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WHAT IS MR. JOHNSON'S PROGRAM?

Hiram Johnson's second visit to Omaha in quest of Nebraska's support to his presidential aspirations finds him still pursuing the president with criticisms. Nothing Mr. Coolidge has done or is doing has the approval of the senator from California. This is unfortunate, of course. Yet, as a republican, Mr. Johnson might devote some of his time to telling what he expects to do when he becomes president.

We know what he will not do. He will not assent to the entry of the United States as an active participant in the affairs of the world. Not only is he against the League of Nations, but he is also opposed to the World Court. Advice, he says, is the only thing he would give to Europe. Now, nobody knows better than Hiram Johnson the futility of giving advice only. He has been peddling advice throughout the length and breadth of the land for the last 12 years, and the inclination of the people to follow his leadership never seemed less than at this time.

At least he has been consistent in his opposition to the League of Nations. On that he stands immovable. If we go back to 1912, when he was second on the Roosevelt ticket, we find a platform of principles to most of all of which he undoubtedly gives support today. The great cry that year was for "social justice." In a slightly modified way the same cry is heard today. Yet it would be interesting to have some one tell us in what way social justice is to be secured. Woodrow Wilson promised to lead us on to the glittering heights, and Hiram Johnson was opposed to him. Warren G. Harding entered the president's office with high resolve to direct the nation back to normal, and Hiram Johnson opposed him. Calvin Coolidge took up the burden laid down by his dead chieftain, courageously seeking to carry on, and Hiram Johnson is opposed to him.

A candidate who is always opposed to whatever is being attempted should, if he is well balanced, have a definite constructive program to substitute for the one he would defeat. That is the weak point in the Johnson armor. At a time when the president is confronted by serious and perplexing problems of domestic policy, such as relief for the farm situation, a remedy for the railroad muddle, reduction of taxation, development of inland water ways, and a number of other items of immense concern as affecting the future welfare of the country, the senator from California is complaining that Mr. Coolidge "complacently associates" with men of big business.

How would it help the nation if the president were to close his door to every man who is connected in any way with "big business," and resolutely refuse to deal with them in any matter? Big business has long been a favorite target in this land, and yet what is so described is but a natural result of the progress the world has made. Not in the United States alone, but all over the world, business has grown in importance as well as in size. Huge sums of capital are absolutely needed to carry on the affairs of the world in an efficient and orderly way. Many sound reasons think the United States already has gone too far in the direction of putting restraints on the development of business institutions. A dread of monopoly, carefully fostered by some who hope to gain personal advantage through the fear they create, has been persistently propagated. Out of it has come an anomalous situation. The farmer, who is excluded from the operations of the anti-trust laws, so far as his marketing operations are concerned, suffers the most from lack of organization. Giant industries, at whom the restrictions and penalties of the Sherman law and the Clayton law were leveled, are thriving. The farmer, however, can not be built up by pulling the others down. Nor will it relieve the distress to set about on a campaign of general price scaling. The trouble is deeper, and requires a more careful treatment than is involved in either of these processes, which are suggested as easy if not effective cures.

We concede to Senator Johnson his unquestioned right to differ from the president on all matters. His patriotism and devotion to the institutions of our common country is none the less sincere because he declines to follow Mr. Coolidge, or, indeed, the leadership of anyone. Were he so constrained, he would not now be a candidate for president. Seeking the highest office in the land, he is exhibiting an American's high ambition to serve the public. Along with this ambition should go a full and definite program of purpose and plans, to be carried out as far as possible. Outside of keeping the United States from becoming entangled in world affairs, what else is it Mr. Johnson proposes to do when he is elected president?

ONE SHAH LESS IN PERSIA.

The shah of Persia is the latest monarch to go into the discard. His loyal and loving subjects gave him the gate with about as little compunction as ever was exhibited toward a vanishing luminary. He is a lucky king, however, to be living in this enlightened age. Once in the variegated history of his interesting country he would not have been simply pushed off the throne. Persians used to have a practice of disposing of rulers who had outlived their welcome after a fashion that left no doubt as to the intent of those who were directing the proceeding. As the mikado said, referring to attempts on the life of the heir apparent, "it was something lingering, with boiling oil in it." What a consolation it should be to the shah to realize that he was dismissed, just as if he had been the cook or the chauffeur.

What the effect will be on international affairs is to be developed by time. Persia has been of importance for some years, because of the desirability of certain oil fields and other natural advantages.

Russia took considerable interest in the shah's government prior to the war. Germany's drive to the east also considered the kingdom. Berlin to Bagdad, was something more than an idle dream, and may yet be realized, though not under the auspices of imperial Germany.

