## THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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### Omaha-Where the West is at its Best

### MUSCLE SHOALS AND MERE TALK

The battle that rages around Muscle Shoals at present has nothing to do with whether or not the farmers shall have cheap fertilizer. This is a most vital point for the southern farmer, and to some degree it is one of the dominating problems of agriculture. When the war was on and the supply of potash from Germany was cut off, fertilizer soared to such height of price as to give it even greater emphasis than ever. Cotton was imperatively needed, and to produce cotton fertilizer must be had. Nebraska's potash lakes helped solve the problem, but when the war was over, and the supply from Germany again available, the price dropped to a point where Nebraska could not compete.

It was the war need that suggested the great development at Muscle Shoals. A modest hydro-electric scheme was magnified tenfold, and the humble \$10,000,000 originally asked for became \$125,000,-000, and still the end is not yet. So magnificent was the undertaking that now, five and one-half years after the war has ended it is unready to produce. Yet it can produce the nitrates that are needed. Whether or not the United States is ever engaged in another war need not be debated. Fertilizer will he necessary as long as cotton is raised in the south, and cotton is an essential to human existence.

The conservationists have twisted the Muscle Shoals plan from its original purpose. They have now connected it with a great superpower vision that connects the east with the west, the south and the north in one great system that will provide energy for driving all the wheels of industry. No more attractive picture ever was offered than is painted by the advocates of this new dream of government ownership. It goes just a little beyond the Plumb plan for dealing with the railroads, because it involves all

. . .

When the water power bill was made into law after long and earnest consideration, it was regarded as a triumph for the theory of conservation. Just as the mineral and oil land leasing measure was expected to work, the water power control law was to produce great benefits for all mankind. Just as the government undertook to lease naval oil reserves, and thereby draw the sternest of condemnation from the conservationists, so the water power has been so jealously guarded that no development has taken place. Now the move is direct for government operation of the big enterprise.

If the people are ready to enter into the general scope of government ownership and operation, the entire program of nationalization of industry, no better place to start can be found than Muscle Shoals. All that is there, save the Gorgas steam plant, worth about \$5,000,000, is owned by the government. While this is being debated, and championed by Senator Norris, Governor Pinchot and others, the farmers are waiting for the promised relief in the fertilizer situation.

From Chile comes part of the nitrates that are used, produced and sold down there under such strict regulation as amounts to a government monopoly. Cotton farmers of the south pay a tribute to the Chilean government. The bulk of the supply comes from the great deposits that lie partly in Germany and partly in France, and which are in the hands of strong companies that are backed by the respective governments. To these all farmers who use fertilizer, for whatever purpose, pay tribute. Our crops are raised by consent of foreign owners of potash deposits lying in foreign countries. The cost of producing whatever the farm turns out is regulated by agencies over which we have and can ex-

ercise no control, It requires no especial exercise of the imagination to note the satisfaction with which these foreign monopolists see the dispute over Muscle Shoals go on, day by day, further delaying the hour when they will no longer dominate American agriculture.

Governor Pinchot shudders at the thought of allowing Henry Ford to control the great plant at Muscle Shoals. Such a monopoly is dangerous, he says. Yet he does not seem anxious to break the hold of the foreign producers from where our farmers purchase millions of tons annually at prices they

have no voice in making. While farmers of the north are waiting for the relief that will come from the passage of the Mc-Nary-Haugen bill, those of the south are looking for an escape from the clutches of the foreign fertilizer producers through the starting up of Muscle Shoals. Why should the debate in congress be prolonged while theories are being balanced against need? Let us have a little action that will amend a bad situation, give aid to languishing agriculture all over the land, and then will be time to talk about government ownership of superpower plants. Just now the farmer wants help. He can not fertilize his own soil with words, nor will fine talk make a market for him,

### DOCTORS AND THE DEMON RUM.

What to do? That is the question right now. First comes the XVIII amendment, with Volstead's well designed law to back it up. Then, just when mere man gets an easy working connection with a reliable bootlegger, along come a couple of doctors to throw some more tacks in the way. A few days ago a California physician, with nothing to occupy his time (you know, doctors loaf away the hours in Califórnia), invented a machine that unerringly tells whether one has had a drink. No, it does not total

them nor tell where they were acquired. Just tells if even one little bit of a teenyweeny aport has been surreptitionaly imbibed.

Now a Paris doctor invents an eligir, one dose of which will take away all tasts for liquor. All the victim of strong drink need do is to quaff a wineglass of this wonder working medicine, and straightway he not only loses his liking for the old stuff, but he is ready to become an advocate of total abstinence. How permanent is the effect is not as yet determined. It ought to go good in some parts of the world, but we have always regarded Paris as immune.

There, if reports be reliable, drinking is an art. A taste for liquer as it exists in Paris is acquired, like that for snails or real ripe Camembert chees, It is not the old-fashioned matter of pouring three fingers into a glass and then swallowing it with a gulp. After one has through a course of years educated his taste for liquor to a point where one really can rely upon it, shall it be sacrificed, just to make a name for some inventive doctor? Perish the thought.

