

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publishers

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entered as second-class matter May 22, 1868

Postoffice under act of March 3, 1879

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money, for that is out of the question. Yet it becomes the republic to make sure its defenders are not exposed to want at any time. That this may be done in a comprehensive and practical way, the insurance feature has been adopted. It is a form of deferred payment, in lieu of a cash settlement.

Democrats are said to be willing to abandon their stand for a cash bonus if they are assured that the president will sign the bill with the insurance feature. Whether they get this or not, their opposition is weakened by what amounts to an admission that the sole purpose is to make trouble for the republicans. Legionnaires have pleaded with them to get behind the insurance feature, and if they do not it will be because they would rather play politics than honestly give the service men what they ask for.

Intimations have been made that the president will approve the bill endorsed by the Legion, despite his announcement in his message, that he is opposed to a bonus. President Harding vetoed the measure passed by the last congress because it had no provision for raising the money needed to carry it into effect. The present bill does not ask a special levy, but its passage ahead of the revenue measure will indicate a purpose on part of congress to make the needed arrangements for paying what is necessary to care for the cost of compensated adjustment.

TREE PLANTING AND PROTECTION.

Arbor Day will be observed in Nebraska, this year, as it has been in all the years since it was instituted. Through this observance our people have earned the honorable and distinctive title of "Tree Planters." More than ever this year the occasion is of significance. Plans are being laid for the celebration of the centennial of Arbor Day, in 1972. Trees that go into the ground as saplings this year and for the next few years to come will be giants then, fit emblems of the enterprise of today, a wonderful tribute to the foresight and patriotism of the Nebraskans of this generation.

Tree planting is one certain method of uniting sentiment with the practical. Nothing is more beautiful than a tree, nothing more useful. Experience is demonstrating more and more the need for systematic tree culture, not alone for the protection that comes from standing timber, but for the use that will be made of it. A forest is a crop, not a mine, and should be so treated.

More than the mere planting of trees is being observed this week. Beginning with today "Forest Protection Week" opens, and will be devoted to the dissemination of information and advice with regard to care of the forests. Principally, this instruction will take the form of urging care to prevent forest fires. Millions of dollars worth of timber has been sacrificed to carelessness through forest fires. Thousands of lives have gone out in the breath of the monster that sweeps through the woods, loosed by a carelessly tossed match, or cigarette butt, or the failure properly to guard a camp fire.

The forestry service of the United States welcomes visitors to the forest reserves. Accommodations in the way of well-kept roads and camping places are provided.

Privileges amounting to absolute freedom are extended. In return, the visitors are asked to be careful about fire, to treat the government property as they would their private possessions. When all do this, the danger of destructive fires in the timber will be reduced materially.

When traveling through the timber make sure you do not expose the woods to the danger of fire. Put out carefully every match you light, make certain that each cigarette or cigar, or the ashes from the pipe bowl, are dead before being discarded. Above all, when a fire is built, see that it is extinguished before it is abandoned. Pour water on it and all around it. Be certain. That is the message the forestry service has for the tourists. It should be in the mind of every one.

Carter Glass, senator from Virginia and democrat, is amazed that the president should impute anything to the senate. Of course, what the senator imputes to the president does not count.

Mr. McAdoo's managers ought to get together. One in Washington claims 500 delegates, and the one in New York says it is 156. As only 410 have been chosen, it is plain which is wrong.

A youth who stole \$14,000 and spent it among the "white lights," says he did not have much fun, because he was drunk all the time. He will be sober enough by the time he gets out.

The woman who has to murder a man in her home to "save her honor" hobs up every now and then. She may have honor, but usually she also has experience.

March whirled up a total of \$341,000,000 exports and \$319,000,000 imports, and still the democrats insist on having the markets of the world opened.

Now the Smith bread law has been found "re-pugnant to the Fourteenth amendment to the constitution." Hard to get anything over that hurdle.

Cordell Hull declines to be consoled by the turn things are taking, but he will have to put up with the outcome of what his party colleagues started.

New York police have broken up a plant where counterfeit money was printed to pay rum runners for liquor. At that it would be about a standoff.

A New York doctor tells us "a kiss without a lick is no kiss at all." Wonder how he found out what everybody else knew all the time?

Auto accidents cost a billion dollars and 27,000 lives in the United States in 1923. A fairly steep price to pay for carelessness.

Another world cruise for the navy is being planned. "Travel and learn."

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—

Robert Worthington Davie

ISAAC, AND OTHER DAYS.