Following the war England got very busy in Persia, with loans and other methods of fastening the country closer to the other Mesopotamian groups that were being developed. This scheme fell through, because of opposition at home, and the outcome of the undertaking that had for its end the subdivision of the Ottoman empire.

Oil fields still exist, agricultural and other resources have not been effectively exploited, and the prospect for a greater market for the manufactures of western nations is as alluring now as it has been these many years. Swiftly moving shifts in the governments in the Near East do not lead to a solution of either the political or economic problems of the people, but these will some day be settled. In the meantime, shahs will come and go, as rulers have in that region for more than 125 centuries.

HIGHWAYS AND THEIR USERS.

A factor in connection with the good roads question which comes up for consideration from time to time is what charge shall be levied on the users of the road for defraying the cost of construction and maintenance. This highly important, and generally neglected, phase of the whole question must soon come forward for full discussion and settlement. On it, in Nebraska particularly, depends much of the future for good roads.

Automobile clubs and associations are keenly awake to the need of better and uniform regulations for the use of the roads. It is one of the perplexities of users of the highways who go from state to state that the rules are not always the same. A federal code, simplified and resting on experience is needed for the common safety of all drivers. When this is out of the way, and traffic is proceeding under rules that are the same from coast to coast, then an even greater problem will be up.

A typical case may be cited. Between St. Louis and Terre Haute a large trucking traffic has been established. A few miles only at either end of the route are outside of Illinois. The rest of the road is paid for by citizens of Illinois, who get no benefit whatever from the fees paid by the truck owners in Missouri or Indiana. What will be done to adjust such a case as this?

An Omaha man has a plan which deserves examination. He would put a meter on all cars, and let the owner pay proportionately as he uses the highway. Details, maybe, for carrying out this plan are not so simple as the idea itself, but it could be worked out. Loads may be figured, also, so that those who use the road most will not do so at the expense of those who use it least.

These questions should be studied, so that when the time comes action will rest on intelligent understanding of what is involved and what is sought as a remedy. As each state is developing its own highway system, so each will probably work out its own scheme for controlling the highways. Ultimately all must be harmonized into one general system. The automobile and truck are figuring more and more in interstate business and must be dealt with accordingly.

"OUT OF DEATH COMES LIFE."

"Oh, Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Not now, dear heart, for winter has gone, and just around the corner is joyous spring. What though the days be dreary, the skies leaden and overcast when they are not dripping, the great transition is at hand. Nature is coming to life once more. A bit of green already tinges the lawn, the certain presage of what is going on. Cold winds sweep the skies, and a rawness in the air makes close wraps comfortable, yet a suspicious softness is noticed on bark and branch of tree and shrub.

Down, underneath the soggy surface of the earth, where yet frost holds sway, the miracle is being wrought. Despite the cold, life is stirring in the germs, and only a touch of Nature's wand is waited for them to burgeon into loveliness of bloom. All the long cold winter they have slumbered in the frozen ground, but returning warmth will be the magic to bring them back life and beauty. It is the old and ever new wonder. Over the earth soon will spread that marvelous mantle only Nature can weave, and all the tender presence of grass and buds will prepare the stage for summer's magnificent opulence.

Gentle rains or gushing torrents, sunshine that daily will become more ardent, these are Nature's lure for the things that grow from the ground. The old dame knows secrets man has never fathomed, and presently she will clothe all outdoors with a radiant beauty whose charm never fails. It is spring, when all animate things feel again the impulse of vigor and growth, and the renewal of life that has been dormant. Old as creation, yet new as each recurrent dawn, the process goes on as it has from the beginning and will till the end. "Some call it evolution, And others call it God."

The supreme court says it can not take Governor Bryan's name off the progressive ticket. The voters can settle the whole controversy by taking his name off all tickets next November.

Perhaps you have noticed that nine-tenths of the testimony brought out by those investigating committees would not be admissible in the court of a justice of the peace.

The Nebraska republican convention will be held at Lincoln on May 1. It should be a real republican convention.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

CURRENT OPINION.

When a poor man goes astraying
For wrongdoing he needs pay;
There's no opulence to hide him,
And there is no open way
To evade the eye of Justice.
There's no "comeback" in his game—
If he sins he has to suffer,
Lose respect and bear the shame.

In this age as in all others
Wealth has fostered lewdness lust,
And has shielded highbrow fellows
Who commercialize their trust.
Need we wonder why the honest
Lose their faith—and need we ask
Why the poor man's constant toiling
Often proves a futile task?

