

THE MORNING BEE

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N. B. UDDIKE, President
BALLARD DUNN, Editor in Chief
JOY M. HACKLER, Business Manager

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IT WOULD BE TREASON IN WAR.

A witness testifying before the committee that is examining the internal revenue bureau at Washington disclosed some facts that should be most illuminating to the public. Under oath he told the committee that while employed by the government as a section chief in the tax department he was paid \$5,000 a year, with a prospect of ultimately receiving \$7,500. During three years since leaving the government's employ he has averaged \$75,000 a year in fees.

He declined a salaried position with the Standard Oil company as tax accountant, preferring to operate on commission. His knowledge of the inner workings of the revenue bureau, gained while in government employ, was his chief asset. The \$75,000 a year he has enjoyed since he began operations, is money paid him because of his ability to aid great corporations to get around the provisions of the law. The knowledge and training he acquired when in public service is now turned to private advantage and against public interest.

Is it any wonder that the Treasury department has brought charges against this man? Or that Secretary Mellon has issued an order forbidding employees of the Treasury department to practice before it as tax experts within two years after leaving the service?

What is the difference between this witness and William Gibbs McAdoo, who suddenly bloomed out as a high-priced lawyer, immediately after he had resigned as secretary of the treasury? We blame this man, and all others like him, who take advantage of the information that came into their possession while trusted employees of the public. How about the man who set up in the same business, presenting his case to boards the members of which owed their positions to his favor, having been appointed by him or through him to the places they filled?

A far deeper reaching scandal is here involved than that surrounding the oil cases. In the latter it was merely a corrupt bargain, struck between conscienceless parties, who shrewdly endeavored to cover their tracks, yet who still remain within the reach of the law. In the case of the "tax experts," a degree of immorality is exhibited that is beyond understanding. The United States government undertook to pass a law that would lay a tax equally on everybody whose income fell within the range and scope of the statute. Trained men were sought to administer the law, which necessarily was involved, and contained provisions that might be twisted or distorted from their purpose.

These men went into the public service, and remained long enough to familiarize themselves with the law, and to discover loopholes through which certain portions of taxable income might be slipped without the payment of tax. How many millions have thus been relieved of their share of taxation, escaping through gaps in the law made by technicalities, no one, not even the experts themselves can tell, but the total must be large. One man thus gaining \$75,000 a year in commissions, must have led many a shivering dollar into a safe funk hole.

Mr. McAdoo, passing through Omaha on his way from South Dakota to his home in California, makes light of the charges brought against him. He points to his endorsement in Georgia as a complete vindication. Yet only a little while back he admitted that his law firm had taken a single fee from a great steel corporation, \$150,000 in a lump, to help the company get out of paying taxes apparently due the government. His law firm would not have received that fee had it not been that the head of the firm had just left the Treasury department, and was supposed to know the devious ways by which taxable income could be slipped past the collector.

If W. J. Bryan is again sent to a democratic national convention as an instructed delegate, who will be the victim of his betrayal of confidence this time? Another million dollars for the sugar beet raisers of Nebraska will go a long way towards sweetening the situation in the irrigated sections of the state.

If men prefer to revel in filth, that is their business. But it does seem strange that men should prefer that to seeking the beautiful.

And the time was when Mr. Bryan's birthday was celebrated by feasting and merrymaking at Lincoln.

"Gloomy Gus" is having a hard time to get by these days.

Georgia certainly did treat Mr. McAdoo handsomely.

SOAP.

After all, we have some things these days that reconcile us to what we may have missed by not living in King Tut's time. So far as inquiry has been pursued by the wise men who can decipher the inscription on Egyptian monuments or Babylonian bricks, neither the inhabitants of the Nile valley nor the Mesopotamians knew anything about soap. Dr. L. W. Bosart, chief of the chemical division of a great soap making concern, says that what is mentioned as soap in the Bible was probably ashes of vegetable material containing alkaline carbonate. The first authentic reference to soap is made by Pliny the elder in 79 A. D., who refers to a substance used by the German tribes for coloring their hair. It was made by mixing tallow and wood ashes. Dr. Galen, a number of years later, writes that soap is very useful in removing the dirt from the bodies, and therefore is a valuable addition to the physician's kit of tools. Over in Spain, about that time, a mixture of olive oil and alkali began to be popular, although it is not recorded that anyone ever lost caste by reason of not using it.

Of course, people washed in those days. Bathing

"The People's Voice"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to send to the editor their expression on matters of public interest.

STREET CORNERS AND GRADE CROSSINGS

George M. Graham, chairman of the traffic planning and safety committee of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, has given some valuable advice on the subject with which his committee has to deal. He does not minimize the danger. He knows that with the tremendous increase in the use of the self-propelled vehicle has come one of the most serious problems of the day. It has made a grade crossing of every street corner. Automobiles registered increased from 13,000 in 1900 to 14,500,000 in 1924, an expansion of 111,000 per cent.

