

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

SPY SYSTEM SHOULD GO.

A really interesting outcome of the orgy of investigation that has so long raged at Washington is a recommendation from Senator Brookhart that the bureau of investigation in the Department of Justice be done away with. Agreeing in principle and in fact with the senator, we congratulate him on having reached a conclusion so defensible. W. D. Crim, special assistant attorney general, told the committee of which Senator Brookhart is the chairman that the spy system in America is without reason, and that the sooner the bureau of investigation is done away with the better it will be for the department.

Attorney General Stone began the work when he accepted the resignation of William J. Burns and declined to name a successor. This indicates the estimate the attorney general puts upon the practice which has grown to such scandalous proportions around the government at Washington. His example should have influence in enabling congress to give support to the Brookhart proposal. Whatever changes in form are made with regard to the Department of Justice, the elaborate arrangement for spying on persons in office should be obliterated.

Properly a secret service should be maintained. It has a legitimate part in any system of government. The United States deals with criminals of every class, has many penal statutes to enforce, many regulations to be observed, and many citizens who like to engage in the pleasant little game of evading or breaking the law. Society can not be left at the mercy of these, any more than Omaha could with safety abolish the detective bureau of the city police department.

But all of this can be carried on legitimately and without subjecting the citizens to the annoyance of snooping, gumshoeing meddling in private affairs that has prevailed for the last ten years. Disclosures made by the investigations have uncovered an astonishing state of affairs. Not only did the government have a horde of paid agents, each busy in "investigating" somebody, but private forces were maintained. Sometimes the two worked together, and now and then one of the operatives, more enterprising than the rest, found himself on two payrolls at the same time.

Such persons have little or no trouble in finding what they go after. They are shrewd enough as a rule to know what their employer thinks he wants to know, and they invariably find it for him. Name and reputation of a victim mean nothing to such harpies. One of them admitted that he had been in the service of Japan and Germany as a spy as well as that of the United States. At the time he was testifying to his activities as an "investigator" for the Department of Justice, he was being shielded by the committee from seizure by the federal courts, being under indictment in New York for attempting to bribe government officials. He also admitted that he had, while being paid by the United States, handled \$100,000 in one bribe for a Japanese concern that was trying to defraud the United States.

How can any justice be rested on such a foundation? Does our government require such support? Criminals must be uncovered and brought to justice, sedition should be brought into the open, treason be unmasked, but how can a spy system aid in that? The bureau of investigation has grown until it recalls the old epigram about the fleas who have smaller fleas to bite 'em. A start has been made on the clean-up process, and it should go on until the last vestige of espionage has been wiped out.

America should be so free that there will be no need for any who wish to hold a convention or a consultation to meet in secret. Open discussion of the government at all times is one of our dearest privileges, and there should be no restriction on it. Bribe givers and takers, grafters and the like, can be handled by the police department. Gossip mongers and rumor peddlers, who have done their utmost to destroy the faith of the people in their institutions and officials, have shot their bolt and failed. Now let us have a rest from their idle and malicious buzzings.

OUR ARMY ON ITS WINGS.

Three young men, wearing the "wings" of the United States army air service, are now in Siberia, by virtue of having "hopped" across the Pacific ocean. True, their longest flight was but 850 miles, very short in comparison with the 10,000 miles that stretch between San Francisco and Manila, the route usually traveled by our army when on business across the western ocean. Yet even that short distance contains the making of a real thrill. It was the first time that aircraft had flown from America to Asia. A gap was spanned that never had been bridged in that way before.

Scientists tell of how early animals, and probably man, crossed the land bridge that once existed there. It is now broken up into a series of stepping stones, advantage of which was taken by the fliers. Yet even these stepping stones were precarious. Witness the failure of Major Martin, through a series of mishaps. That his companions had better luck does not detract from Martin's effort, even though it does enhance theirs.