We have hosts of good among us,
We have faith in God and man—
But we ask an equal sentence
For the lowly caravan.
To the "hushers" and "four-flushers"
We in unison exclaim:
You are breeding more than malice,
You are leaving more than shame!

Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less will be given preference.

Advantages of Partisanship.

Oxford, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: If any one has doubts that our primary law is a humbug, let him scan well the ballots, that will be made up from the political flings. We find men filed for the legislature under the banner of a party they had recently denounced as an organization of crooks. We find men trying to ride two political parties into congress. We find men filed for governor as a progressive and we find this selfsame man filed as a democrat. Now the progressive platform hobby is that both old parties are corrupt beyond redemption hence the need of a new party, while the democrat point with pride to their age, tracing to Jefferson, as a reason why voters can trust their party to administer the government. How is this bifurcated candidate going to faithfully tell the progressive voters that he loves and supports their organization and then make the demagogue believe their party is a top-notch, 16 to 1?

We were told the primary was to be the death knell to political chicanery, hypocrisy and deception. It was to give better public servants drafted from the people by the people. Has it done it?

On the republican ballot we find a candidate for United States senator who recently arose in the senate and administered his eyes galleryward, pulled out the tremolo stool and exclaimed, "I have no party to eulogize. I have no party to condemn." This man who had divorced himself from party proceeded to out do Hefflin and his cohorts in their dirty alimony insinuations against the administration and even the sleeping Harding. He can not defend the party that lifted him from an obscure party lawyer to the United States senate, yet he files on the primary ballot, not as an independent which he claims to be, not as a progressive, but as a republican, as a democrat the party with which he votes but he has the gall to file as a republican, the party which he has traduced and with whose administration he has been associated.

If such candidates can be political trickery force themselves upon the party in opposition to two-thirds of its members, where is "the peoples rule" of the primary? The law stages another farce requiring party conventions after candidates are nominated. County conventions that used to pack the courthouses have dwindled to a farce and the party is not representative of the party membership's wishes. Primary promoters told us it would be a great blessing to farmers. It was to give him more political power, wipe out all trusts, give him school privileges equal with the city, make him prosperous and create a back to the farm movement, to prosperity and our school are languishing.

Are the trusts all dead? Where could one find a more vicious American trust than the schoolmaster's trust? Has any one been seen going back to the farm? The primary builders told us no candidate could get by the "people rule" primary but pure minded, honest farseeing statesman and they would reform the state and nation. Unless offices would be cut out, salaries clipped, taxes reduced, we were to have fewer laws and better enforcement and lobbyist to be executed, were a few of the reforms slated.

What has happened? The primary has put the greatest flock of demagogues into congress ever assembled under one roof. Purity of mind and honesty can not abide with those who are importing a bunch of crooks and scandal mongers to testify of their evil imaginations. Where are the farseeing statesman and leaders? Useless offices are being created by the thousand and salary boosting is a daily pastime. Our state and county officers have become an organized gang of lobbyists for more pay, more clerks, more equipment, less work and shorter hours, while idiotic laws a plenty are dumped on the people and enforcement is a joke. The primary law certainly needs amending for it is destroying true representative government.

Political parties are necessary that responsibility of administration may be limited and our danger lies in destroying those parties through the primary and substituting irresponsible blocs and class groups. Men of character and honest statesmanship

Abe Martin



We kin recall when woman's hair was her glory, but 'tday it's th' only thing that bothers her. Ever' buddy likes a good loser—till he loses ever' thing.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of March, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY,
Notary Public

What of America?

By EDWIN G. PINKHAM.

The Only Material of Which a Nation Ever Can Be Made

I would invoke those who fill the seats of justice, and all who minister at its altar, that they execute the wholesome and necessary severity of the law.—Daniel Webster.

THE outstanding fact in the history of the evolution of our government is that its own necessities and those of the American people have tended steadily to make us a nation. Nationality, through whatever storms and stresses, and whether we liked it or not, has been the inevitable goal toward which government and people have moved.

The "league of firm friendship" of the confederation gave way under those necessities to the "compact" as many believed it to be—of the confederation. The compact theory, after long use, it was found to be a defective one. Under it the union was a house divided against itself. After 72 years of compromises it broke down, and a terrible civil war settled it for all time that the constitution was not a compact but the supreme national law of an indestructible union of indestructible states.