I remember Isaac clearly

When he asked me for a match

On a Sunday while we rested

In his watermelon patch,

And enjoyed the luscious flavor

Of his melons big and fine,

And discussed the branching virtues

Of the watermelon vine.

When we mused through his orchard

Where the crimson ovals were,

And the slightest wily zephyr

Set the weighted twigs a-tilt,

I was awed and I was grateful—

Even more than I could know—

When we mused through his orchard

Twenty-seven years ago.

And my heart gets sore of thumpy

When in visions I portray

Nelbor Isaac's gorgeous apples,

And his orchard far away;

And I feel intensely hungry

When at evening I recline,

And recall our conversation

On the watermelon vine.

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Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request.

Memberships of the Omaha Bee

"Inspiring, Hold John Harbison."

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Now and then some semblance of truth comes out at Washington.

Jake Hamon's loss and most trusted friend, the man who was by his side during the last 30 hours of his life, who carried his farewell note to President Harding, testified:

"Any way, Jake was a great talker after two or three drinks of Scotch."

Jake Hamon was not alone in this trait. Many another good man, who was sincere and prudent always, has floated away on two or three drinks of Scotch to heights undreamed of in his sober moments.

As Frank Houston used to sing of the cocktail, "The wealth increased, I swelled with pride. All who ever came under the spell know that."

"It smoothes the wrinkles out of care, and makes a man look like an actor."

Jake Hamon spent imaginary millions, "to bolster up the boys," and his boastful chatter is not being passed on to the scandal mongers to defame him in his death, as well as to cast a stigma on a well beloved president. What shame should the nation feel at this!

Jake Hamon is dead, and his account is closed. As was said of Caesar, "the evil that he did lives after him," while the good is interred with his bones. We are not told of the many kind acts that marked the life of this man, of his generous impulses, of the help he extended to those who needed it, of his really honorable ambitions to serve. Such a recital would not serve the purpose of those who frankly are looking for the worst they can uncover.

But they will have their reward.

OLD FOGY.

Would Revise the Primary.

Dunbar, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: As a friend of the primary, not as a foe, do I submit the statement that it ought to be revised and revert to the old county and state convention days.

I have not only a firm believer and advocate of the primary. But the recent state primary held just this month, April 8, proved its inefficiency. It was not part with it and go back to the old convention days, as they were, controlled in many instances by political bosses, railroads, grafters and the like.

The state primary is not a party affair, but a public affair, and should be held in the public interest. It is not a party affair, but a public affair, and should be held in the public interest. It is not a party affair, but a public affair, and should be held in the public interest.

The primary exists today it is the playground for quacks. The door is open—any counterfeiter may enter. Any fool can walk in—we have absolutely no control over the primary, twice ourselves. We talked about the poor man not having a chance at the old conventions, we all know that a poor man has no chance in the primary, finally speaking. We might suggest that at the county conventions to be held by both parties on April 27 that a proper resolution be passed, and the county convention in Lincoln or Omaha the day before the state conventions are held and submit recommendations to the state convention relative to the returning to the old convention days, with proper safeguards and penalties against corrupt influences; at any rate, if nothing is done at these conventions, the matter ought to be carried up to a better understanding to the legislature for its attention, as it would be anyway.

What do we use to do in the old convention days? We always selected the cleanest and best men in the precinct to attend the county convention, and they selected the best men to attend the state convention. Or congressional district convention, whatever it was. What we want to do is to guard against old corruption influences that are prevalent at all times at these conventions, and which were largely responsible for the primary. The best brains and honest minds that could be assembled from each county ought to provide a satisfactory way to return with safety to the old convention system. Why, half the people vote blindly as it is, don't know who they are voting for. Just close their eyes and drop their lead pencil down, so to speak, and wherever it falls, make an X. You don't know who you are voting for, outside of governor, U. S. senator and a few others. It may be the primary was necessary for us to get our eyes open and have decent and honest conventions. It would help to do that.

No convention in the future would dare to turn down a George Norris or an R. B. Howell. This hurriedly written article is only at the most just some suggestions. We have got to do something to get started. If we can't simplify matters with safety, by returning to the old convention system, why then we had better stick to the primary. But everybody knows that something ought to be done. The primary must be made campaign for the candidate, and it takes a man with money, and lots of it, to make two campaigns in order to go to Washington as a United States senator or congressman. Democrats call for republican ballots and

some republicans call for democratic ballots at the primary, where registration is not compulsory.