When the fliers have completed their journey, as they surely will, now that the worst part has been passed successfully, we will get some definite news as to what actually has been accomplished. For the time the public will get its thrill out of the fact that the army is able to handle its wings. Americans still keep to the front in all matters concerned with

practical aviation. The next thing is for congress to make proper provision for the support of the air service of the army, that it may develop to a point where its laboratory tests will be of actual use to the nation, in either peace or war.

GET ACTION ON THE BRIDGE.

The question of whether a bridge is to be built over the Platte river in the neighborhood of Yutan should be decided without any more delay. Fully two years of discussion has simply served to bring to a deadlock the advocates of different sites. One group favors one, the other the other, of two available crossings. Engineers have examined and reported, county boards have considered, and interested parties on one side or the other have argued the matter. Letters have been sent to editors contending but not settling anything.

In the meantime, much good time has been wasted. Farmers of northern and central Saunders county, who might use the bridge on a daily basis, are deprived of its benefits. They must make long detours in order to reach their destination, or not come at all. It is not so much what they have to buy or what they have to sell that is of concern to them. Once they can get across the river into Douglas county, they have good hard-surfaced roads, leading directly to the stockyards and other big markets of the city. That is what interests them, for it gives them the advantage of being able to reach market with their product by a shorter and better route.

Another factor, and that ought to control, has just entered the problem. Unless Douglas and Saunders counties can get together and decide on the bridge location very soon, they will lose their chance for the state aid. As this amounts to one-half the estimated cost of the structure, it is worth considering. A decision ought to be coming very soon, in order that the bridge which all agree should be built may be opened to the service of the public before very long. Private interests should have no weight in the settlement.

RT. REV. TITUS LOWE, D. D.

If the matter had been left to a referendum vote of the Methodists in Nebraska, Titus Lowe would have been a bishop long ago. During his pastorate of the First Methodist Episcopal church in Omaha he built for himself such a place in the affections of the people he served as not many men have attained. It was not only his personality that marked him for eminence, though. Along with his charm of manner, his democracy of behavior, and his unfeigned sympathy for all he met, he showed such high order of ability as made his rise in the church organization a foregone conclusion.

He was an executive of rare attainments. Long before he was called to become secretary in charge of foreign missions, he had proved his capability for handling business affairs. Frequently he was called into council on delicate and important matters, and gave to the church the benefit of a long experience and sound judgment. Added to this is the great weight of his presence in the pulpit. Doctrinally sound, he held such liberal views as to the destiny not of the church alone but of humanity in the whole, as distinguished him not alone as a thinker, but as one possessed of a singular faculty for clear expression.

In Omaha he had a large part in the civic life of the community, his range of activity taking him far outside the confines of his denominational duties. Here he measured up to the full standard of a man of strong convictions and the moral courage to support them. Omaha, feeling deeply the sorrow that attends the retirement of Rt. Rev. Homer B. Stuntz, will rejoice that he has so worthy a successor in Rt. Rev. Titus Lowe, D. D.

FORESTRY FIGHT NOT ENDED.

One of the regrettable actions of the conferees on the revenue law was that which struck out the senate amendment to encourage reforestation of cut-over lands. This, of course, was as a matter of economy, but even as such it is unwise. Americans are not yet thoroughly awakened as to what is involved in the forestry problem. Preaching so far on the subject has fallen on ears that have but faintly responded to the sound, yet there has been some response. It is encouraging even that the senate should have adopted such an amendment, even though it was finally cast overboard. Such a sign of interest in congress leads to the conclusion that when the matter is finally fairly presented on its merits, as it will be, the decision will be in favor of renewing the timber growth, that the future may be assured of a supply that is now threatened with extinction.

A New York congressman of the name of Celler says he can not live in Washington for less than \$10,000 a year, and wants his pay raised accordingly. Mr. Celler might learn with little trouble that a lot of government employes are living in Washington on much less than \$10,000 a year, and some of them are holding pretty important jobs.

If everybody in contempt of the senate is to be arrested, what arrangements have been made to take care of the prisoners? Put a fence around the nation, maybe.

"Bonus or bunco?" inquires the Minneapolis Tribune. Probably it is neither, but it is what the boys asked for.

