

THE OMAHA BEE MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

M'NARY-HAUGEN BILL ON ITS WAY.

Supporters of the McNary-Haugen bill in both house and senate are moving with energy and vigor to secure the passage of the measure without further delay. Tactics adopted by the opposition, which consists in the main of the radical La Follette group in the house and the reactionary democrats in the senate, have driven the friends of the farmer to take steps that ordinarily might have been avoided. Need for some sort of legislation to aid agriculture is apparent, has been urged by the president, and has been promised by congress. Yet such is the situation at Washington that minorities, insignificant in number, by taking advantage of the rules, can delay if not defeat any legislation to which they may be opposed. The combination was strong enough to defeat the Norbeck-Burness bill, and is now exerting every device of ingenuity to encompass the destruction of all farm relief, either directly or indirectly.

For this reason Senator Norbeck has announced his intention to add the McNary-Haugen bill as a rider to the revenue measure that is now in its final stages in the senate. This is not an unusual method of securing the passage of a law, and frequently has been resorted to when the situation arose that prevented the measure from coming on in the regular form. Senator Norbeck's resolution to so act is taken after consultation with others who are interested in securing the passage of some law for the benefit of agriculture.

The McNary-Haugen measure has been approved in principle by those who are concerned in the situation, and in its form by farmer organizations throughout the country. It is designed to provide a market for the surplus products of agriculture, by facilitating export and stabilizing prices. This feature of the bill has been criticized by some, but the main objection to it is answered by the fact that it does not undertake to fix prices. It merely seeks to save loss. Export prices are to bear a definite relation to domestic prices, and to the range of value over a period of years. The mechanism is simple, not especially difficult to operate, and by its promoters the plan is deemed equitable.

President Coolidge, in the course of his message to congress, advised the body regarding the farmer after this fashion:

"With his products not selling on a parity with the products of industry, every sound remedy that can be devised should be applied for the relief of the farmer."

The president favored the Norbeck-Burness bill. The only reason this bill was defeated is that some of the democrats in the senate, aided by a few republicans, felt that the measure was an infringement on state sovereignty, and they would prefer to see agriculture languish and the farmer suffer loss rather than to abate their adherence to a doctrine whose strict application prevents the federal government from acting in an emergency that concerns all. The draft law in 1917 was opposed on the same ground.

Some, notably the group of radicals in the house, headed by Voigt of Wisconsin, who is La Follette's lieutenant, seem to think if they can prevent any action for the benefit of agriculture in the present session, it will be of political advantage to them. Frankly seeking to destroy the republican party, openly challenging its leadership, and agitating for a third party, they ardently devote themselves to the obstructive program they have adopted. How they will justify their course when they come to face the voters is for them. It is enough now that they are to be met in both house and senate by a determined effort to pass the bill.

Members, especially those from the west, know that this congress must not adjourn without having done something to relieve the farm situation. The McNary-Haugen measure is one that will give help to agriculture in all its forms. It affects the democratic south as much as it does the west. If the democrats are true to the interests of the people they represent, they will join with the republicans in sending this bill over. Judge Haugen is pressing the bill in the house as earnestly as Senator Norbeck is in the senate, and the chance for its passage is good at this time.

MARY BAIRD BRYAN.

When Nebraska people think of the patient suffering of Mrs. William J. Bryan for the last decade, they instantly forget partisanship and sectarianism, and everything else but their friendship and admiration for this splendid wife and mother. For a number of years Mrs. Bryan has been suffering an affliction that has rendered her almost helpless. The best medical attention has not availed, and now Mrs. Bryan has turned to faith for healing. Always a devoutly religious woman, she now declares her belief that if she but has faith enough she will be restored to health. And everywhere in this broad land there are men and women who will pray daily that this good woman may be healed.

Healing by faith is no new thing. Turning to faith healing as a last resort has been a trait of our common humanity. To pray for health and then doubt; to pray for help and strength and then doubt is to, pray in vain.

"Faith builds a bridge across the gulf of Death. To break the shock blind Nature can not shun. And lands Thought smoothly on the further shore."