No amount of effort has been able as yet adequately to provide for this unparalleled growth in the use of the highways of the country. Mr. Graham offers for the present the need of educating both pedestrians and drivers. Each must understand the responsibility resting on him and by taking care avoid accidents. Traffic rules should be uniform. At present they are varied and uncertain. Each community has some that are peculiar to itself. Drivers can hardly be expected to keep all of them in mind. A national code should be adopted and enforced.

For the reckless driver, the one who mixes bootleg booze with gasoline, Mr. Graham has only the severest condemnation. He says:

"Why any mercy should be shown this type of offender is something the automobile industry does not understand. The fear of God should be put into every murdering criminal. This can not be done by fines. The heedless pay these fines and dismiss the matter almost as a joke. Judge Bartlett of Detroit has expressed the opinion that only jail sentences stop the reckless driver. The automobile industry pledges its full support to every judge who imposes jail sentences for proved offenses, no matter how severe may be the penalty."

Revocation of license and impounding of cars also are recommended as punishment for recklessness or carelessness. Take away the car, too, says Mr. Graham, if you want to stop the heedless driver. "No good citizen can rest content until safety reigns supreme on every street and highway," to which sentiment we say "Amen!"

ZANGWILL TELLS OUR WEAK POINTS

Israel Zangwill got back to England with a more completely arranged set of reasons why he does not like America. He evidently had time on the way over to catalogue his complaints, and get them into shape for public presentation. This latter came at the earliest moment, through a published article in one of the London papers. By and large, he finds we are a hopeless lot.

New York is the slowest city on earth. This is because more people want to use the streets than can get by in speedy fashion. The American business man is a sucker. He falls for breakfast foods, daily dozens, and all sorts of devices. Our politicians are a lot of low-browed swindlers, who play down to the masses. Nothing of this kind ever happens in England, politicians over there being all constructive statesmen.

However, Mr. Zangwill takes time to commend our taxi drivers, who are inexpensive and never blackguard a fare who neglects to tip. And our theaters show great activity and enterprise in behalf of art. Prohibition he says is a farce, and the klan is a dreadful thing.

All this Mr. Zangwill might have found out, without subjecting himself to the inconvenience of coming all the way over from London. He also might have learned with even less trouble that American Jews are not inclined to follow the Zangwill leadership, and that is probably what is troubling his dreams, more than the slowness of New York or the failure of prohibition.

Yet, now that we are discovered, and our shortcomings shown to the world, will we profit by it? Maybe the next time Mr. Zangwill visits the United States bootlegging will be out of fashion, and the traffic jam in New York will have disappeared, while everybody will knock off about 4 o'clock in the afternoon for tea.

A man who has lost faith in popular government and is convinced that it is hopeless to fight graft and inefficiency, would not seem to be a good man to elect to represent the people, the vast majority of whom have not lost faith and are confident that virtue will triumph.

Governor Bryan seems to have been inoculated against a recurrence of his anti-tuberculosis campaign. That is to say, not until after the November election.

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Home spun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Post—
Robert Worthington Davies
IF WE KNEW.
If we knew what is about us, which at length will Science find,—
If the magic undiscovered was familiar to the mind—
Earth would be a wondrous playground—we could simply turn a switch,
Live in idleness and leisure, and be jovial and rich.
There would be no class distinction; there would be no needy, poor;
Work and worry would not ever knock upon an open door.
We would honor one another, universal trust would be,
And the world would wear the garlands of resplendent Calvary.
If we knew the cosmic secrets that are dormant in the years,
We would smile away our sorrows, we would laugh away our tears.
We will watch the trend of Science with a yearning sense but true,
And have faith until we need not say so hapless, "If we knew!"

The Case For Capital Punishment

Hershey, Neb. To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: In our day capital punishment inflicted according to due process of law is viewed as a relic of barbarism. In nearly every state in the Union the legislature have been urged to stricken from the statute books "the laws of blood which command judicial murder—which are repugnant to our civilization."

The Bible speaks of capital punishment in no uncertain terms: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." (Gen. 9, 6) "All that shed the blood of any person with blood, shall be shed." (Matt. 26, 52) Here God clearly ordains that the murderer's temporal punishment shall be a violent death inflicted by human hands. The infliction of capital punishment for murder is thus seen to be not merely a human right, but a duty enjoined by divine command, and its refusal to mete out justice according to this ordinance is a flagrant disregard of the divine law.

Now behold the appalling state of affairs in our own country from a nationalist viewpoint because its conduct demonstrated that people and government had learned nothing from the experience of the past. The situation of the warnings of Washington on the necessity of military preparedness.