This nationality is the heritage which these present generations have received from those, who, through those long years of compromise, misunderstanding and final conflict, fought the battles of nationality and triumphed over provincialism and union. We now are a nation, territorially, politically and even physically. The union held together by those bonds of communication that are stronger to bind than distance is to separate. But nationality is not a thing, wholly territorial, political or physical. It is a mental and spiritual condition as well. Nationality cannot exist where the people, even though living together under the same political system, are not one people in thought and aspiration. We have seen the attempt in Europe, in recent years, to make nations simply by drawing boundary lines around aggregations of inhabitants. Those attempts have not been successful, because, no matter what treaties may say, nations are made out of only one material, and that is human beings united in mind, with common interests, common history, a uniform political training and with a spiritual bond stronger than that of the strongest legal sanction.

The reason why it has been impossible to make nations in Europe by the means its diplomats have employed is because the mixed populations of the continent do not furnish these essential elements of nationality. If these processes have failed there they will fail here. America cannot be a nation only as long as the human material out of which it is made remains one people. Our present danger is that it will not so remain. Our material necessities have caused us in recent decades to admit into our system vast accretions of human material not readily malleable under nationalistic processes. Nor have we done our best to make those processes effective upon them. We have allowed alien peoples to come

stand little chance in the primary with the passion and prejudice appealing orator. Parties are prevented by this law from drafting its best men for standard bearers but has often to accept those whose only qualification is the office itch and the filing fee.

A. C. RANKIN.

Has Older Coin.

Deadwood, S. D.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Today I cut out a clipping from your paper, in which it stated that one John D. Cain, a collector of coins, carried an Irish Penny minted in 1781. On one side was the head of King George III, and on the other side a harp surmounted by the word "Hibernia."

I wish to state that I have a coin the exact duplicate of Mr. Cain's except the date is 1775, so that I have Mr. Cain beaten by about six years.

BANKS STEWART.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

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JACK FILES COMPLAINT.
Partly tough times around our house.
Gotta keep mighty quiet.
Tip-top 'round stiller'n a mouse,
Er else somepin' cros' nigh it.
Measles got kid brother o' mine;
He gets all th' good eatin's.
I gotta git 'em all school fore nine.
An' all o' Sunday meetin's.

Didn't treat me in thatta way
When measles had me goin';
Let me lay 'round all th' day,
An' all them red spots showin'.
'Cause he's baby I got no show
'Round this house, I'm tellin'—
Let Dan have it, doncha know,
T' keep that kid from yellin'.

Nobody lovin' me no more;
Gotta play second fiddle.
Givin' me double-cros' f' shore,
Both ways from th' middle.
Kid brother gittin' all th' best—
Wish at I could beat it.
Gotta dig in th' garden, I guess,
An' git a worm an' eat it.

In some 40 years of wandering hither and yon it has been our privilege to note some great changes, and most of them for the better. And in no profession has there been a greater change, and for the better, than among traveling salesmen. Time was when they were supposed to be "sports" of the first water—only they seldom took water. They were looked to for a never failing supply of off-color stories, and if they were not rounders they had to appear so to be.

Of course they never were as bad as they were painted, but even at that they have improved in morals and morals. Most of them are married men, and are proud to say so. One day last week we sat in the smoking compartment of a passenger coach with four traveling men. We talked politics and business conditions for a while, and then, somehow or other, the subject of home and kiddies came up. Four of the five traveling men were married, and each one had a picture of his wife and kiddies along, for each of the four were fathers. And the fifth traveling man admitted that he expected to be married in June and, while he didn't show the photo of his fiancée, it was easy to see that the thought her to be the sweetest girl in the world.

Three of the five said they were church members and never failed to attend services at least once every Sunday, and two of the three showed small Testaments they carried in their grips.

It is just such little incidents as this that give the lie to the plaints of the pessimists and grouches who are forever whining that the world is growing worse.

We have many laws in mind we would pass if permitted so to do, but first we would repeal a few, and about the first one would be the law, if such there be, that allows a surcharge on sleeping car tickets.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

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How a Widow Protected Her Inheritance

WHEN a well-known business man died recently, it was found that his will left everything to his wife.

However, her inheritance did not free the widow from annoyance and trouble. In fact it created them.

Relatives and friends came forward with numerous investment proposals. Various personal needs, all requiring the expenditure of money, were pressed upon the widow.

The protection of her inheritance and insurance money now became a serious problem for this woman. She remembered that her husband had had a personal friend who was an officer in a trust company, and she called upon him. He recommended that she consult a lawyer regarding the establishment of a trust fund for her own benefit.

Ask a Trust Company for This Booklet
The subject of trust funds, created either by will or during life, is discussed in "Safeguarding Your Family's Future." Ask a trust company for a copy, and consult its officers as to how it can serve you or your family under a trust fund. The booklet is also sent on request to any company below.

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