Prayer is the outward expression of an inward faith, and that prayer is only answered in proportion to the faith that is behind it. And the faith

held by this good woman through all her years of suffering gives her strength and hope and cheer.

A great many people may not know it, but Mr. Bryan's seeming loss of prominence of late has not been due so much to diminishing popularity as to his devotion to the wife who has meant so much to him during all his public career. She has made his work her work, his ideals her ideals, his hopes and ambitions her hopes and ambitions. Ever and always she has been his confidant and helpful adviser. Mary Baird Bryan has very nearly approached the ideal of American wifehood and American motherhood. Now that she is tortured by pain and disease, and has turned with eyes and heart of faith to the Great Physician, from a million American homes will go up prayers that to her shall be given, even more than she shall ask.

COMPARING THE PLATFORMS.

Plenty of time before November for the critical examination of the platforms adopted in Nebraska by the respective political parties. The chief difference between them on state issues has to do with the form of government. Republicans declare in favor of amending the existing law to make it give better service. A further elimination of overlap and interference in administrative departments and bureaus is promised. Democrats propose to throw overboard the entire system, but say nothing of what they will substitute for it.

This plank should engage the most serious discussion of the campaign, for it involves the entire government machinery, budget and all. Republicans want to carry into the administration of state affairs the same tested and effective methods that are adopted by successful business men everywhere. The democrats leave the inference that they want to return to the old slipshod, haphazard methods, under which the governor was the head and center of a huge tangled mass of administrative boards, bureaus and commissions, and as such the chief engineer of a great political machine.

Fulsome laudation of Charles W. Bryan will not deceive anyone, nor cover up his deficiencies. To praise his efforts to improve agriculture must challenge attention to his action on bovine tuberculosis. While the party is congratulating Ashton C. Shallenberger for his services as a congressman, its leaders should recall that Governor Bryan denounced Mr. Shallenberger and his associates as grafters because they insisted on having an appropriation for the eradication of disease from among the fine herds of Nebraska.

On other points the platforms are diametrically opposed. The republicans propose to go ahead, amending laws where necessary to continue enlightened progressive government in the state. With just as much emphasis the democrats propose to repeal these laws, and go back to where we were a few years ago.

It is the old story, repeated through the years since first the democratic party as it is now constituted was organized. Republicans are looking ahead, democrats are looking backward. Republicans want to go on to higher and better things, the democrats want to turn back to outworn and discarded things. That is the fundamental difference between the two parties. On its record of achievement in the state the republican party confidently approaches the voters.

FOUR NEEDED CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

Submission of four proposed amendments to the city charter to be passed upon by the voters on Tuesday next should be a pleasant reminder that Omaha now actually enjoys home rule. Our people for themselves can decide on the details of methods of government.

Each of the four amendments suggests an improvement. Experience is back of them. The first requires that the city engineer prepare a detailed estimate of the probable cost of any public improvement before advertisements asking bids are inserted. Under such practice the property owners affected will know in advance what paving or other betterments in service is likely to cost. A basis for checking bids is thus established in advance, and much of the juggling that has been known in the past should be eliminated.

The second amendment provides for the setting aside of a sinking fund sufficient to care for bond issues at maturity. This is good practice. With such a law in force the credit of the city should be materially improved.

A third amendment changes the time for paying for property taken for the opening or widening of streets. It gives the owners of benefited property ten years instead of 50 days in which to make the payments. Should this amendment be adopted, a number of changes in streets now hanging fire will be carried through. They are delayed, not because the need is not recognized, but because what amounts to cash payment by property owners of the cost of the improvement is too great a hardship.

The fourth change will empower the city council to improve boulevards within two and one-half miles of the city hall without waiting for a petition. Under this it will be possible to so improve existing boulevards that they will become in fact as well as in name pleasure drives. Much unfavorable comment is heard from time to time concerning the condition of these drives, which have not been improved because the commission is unable to make the necessary order under the existing law.

The amendments have the endorsement of the municipal affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce and others who have examined them, and should meet the hearty commendation of the voters. Each is a step ahead in municipal government, and as such means progress for Omaha.