Yet, if the prohibition enforcement forces keep on going in this land of ours, there will be little need for either of these devices. The stuff that is vended is sufficient in itself to work the cure needed. At any rate, the man who indulges once seldom does the second time, and it is even recorded that some can not find the way back to the place,

### OMAHA AND THE "BILLS."

Our hearty congratulations to Omaha lodge, No. 39, B. P. O. E. You can read those letters as they are officially recorded, "Benevolent Protective Order of Elks" Or, you can take their popular meaning, 'Rest People on Earth." Either way is correct.

We extend our hearty felicitations to the brothers on having completed their handsome new home, and having dedicated it under auspicious circumstances. One of the underlying principles of the order is hospitality. Omaha lodge is now in position to extend this on a basis that is fitting and commensurate with its own dignity. As the number indicates, Omaha lodge is one of the earlier organized among the long chain of Elk lodges that now encircle the country. It has had a long and honorable career, and has well deserved its popularity and the prosperity that is now envisioned in its magnificent club house.

Benevolence with the Elks goes far outside the circle of the lodge. Quietly, and without any brass band accompaniment, the order goes about doing good. It carries cheer to homes that are stricken, it lights fires on hearths that are cold, and fills larders that are empty. Clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and visiting the sick and afflicted are among the best things the Elks do.

The "Hello, Bill!" that is their greeting is hearty and sincere, for there is nothing strained or reserved in the Elk. He is a good fellow, wherever he is put. And those who have seen the lights go out at 5 minutes before 11 o'clock at night know that he does not forget his absent brother.

Omaha lodge, No. 39, B. P. O E., is making good on the fundamentals of the Elk's creed. Long may it continue to prosper.

### CROWS AND THE CUTWORMS.

If cutworms ever held a convention, prior to beginning their season's work, those in Nebraska should pass a resolution of thanks to the Nebraska boys who spent the winter trying to see how many crows they might kill. Every dead crow means long life to a colony of cutworms. The crow may destroy a few growing plants, corn, eats, but he destroys more than enough worms and grubs to make up for the damage he does. He is accused of destroying other larks, robins, before they are born.

In years before man came around in great numbers there were more prairie chickens, meadow larks, robins, bluebirds, and there were more crows, too. The inference is plain. If the feathered bipeds have disappeared, or thinned out in numbers, it is due more to the activities of the featherless variety than to enemies to themselves. Nature has her own way of preserving the balance, and if she is left alone will attend to some of these details quite as well as if man keeps on fooling with her plans.

Birds really are the farmer's best friends, for they hold down the insect pests that would destroy his crops completely. The crow has an honorable part in this beneficent economy. We trust this will be understood, and that next winter the competition for slaughter of the crow will be omitted.

Governor Bryan carefully avoids giving the main reason why he is opposed to the code system. It was put into effect by a republican state administra-

Another girl who got married on a dare a few days ago is asking for divorce. It seems her husband's real wife did not know he was so daring.

Ohio republicans were quite positive in making their choice for president. It begins to look as if the country really wants Cal. It is quite natural that the senator who would

convict without a trial should claim acquittal before the testimony is all in. The McAdoo boomers are experiencing great dif-

ficulty in inflating the boom with gas generated from

Governor Pinchot says his campaign for delegateship cost him \$50. Result did not justify the ex-

Looks like Claude Bossie were in for a real perma-

Governor Bryan was good to the platform

### Homespun Verse -By Omaha's Own Post-Robert Worthington Davie

SPRING.

Sweet, wild flowers -Lovely things! Springtime showers-Patterings Like the wee feet

of a child Dancing, prancing, Gentle, mild. Winds a-crooning.

Birds a wing, Bees atuning Up for Spring To and fro-

Chatter-flatter

And divine,

Choice of mine.

Vivid, livid-

Those below. Trees in splendor Grace the way, Whisper\_tender Through the day Spring resplendent

### Marvelous, If True



capital, but the physical assets by

## 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.

About the Railroads.

Railroads" is a booklet issued by the railways committee on public relations. It is a conglomeration of fact and fiction so deftly entwined as to deceive the casual reader. To separate this tangle of wheat and chaff would be a tedious waste of time. It is simply railroad propaganda by the Transportation institute, which is spending millions to bamboozle an innocent public. About \$3,000,000 were spent to secure the passage of the Each-Cummins act, according to the admission of Judge Thom, general counsel of the railroad executives. Huge sums are being spent now in the distribution of literature and in paid

Huge sums are being spent now in the distribution of literature and in paid ads in some newspapers. At least six such ads appeared recently on the editorial pages of a Nebraska daily.