"The way to resume is to resume," said John Sherman. The way to use the rivers is to set boats on them.

The law may be an exact science, but it shows a lot of queer turns in Nebraska.

Reproductions of a photograph sent by telephone look as if it had been.

Homespun Verse

By Omaha's Own Poet— Robert Worthington Davie

WHO IS A FRIEND?

Who is a friend? I oft pretend To learn the answer true. And where does loyal friendship end I sometimes wonder, too. How, measured with agnostic gold, Does friendship dear compare— And are we not in spirit told That all will be friends there? There in the Placid and Sublime Where souls breathe free and pure; Where life to mortals is as Time To Eden is secure. Oh, friends within that vast will meet To share of bliss unguessed, To laugh and praise and love and greet, And with all needs be blessed. Who is a friend—and further—why?— The Afterwhile will show; All who exist will some day die And from this orbit go, And when in that Abode they rest Where all the good ones ascend, Methinks the truth will be expressed And prove "Who is a Friend."

All for the Horse



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.

A Word for Norris.

North Platte, Neb. To the Editor of The Bee: It has been a source of great pleasure to me to read in the press a few days ago, every word of which I endorse, an honest statement as to the stand he takes as between the people and the old party. I mean United States Senator Norris from Nebraska. It has caused some confusion in the ranks of the republican party as those among them who place party before duty set up a fierce howl when the declaration was made by him that justice and right he would place before party, and I think there are good reasons why all honest men in either of the old parties should sever their connection and declare for justice. Let us forget it, let us repeat a few facts discovered by an investigation committee appointed by congress found and reported by them: For a powder factory in Nitro, W. Va., that neither furnished or even made one single pound of powder, there was expended \$60,000 for building expenses and after the war the whole factory, including the movable property of an estimated value of \$10,000,000, was sold for a little more than \$25,000. For the building of a powder factory in Nashville, Tenn., although in which during the war no powder was made that was of any use, the government expended \$90,000,000 and more than \$16,000,000 for nitrate factories in Muscle Shoals and Sheffield, Ala., Toledo and Cincinnati, which during the whole war did not furnish one single pound of nitrate. More than \$100,000,000 were expended for the building of airplanes, but not one single one was completed.

Use for Crows.

Neola, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Anent your learned editorial on the disputed usefulness of the ubiquitous crow, I wish to remark there need be no worriment along that line because, as I size the debated question up, there will be a lot of restful politicians after the ensuing election eating crow, and their number will be appreciably decreased. J. W. L.

Bring the Slang Dictionary.

He—You ought not to go far on a flat tire. She—I never go anywhere with a flat tire.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Discipline.

"What has become of the old bar-ling pistol sheath."

The Real Need.

The Virginia legislature has a device that will record the vote of all its members in four seconds, but what is needed is a device that will cut debate to that period.—Indianapolis News.

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Center Shots

"The day of the dapper is over," says Lady Terrington. "We're afraid so. There's too much maternal competition.—London Opinion.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget That sunrise never failed us yet Celia Thaxter

"Puzzled" writes to inquire if we will explain to him just when it is proper for a gentleman to remove his hat. "As he expected to take it off in hotel elevators, department store elevators and elevators in business office blocks," he asks. We are not an authority on etiquette, and realize full well that we are often guilty of breaches thereof. But we've solved this hat lifting thing to our complete satisfaction. When we enter an elevator occupied by members of the fair sex, or members thereof enter after we have crowded back into the far corner, perspiration has collected upon our noble brow. Whereupon we take off the lid and make a few swipes with the handkerchief. Thusly, if it is not etiquette to lift the lid, we are merely wiping away the perspiration. If it is etiquette to lift the lid, we have conformed to the requirements.

At the risk of being charged with belonging to the bourgeoisie, whatever that is, or even being charged with knowing to the capitalist classes, we venture the opinion that one great trouble with this country is that too many people are running around in circles demanding a law or two to help them out of their difficulties, instead of buckling down and working themselves out.