The Hi Johnson section of the Cleveland convention will be a small space entirely surrounded by Coolidge delegates.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Post— Robert Worthington Davie

RETURNING TO ADAIR. Back again to view the cottage small, but quaint and sweetly fair. Where the stream flows down the valley past the hamlet of Adair. Where the clover fields are fragrant in the vernal days of Spring. And the trees are garbed in beauty and the breeze in whispering. Oh, the smiles that ever greet me, and the welcomes sincere. When the old companions meet me with a "gled to see you here." The discreet association, the handshake and the smile. Give to life a wholesome fervor and acclaim it worth the while. Back again where stands the cottage just a step above the stream. To forget the tribulation and recall the blessed dream: Back to linger in the sunshine, in the moonlight placid, fair. Where the days of youth's memories in the valley of Adair.

Letters From Our Readers

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

Koutsky's Work.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: During the last few years the taxpayers of Omaha, in common with those of other localities, have complained bitterly and with good cause, of the steadily growing taxes, state, county and city, to say nothing of the income tax assessed by the national government. A great part of this increase is, no doubt, due to much higher material and labor costs, and the public cannot get away from the idea that some of the increase is due to the carelessness or inefficiency of those handling our public funds.

Omaha, during the last three years, has done much in the way of public improvements, and it should be thankful that the department handling this work for the city has been in charge of a man who was efficient and honest and whose efficiency and honesty was backed by a determination to get for the city the best of material and workmanship at the lowest prices obtainable.

Joseph Koutsky did not hesitate to go outside of Omaha for bids when the state or city has been in charge. He was not offering their lowest prices for work. Of course, this was resented by the local men, who think that Omaha contractors should do Omaha's work. I fully agree with them, but only to the point where our taxpayers are not called upon to pay a bonus in order to keep this money in Omaha, during the last three years, has done much in the way of public improvements, and it should be thankful that the department handling this work for the city has been in charge of a man who was efficient and honest and whose efficiency and honesty was backed by a determination to get for the city the best of material and workmanship at the lowest prices obtainable.

Any sensible business man, having a good manager would certainly not discharge him after three years of economical and profitable management of his department, just for the sake of putting in a new and untried man. It seems to me that the city of Omaha is just a big business, each of its departments in charge of a manager who spends the city's money, your money and my money.

In looking over the cost of the engineering and supervision of the work done by Mr. Koutsky's department, we find that during the last three years an average of 15 per cent more work was done by this department over the three-year period just prior to Mr. Koutsky's election. The cost of this work during the last three years, as compared to the 1918-1920 period shows an increase of only 5 per cent. To me, this showing is convincing of the fact that the department has been run on an economical business basis.

N. P. FEIL.

What to Teach the Boys.

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Boys' week has been a great week for the boys, but it is doubtful if some of the lessons taught have been the best lessons possible. The natural impression from much comment is that worthy ambition consists solely in aiming at positions of dignity and power and praise. In other words, a boy must set out to be a mayor, a manufacturer, a banker, a railroad president and the like, or be "nobody."

I do not agree. Life gives the whole idea the lie. The mass of men and women in our cities, cook meals, run street cars, paint, print, plow and sweep, and hundreds more are hanging on to the ragged edges of business and professional life who ought to go to work in earnest, actually producing wealth, instead of loitering and consuming wealth after it has been produced.

Old clothes and hard work arouse aversion because they carry the chattie slave tradition, but the fact remains as stated. Ordinary, hard, plain employment is the common lot, and any widespread attempt to draw the attention of boys from this lot simply draws them toward an abject and disappointing and disaster. Poverty, however, is not necessary, and the outlook of the boy is not dark, but bright, if those charged with teaching really teach the truth.

Teach the boy that earning a living is only the beginning of living, that what one does with his leisure hours means his making or breaking. Teach

Abe Martin



If there is a hereafter 'er's goin' 't be a whole lot o' people 'er tired 't say it. We don't believe any thing tore out faster after th' war than Liberty muffins. (Copyright, 1924.)

