transformer suggested that it might be electricity that was setting off the gas generated in the tanks.

He tried out his theory, and persuaded a lot of his companions to do the same thing. Tank wagons with the dragging chain didn't explode, but others did, and finally the scientists and the high-brows and the efficiency boys admitted that perhaps the driver was right.

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