After the revolution the army had been allowed to dwindle to the merest skeleton of a military organization, and early in Washington's administration congress fixed its strength at 28,000 officers and 3,126 men. During the French war scare of 1799 the army was increased to 51,000 of officers and men, but the next year it was reduced to a little over 4,000. Jefferson, as we have seen, virtually abolished the military and naval establishments, but just previous to the coming of General Madison administration congress authorized a force of approximately 9,000 officers and men. Despite the imminence of war, however, this force was not kept up, and in 1812 the regular establishment numbered only 5,700 effective. The republicans were for and were against the concept of Canada, and gave little attention to naval requirements; partly because Britain was popularly supposed to be invincible at sea, and partly, it was charged, because it was feared a naval war might redound to the glory of the federalist maritime states of New England.

The advance on Canada, therefore, fell to untrained militia and enthusiastic but unequipped volunteers, with results that might have been foreseen. Governor Hull of the territory of Michigan, with no more military capacity than the bestowal of a brigadier general's commission could give him, was ordered to take his force of 2,200 men and allowed himself to be shut up in Detroit. He tried to hold out for some time, but was finally forced to surrender to an inferior force of British and Indians without firing a shot.

An expedition of militia sent out from Indiana under General Hopkins and another under General William Henry Harrison, were halted by the open mutiny of the troops, who refused to proceed after a few days' march. The New York militia under General Van Rensselaer refused to cross into Canada to the support of the American force that already had been captured and the enemy's position at Queenstown. General Dearborn, instructed to strike at the boundary between the militia of his own state and that of the neighboring state of New York, declined to set a foot on the other side of the line. During the year 1812 no fewer than 63,000 militia and volunteers were called into the service to conquer a country defended by no more than 4,600 British regulars with no results whatever.

While the government was thus exercising its power, others have experienced the same. Iowa abolished the death penalty, and reinstated it when brutal crimes began to multiply. When in Vermont the slackness of the law had brought about an increased murder rate, a murderer received the death sentence, and the whole effect was soon noticed. Colorado reinstated the death penalty after three lynchings had occurred. In fact, nearly every state that has abolished the experiment of abolishing capital punishment restored the death penalty.

Although not invited to give his opinion on whether or not hanging should be re-established in Missouri (Missouri had abolished the death penalty at that time, but reinstated it again), one of the bank robbers who shot two policemen at St. Louis, has contributed his mite: "We figured we would get 'life' for holding up the bank, and they could do any more to us if we killed a couple of cops, so we decided to shoot our way out," he declared.

Some years ago four desperadoes held up a bank in St. Louis, and in the pursuit killed a policeman and fatally wounded another. One of the desperadoes, when asked by the police sergeant whether he did not require some courage to hold up a bank (surely a stupid question), answered: "Yes, it does require something of a dare-devil spirit to hold up a bank. All the accomplices in this holding up murder, now in custody, were quite chipper and jaunty when examined concerning the affair, as why should they not be, since the worst that can be their fate is to be sentenced to life imprisonment, which, of course, as everybody knows, means about 12 years, and then a pardon. Why should young desperadoes, grown up ignorant as swine about religion, all but boys in their instincts, and with consciences subnormal, if not absent, why, we ask, should not such brutalized and degenerate young men seek occasion to make an easy living by holding up citizens or beat their brains out with a piece of gas pipe, since the only risk they incur, in case of capture, is a few years of confinement in prison? And since they will not be hanged, even if they kill six prison guards, why not take a chance of an escape?"

The argument that capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime is contrary to experience. But there are still other arguments. A murder one is that we cannot restore life to a man who has been executed. If it is afterwards proved that he was innocent, I reply: Is not every day spent in prison likewise life which can never be restored? Others would have us understand that punishment is for the sake of reforming a criminal. No punishment for crime is not a reforming measure, but a vindication of the majesty of the law. Still others point to the commandment: "Thou shalt not kill," and fail to realize that only he who takes the sword commits murder. Civil government does not take the sword, but bears it by divine authority. (Matt. 23:52; Rom. 13:4)

We see then, that capital punishment is a duty enjoined by God, that it is the most effective deterrent to murder, and means by which the lives of all citizens are safeguarded. Capital punishment should not be abolished and should be reinstated where it has been expunged from the penal code.

WILLIAM BAIER.



The Result of Unpreparedness in the War of 1812

Experience, which is the best criterion to work by, so fully, clearly and decisively reprobates the practice of trusting to militia, that no man who regards order, regularity and economy, or who has any regard for his own honor, character or peace of mind, will risk them upon this issue.—Washington's warning against military unpreparedness.

THE second war with Britain concerns us from a nationalist viewpoint because its conduct demonstrated that people and government had learned nothing from the experience of the past. The situation of the warnings of Washington on the necessity of military preparedness.