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of April, 1924.

W. H. QUINCY, Notary Public (Seal)

SUNNY SIDE UP

"Take Comfort, nor forget That Sunrise never failed us yet" (Clio Theater)

SPEAKING OF THRILLS.

There's a lot o' joy in livin' near where fishin' purty good. An' there's lots o' fun a roamin' through th' cool an' pleasant woods: Joy o' life around us plenty when o' nature blooms in spring With th' fragrance of its blossoms and the songs th' birdsie sing.

Summer sun a shinin' brightly in th' blue dome of th' sky, An' th' breezes all balm laden bearin' health while passin' by. But th' greatest joy o' summer since the day that it begins Is th' feelin' that comes o'er me when the Home Team Wins!

If you want 't start me cheerin' when I'm feelin' sort o' blue, Or revise my broken spirits, all you really got 't do Is 't bring th' gladsome tidin's that we've won another game, An' I'll give a whoop an' holler till my throat is sore an' lame.

I can stand 't be defeated in th' game of politics, An' I never git excited when my ticket turns the tricks; But it sets my blood 't pumpin' an' my face breaks out in grins.

When I git th' welcome tidin's that the Home Team Wins! We confess to a growing weariness because of the too frequent resort to comparative statistics when we voice complaint about growing expenses. No sooner do we complain about excessive school expenses than some pedagogue comes back with the statement that we spend more for cigarettes than we do on public schools. Then up comes some dominie to inform us that we spend more for chewing gum and face powder than we do for churches. We are informed that if we spent less for gasoline we would have more to spend for shoes and clothes. All of which is doubtless true. It is also true that if we went sockless we could buy more butter; if we made one suit of red flannel underwear last all winter we could support more missionaries; and if we were willing to do our bathing in a wooden ware tub, like our fathers, we could save enough on plumbing bills to buy quite a consignment of wooden wristlets for the Jottentots. When it comes to comparative statistics we claim to be some figure juggler ourself.

There are about 500 weekly newspapers in Nebraska, and every one of them vociferously advises the farmers to organize. But the Nebraska Press association, a real newspaper business organization, has fewer than 150 members. We might use a lot of words drawing a moral to this statement, but what's the use? Nebraska Limerick. There was a man in Valentine Who drank home-brew and home-made wine. He was in the doctors' tried to have, And now above his new made grave The morning glories sweetly twine.

Speaking of the efficiency of "big business," there was the matter of the building of the Sinclair pipe line from Teapot Dome to Freeman, Mo. The time elapsing between the date of beginning work on the immense project and the date the oil that started from Teapot Dome reached Freeman, a distance of more than 700 miles, lacked three days of being a year. The project cost more than \$27,000,000.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press. The Shelton Clipper is listing that pretty soon congress will investigate the air to see what the radio waves are saying.

After a careful survey of the city the Norfolk Press finds a few prominent business corners not yet occupied by filing stations.

Low Frazier of the Fairmont Chronicle has let a contract for a new fireproof building to house his newspaper plant.

Nebraska orchardists are now grafting fruit trees and Lew Shelley of the Fairbury News demands a congressional investigation.

Charles H. Walton, publisher of the Lyons Mirror-Sun, and Miss Agnes McMahan of Lyons were married on April 24. The entertainment committee of the State Press association convention will take due notice.

The York Democrat has been sold to the York News-Times and will be converted into a state farm publication. The Democrat was established in 1881.

"Another joy of summer," muses the Beatrice Express, "is to see a skinny man in a bathing suit."

SPICE OF LIFE.

Madge—Times files. Mabel—Well, let it fly. My age is going to remain 22.—Boston Transcript.

"The bride has a lovely going away dress, hasn't she?" "Yes, but I'm just wondering how lovely her coming-back-home-to-mother-dress will be.—Detroit Free Press.

Reduce taxes, if you can; But if you can't Friend Congressman, Oh, find some way and find it quick To ease up the arithmetic.—Washington Star.