Furthermore, it is our further opinion that the ax, the grubbing hoe, the plow and the rifle did more to advance the real prosperity of the people in days gone by than law enactment can do today. We still cling to the old-fashioned notion that industry and thrift beat Passing a Law if prosperity is the goal sought.

The output of motor cars in April was only 337,777, a slight decrease from the March output. This indicates that we will experience increasing difficulty in seeking the distinction of being the only man in America who is not owned by an automobile.

Incidentally we would remark in clarion tones that the click of the corn planters promises greater relief than may be expected from Passing Some More Laws.

"Is jazz dying?" asks a musical critic. We don't know, but if it smells half as bad as most of it sounds it must have died quite a while ago.

An Omaha father just dropped in to tell us that just about the time he gets his radio tuned in on a really good bedtime story the kiddies have the phonograph going full tilt on the Very Latest in Jazz.

The other day a baby was born to a family occupying a Philadelphia flat. The next day the father of the baby shot and killed the landlord who ordered the premises vacated because of the arrival of the little one. We don't know what will be done about it, but we do know that if we were on the jury it would either be an acquittal or a jury hung until hades boiled down to a poultice.

You may pass lots of laws And enforce them as you will, But you'll never get rid Of the small private still. WILL M. MAUPIN.

When in Omaha Hotel Conant 250 Rooms—250 Baths—Rates \$2 to \$3

Effective June 21, 1924, the interest rate on mortgage loans will be

Six Per Cent PER ANNUM

This rate will apply to the loans already on our books as well as those written after that date.

We pay dividends to our borrowers

Omaha Loan and Building Association

Corner Fifteenth and Dodge Streets



BOYS WANTED!

We want an ambitious boy to sell The Omaha Bee in your town.

The Omaha Bee has sales boys in over 500 Nebraska and Iowa towns, but there are still a few towns in which we have not yet established sales boys.

Hundreds of boys are earning their spending money and in addition have started a nice bank account from earnings made selling The Omaha Bee.

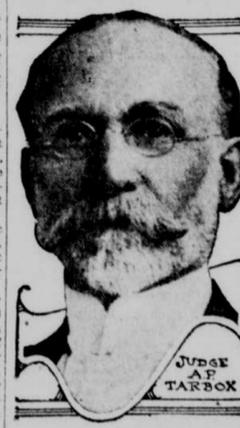
If you live in a town that does not have a boy selling The Omaha Bee, sit down NOW and write for information on how to make some real money this summer.

Address Mr. Shannon, care The Omaha Bee, and he will give you complete details by return mail.

THE OMAHA BEE

VETERAN JUDGE GIVES FACTS IN HIS CASE

Hon. A. P. Tarbox Tells How He Overcame Stomach Trouble of Long Standing by Taking Tanlac.



Honorable A. P. Tarbox, distinguished lawyer and judge, residing at 217 West 23d St., University Place, Neb., lends his name to further the cause of Tanlac, the famous treatment that has proved of such great benefit to him. "If anybody knows what Tanlac will do," recently said Judge Tarbox, "it is me, for the medicine has kept me on my feet and able to work for the past two years." Judge Tarbox has been a member of the bar since early manhood and has practiced law in Illinois, Nebraska and Oklahoma for more than a half century. He is a charter member of Farragut Post, Lincoln G. A. R., and also prominent in fraternal order circles. Speaking further of his experience with Tanlac, Judge Tarbox said: "Stomach trouble had been the bane of my existence even before the Civil War. Indigestion such as I had in about the worst enemy a person could have, and it kept getting worse all the time. "I simply could not have kept going the past two years if it had not been for Tanlac. It made my weak stomach sound and wholesome, did away with all signs of indigestion and built me up in a way I had thought impossible.

"In fact, Tanlac has brought me health, strength and happiness when I was sick and suffering, so I have every reason to give it my unqualified endorsement and praise."

Tanlac is for sale by a good drug store. Accept no substitutes. Over a million bottles sold.

Tanlac Vegetable Pills for constipation, made and recommended by the manufacturers of Tanlac.—Advertisement.