After the revolution the army had been allowed to dwindle to the merest skeleton of a military organization, and early in Washington's administration congress fixed its strength at 28,000 officers and 3,126 men. During the French war scare of 1799 the army was increased to 51,000 of officers and men, but the next year it was reduced to a little over 4,000. Jefferson, as we have seen, virtually abolished the military and naval establishments, but just previous to the coming of General Madison administration congress authorized a force of approximately 9,000 officers and men. Despite the imminence of war, however, this force was not kept up, and in 1812 the regular establishment numbered only 5,700 effective. The republicans were for and were against the concept of Canada, and gave little attention to naval requirements; partly because Britain was popularly supposed to be invincible at sea, and partly, it was charged, because it was feared a naval war might redound to the glory of the federalist maritime states of New England.

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WILLIAM BAIER.

SUNNY SIDE UP

"Take comfort, nor forget that sunrise never failed us yet"

WAITING.
They may tie the don to Daugherty, put skids beneath Sinclair,
Send Doherty to limbo when they please.
The senators may snore, paw the circumambient air,
Pulling any sort of antic or of wheeze;
But no interest I take in this investigation stuff.
For I'm waiting for the biggest thing of all—
What to me is all the summer and the senatorial guff
When I hear his umplets yelling out
"PLAY BALL!"

The candidates may hustle from the dawn till late at night,
And promise to make new the blooming state;
Reformers can keep howling that there's not a thing that's right
And we ought to let 'em put our matters straight;
But I pay them no attention, for I feel the springtime urge
Stealing o'er me, and I'm waiting for the call
When the home team prances gaily all prepared to cut a spurge,
And I hear his umplets yelling out
"PLAY BALL!"

A Sunshine Cake For Sunny Side Up.
Our intellectual phiz no longer ornaments the cap of this department, but a "sunshine cake" ornaments the interior of its promoter of the aforesaid department. It came, light as a feather, a rich golden hue, and as delicious to the taste as it is to the eyes were pleasing to the eye, and with the compliments of its maker, Mrs. J. C. Mines of North Bend, Neb. Had the maker witnessed its rapid consumption she would have needed no further compliments upon her culinary skill. In fact, we are prepared to pass expert judgment upon other varieties of cake prepared by the skilled housewives of Nebraska.

Now that the reformers and the modernists have succeeded in getting their mental apparatus worked up, which we are getting to vote upon proposed amendments to the Ten Commandments. Our vote will be in the negative. This reform thing must be stopped somewhere.

"Evens' Week," which will soon be upon us, will afford those who have no boys a fine opportunity to lay out a fine line of work for us who have. Just to show how much we appreciate the work that is being done by these leaders who have no boys of their own, we hereby offer them a couple to experiment with during the week. We will undertake to look after the other two.

Nebraska Limerick.
There was a man in Valentine
Who loved to sit around and whine;
But citizens grew quite irate
And told the cuss to pull his freight
Or dangle from the tallest pine.

When we have nothing to do we just doze on grabbing up one of those beautifully printed and illustrated household magazines and reading all about how to build a modest little bungalow for \$17,500, or how to prepare a week's menus at the modest cost of \$2.00 per meal for a family of seven, or how to dress one's wife neatly at a cost of only \$5 per cent of the yearly salary, or something similar. It is after reading one of those lovely menus that we fully appreciate Mr. Jiggs' appetite for corn beef and cabbage.

A "progressive," my dear Gwendoline, is very often a man who is so far behind the procession that he can look over his shoulder and imagine that he is leading it.

After mature deliberation, following a long investigation, we have arrived at the conclusion that the reason men no longer give to the women their seats in the street cars is that they are unable to tell by the looks whether they are being courteous to a matron or a mere flapper.

We know one woman who believes that the greatest benefactor of womanhood is the man who invented the electric washer. WILL M. MAUPIN.

Why Not Be a Preacher?
"Mother," said Bobby, "can I be a preacher when I grow up?"
"Of course you may, dear, if you want to."
"Yes, I do. I suppose I've got to go to church all my life, anyhow; an' it's a good deal harder to sit still than it is to walk around and bother."—Boston Transcript.

When in Omaha Hotel Conant

HARD COAL

PENNSYLVANIA
The Standard Fuel
UPDIKE LUMBER & COAL CO.
4 Yards to Serve You

USE BEE WANT ADS—THEY BRING RESULTS

From the Old PUMP

to a real SERVICE

AS pioneers of the filling station service in Omaha, in a few years we have been instrumental in transforming the "one pump station with gasoline for sale," into an attractive, modern service station, manned by courteous, efficient men, where the motoring public may receive free—water for the radiator, air for the tires, water for the battery, battery tested and crank case drained.

The filling station service which the public enjoys today may be attributed to the sincere efforts and service promotion of the Nicholas Oil Corporation.

NICHOLAS OIL

"Business Is Good, Thank You"