Doctor—Have you taken every precaution to prevent spread of contagion in the family? Rastus—Absolutely, doctah, we've even bought a sanitary cup and we all done drink from it.—Tacoma Ledger.

Mrs. Danack—Poor young Jubbs has been shamefully fitted three times. Mr. Danack—He'd better be careful. His luck'll be breaking.—Life.

"I want a nice position," said the old friend, "where I can meet a lot of interesting people." Well, answered Senator Sorghum, thoughtfully, "maybe I could manage to get you placed as a member of the grand jury."—Washington Star.

The dotted line is where you sign For things you buy, You get too gay and cannot pay, Although you try.

The agents sells and fills my halls With threats and conundrums, I squirm and twist, but can't resist For '—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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ECZEMA ITCHED DAY AND NIGHT

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"My mother had eczema which broke out in pimples, her scalp and itched and burned day and night. Her hair fell out and was dry and lifeless. It later broke out on her back and chest, and at night her back burned so that she lost many nights' sleep."

"She read an advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment and purchased some, and after using two cakes of Cuticura Soap and over a box of Cuticura Ointment she was healed." (Signed) Miss Helma Loe, Rt. 2, Centerville, So. Dak., Aug. 23, 1923.

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"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

The Tree Planters.

From the York Republican.

It is 50 years since J. Sterling Morton's love of nature and his vision of the future prosperity of his state from the planting of trees brought about the designation of Arbor day. Since that time it has become a national day and millions of trees have been planted on that day or because of the sentiment inspired by it.

No one can estimate the value of a good tree. Its value cannot be computed in money. But if a scale of values could be contrived Mr. Morton's idea would be found to be worth billions of dollars to the people of this nation.

It commonly happens that once an observance has been recognized by law it begins to sink into historical existence. Arbor day was not intended to be a sentimental occasion, held gratefully in the thought of people who now enjoy the shade and beauty and moisture-bringing value of trees that were planted a generation ago. But it was expected by the author of the day, and believed by his contemporaries, that year upon year with growing value of the importance of the custom, citizens of the state and nation would plant trees, thus not merely replenishing the trees that did not survive the rigors of climate or the bareness of neglect, but adding continually to the wooded treasures until waste places were reclaimed and the land made glad with increasing verdure.

It does not take the trained eye of the horticulturist to see the need for more trees. Our fathers made a good start out here on the plains in clothing the bareness of the land with trees. But it was only a start. The orchards, some of them planted with great hopes, have died from neglect, the shade trees they set out with such care are gone from blight or by the ax, until today there is a crying need for trees to take the places of those that have gone the way of neglected things.

Arbor day needs a revival. The bare acres of this section should be beautified and enriched by new plantings. The orchards which add so

much to contented and thrifty home life should be replanted. This state especially should remember Mr. Morton's counsel and example with a new pride and engage afresh in the business of planting trees, thus to make sure that in the days to come new moisture will be attracted, the bare land be beautified and the great American Desert continue to be only a long gone memory.

Reclamation Reform Needed.

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

President Coolidge has gone to the root of the difficultly confronting farmers on reclaimed lands in the west with his recommendations for revision in the reclamation law.

The president rightly contends that an immediate change in reclamation policy is imperative to the welfare of settlers in these areas. Inability of the farmers to pay charges assessed against them and at the same time maintain themselves and their families is in no way affected by the present plan of temporarily extending the time to meet fixed obligations. On the contrary this method only adds to their embarrassment.

The new policy suggested contemplates adjustment of charges to conform with the crop-producing qualities of the soil or with the farmers' ability to pay. Further, the president urges that a credit fund be established to enable settlers to have improvements, livestock and equipment necessary.

President Coolidge apparently appreciates that conditions under which farming is impossible exist on some of the government irrigated lands. It is to be hoped that congress will heed his recommendation for enactment of remedial legislation without delay.

White Mule.

Farmer Whitfretree had an old white mule out at pasture near the road. But one day he transferred it to a wood lot half a mile away from the highway. Neighbors inquired why.

"Too many motorists seemed to think it was a guide post," explained Farmer Whitfretree briefly.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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