The only ambition that prompts us to write this article, which is poorly written, too, is one that aims at better government, better public servants, and a more satisfactory way to choose them with safety. No corporation crowd has any strings on us.

W. W. ANNIS.

Taxing Rich Burden Poor.

Prof. Edwin R. A. Seligman in North America.

There is one point in which the advocates of surtax reduction also make a mistake. While it is true that an increase in the rate of tax in the shape of higher prices, it is false to assume that only the immediate taxpayer is affected by the tax. The effects of a tax must be distinguished from the shifting of it. There is no more fateful mistake than to think that the excessive taxation of the rich necessarily leaves unaffected the welfare of the poor. The entire industrial process depends for its progress upon the accumulation of capital and the ploughing back into the business of a reasonable amount of earnings that are not distributed or spent by the individual owner. The progress of civilization and the growth of wealth depend upon the spirit of enterprise and the readiness of the forceful and the able to take risks. Anything which seriously checks this spirit of hopefulness or hampers the incentive to save has a very definite reaction on the whole body economic. With the accumulation of capital and the activity of business enterprise there are set in motion those forces of modern life which render possible the increase of wages, the lowering of interest rates, the improvement of the

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"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Mr. Mellon as Political Quarry

From the Milwaukee Journal.

Whether Secretary Mellon meant to say in his letter to the president that he would not resign, or if he meant to say that he would resign, if he were permitted to pay away and make up the records of the Internal Revenue bureau as the hired employee of Senator Capper, is not clear. It is hard to see how anything else could be read into this part of the communication.

These attacks on the senator who would pay nearly give their right hands if thereby they could bring about the retirement of the present singularly capable head of the Treasury department. If they succeed, the Mellon letter as a gesture toward resignation, they can be counted on to do everything in their power to put Henry on the job suggested for him.

It would be a great loss to the country if it were deprived of the active counsel and public service of Mr. Mellon, even if he were to resign the post of his most difficult part of his post-war task is now a thing of history. Economists and financiers who ought to know say that Mr. Mellon is the most distinguished and capable head of the Treasury department since Alexander Hamilton, not excepting John Sherman, who was the outstanding national financier after the civil war.

Secretary Mellon has devoted his unusual talents assiduously to the job which he did not seek. He is not one to go in quest of publicity, however favorable it might be. He makes a public utterance only when the occasion requires and when he has a right to the floor. He is pulling away from the left and the radicals are going their own way, while the more conservative members are wandering back to their old political abodes.

The Public Ledger, adding: "All of which, in the long run, will be just as well for the country and the farmer. Paternalism is becoming overgrown and the high grass snake doctors were peddling too much panacea."

The trouble with most eastern farm prognosticators is that they don't know what they are talking about. They apparently get their idea of the farmer from the street peddler who pushes a cart past their homes; and they cling to the notion that the farmer is the same sort of chap he was in the nineties—satisfied if he has an extra pair of overalls to put on clean on Sundays. Because Senator Capper, who has heard a vice presidential buzz, has quieted down, the Public Ledger jumps to the conclusion that the farmer has decided to give up his fight against the manufacturers, railroad, financial and other special privilege bloc in congress.

It seemingly does not occur to the Public Ledger that the important thing is whether the farmer has gone off with the so-called radicals and left the timid Capper senators. Yet in the last few months a warning tone has been heard in the agricultural periodicals which are published in the farm lands, and so reflect the sentiments of real farmers—a tone of despair that is sobering. We find farm papers that in the past have argued against price-fixing schemes saying, as does the Prairie Farmer: "We don't like paternalism any better than anyone else, but as long as other industries are protected by law against world competition, agriculture will have to have effective help of the same sort."

In other words, if the manufacturing east must have its profiteers' tariffs, the farmer demands enactment of some of the price-fixing farm bills before congress, even though the temple comes crashing down about our ears. And eastern publications that attempt to belittle the greatest in farm lands and shut their eyes to the creeping paralysis that accompanies the foreclosure of mortgages might with profit read up on the times of Louis XIV.

Storm Clouds Out West.

From the Milwaukee Journal.

In answer to its own question of "What's Happened to the Farm Bloc?" The Philadelphia Public Ledger exults at the breakup of the group of senators headed by Senator Capper who designated themselves the "right friends of the farmer."

The right of the bloc is pulling away from the left and the radicals are going their own way, while the more conservative members are wandering back to their old political abodes.

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