But I have undertaken to discredit the statements on pages 60 to 64 of this pamphlet regarding government ownership and countries. this pamphlet regarding government ownership and operation of railroads in Canada. As conditions as to cost of operation, labor, etc., are almost exactly the same in Canada as here. I shall tackle what is said about the Canadian National railway. There are quotations on page 60 from J. L. Payne, former controller of railroad statistics, the substance of which are that the government railroad was saddled with a huge deficit up to January 1, 1922. This is true, but wait a bit. Here is where railroad juggling is at its best. Five or six years before this the government had acquired about the government had acquired about 15,000 miles of bankrupt private roads. Let us quote the Toronto Globe of March 7, 1922, as given in the Canadian Annual Review of 1922,

The Wall Street Journal does not seem to understand that the recent great increase in mileage of the national system was due to the complete financial breakdown of two important private rallroads, neither of which on its common stock, although one, the Grank Trunk, has operated for over 60 years through a thickly set-tled part of Canada and the United States. In the case of the Canadian Northern, the common stock consisted stood for a large investment of actual

Abe Martin

It takes a mighty vital issue t'git out th' full vote, but we'll bet a

light beer an' wine plank would git out th' half full vote. Nothin' wilts

NET AVERAGE

PAID CIRCULATION

for March, 1924, of

THE OMAHA BEE

Dose not include returns, left-evers, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind.

V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of April, 1924. W. H. QUIVEY, (Seel) Notary Public

a lady killer like gettin' married.

Most Complete Outfits in our store will be awarded to some man and some woman

Absolutely Free

What Is It?

See Sunday Paper

One of the Smartest and

No purchase necessary: On Saturday, May 3d, at 8 p. m. Ask any salesperson for full de-

1415-1417 Douglas

## **FACE BROKE OUT** WITH PIMPLES

Hard, Red and Large. Itched and Burned. Cuticura Healed.

My face broke out with pimple that looked terrible. They were very hard, red and large, and they fea-tered and scaled over. The pimples itched and burned something ter-rible. My face looked terrible and hated to go any place. The trouble lasted over a year.

"I read an advertisement for Cufor a free sample. I purchased more, and after using several cakes of Soap and a couple of boxes of Ointment I was healed." (Signed) Miss Gertrude Wagner, Rt. 5, Britain Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich., 1991. Sept. 10, 1923.

Use Cuticurs Soap, Ointment and Talcum delly and keep your skin clear and healthy. Jampile Free by Mail Address "Sulfates Laborated in Proceedings of the Contract to and the Tologon States of t

## Center Shots

Flappers are now having their hair cut "boyish style" or shingled. Some of them are being shingled in the wrong place.—New York American.

Sutton, Neb.—To the Editor of The Comaha Bee: "The Truth About the Railroads" is a booklet issued by the Railroads" is a booklet issued by the Railroads on public relations and the Railroads on public relations and the Railroads of the Railroads on public relations and the Railroads of the Railroads on public relations on public relations of the Railroads of th Liberty!-London Opinion.

### where the head of the house is hang ing out.- Detroit News.

Samoset Club" in Omaha?

SUNNY SIDE UP

THE CROSSING COP.

The tion on the Crussing his white blone And the human tide rups, shin and flows -

Yout! tool! North and south.

And so goes the tide on ev'ry side.

And the Cop on the twossing sees it all

Yes, he sees them all as the tides go by

Hand out! Pause, then rest. And ceased the flow.

The Cop on the Crossing he simple between

Then the exed feet are across the airest,

Let the tide go:
The Cop on the Crossing, he reads life's wors
And its loys as the tide drift comes and goes.
The amiles of women, and their faces wan—

Yes, he seen them all as the tide runs on.

The Cop on the Crossing—his whintle blows and the life tide stops or the life tide goes.

And we trust our all to his beck and call.

The Cop on the Crossing the whole day through

finides the same old throngs that are ever new And the young and old, estate low and high-

Speaking of Things That Were, it has been quite a long

Which, by the way, reminds us of something else. Back

spell of periods since we heard an aged man stand up in a democratic convention and proudly announce in a quavering voice that he had once shaken Andy Jackson by the hand.

in the old days when politics was politics, wasn't there a

Most every day it is my fate to meet the Man Who Knows It All. He fills my soul with sollen hate, and turns my joy

He roars to hide his ignorance, and rants to hide his lack of

alack, that most of what he knows is wrong.

to bitter gall. He knows so much it bends his back to tole his wealth of lore along. It never dawns on him.

brains. I'd like tokick him on his pants and fill him full of aches and pains. He bores me with his fron nerve and pesters with his wagging jaw. A rest from him I sure deserve, so help me Pass Another Law.

We have forgotten why she was called "Calamity Jane."

Janua, the mythical personage who were two faces, had

if, indeed, we ever knew. But whatever the reason it is not aufficient excuse for the Calamity Johns that exist numerously

nothing on a lot of people who condemn the primary in private and point to it with pride in public. WILL M. MAUPIN.

Yes, the Crossing Cop sees them all go by

Toot, toot! Move the lines. Toot! Lines stand still.

Doing his will.

The helpless weak and the death marbine.

As the tide responds to his party and vall. Men's hopes and fears and their ambitions high-

Being the party in power means little unless there is power in the party.—Baltimore Sun.

One disturbing feature of traveling After the rug is hanging out, it of traffic coming the other way. De-

# When in Omaha

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## Announcement Tomorrow, Friday, May 2d, 1924

The new Elks Building will be opened to the public with attractive entertainment for all. On the same day, between

## Prudential Savings & Loan Association

will open their new office in this magnificent building, at 106 South 18th street, and extend a cordial invitation to all our members and friends to inspect our new office and facilities for our rapidly growing business,