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**Omaha Where the West is at its Best**

**UNDERNEATH THE TRADE EXCURSION.**

Omaha trade boosters have returned from their annual pilgrimage, having spent five full days visiting in a remarkably rich and fertile region. Proximity to the Omaha market marks that region as naturally dependent upon this city as a market place. Through Omaha should go to the world each year all the products of the farms and orchards of the country inspected, and from Omaha should go out all the supplies needed to meet the wants of the residents there.

This assumes that all other things are equal. Omaha has alert and energetic competitors bidding for the patronage of these people, and that is as it should be. One of the really basic reasons for American greatness is that no community absolutely dominates another. All must stand or fall as they deserve to succeed or invite failure, for this reason the trade excursion is a good thing. It extends acquaintance, permits personal interviews, and gives a first-hand knowledge of the needs and requirements of the customers, actual or prospective.

Omaha business men understand these things, and it has been one outstanding characteristic of the commercial life of the community that it has proceeded on the live and let live principle. There has been no thought that grain and live stock should be shipped here because this is the natural market for the region. Constantly an effort has been made to induce growers to send their produce here because of the advantage the market affords entirely aside from the single factor of availability.

The same thing is true of the manufacturers and jobbers, who put their wares on the market in competition with the world. Natural laws of trade, however, operate with certainty when unrestrained by artificial conditions. Such operation brings the people of southwestern Iowa and northwestern Missouri to Omaha to do their trading. Access to the market is made easy by train service and good roads over which automobiles and trucks move the year round, and swell the ever-growing commerce.

Omaha people are vitally concerned in the affairs of the country around the city, and have always taken a deep interest in all the big and most of the little things that interest their neighbors. Not in a meddlesome way, for our people have no desire to interfere with the things that belong to others, but in a helpful way when possible, and always with a desire to further strengthen the bonds between the city and the country.

This form of intelligent selfishness, if it may be so expressed, is the high mark of civilized relationships. Omaha cannot prosper if the region around it does not prosper. The city is located in the center of the richest farming region on earth. No other similar area in the world raises and sends to market each year so much foodstuff as comes from the land within a radius of 150 miles from Omaha. That the greater part of this should move through Omaha is but natural. That all of it does not merely ascribable to the enterprise of competitors, who are able to offer such inducements as lures some of the trade away.

Only one sure way is known to meet this. Find out what the rival is doing, and meet him half-way or a little farther, so as to bring the business along the line it ought to travel. If the trade excursion did what it should it found out some of the reasons why competitors are able to get business away from this city. Efforts should be made to offset anything of the sort, and this in turn will stimulate those competitors to still greater endeavors to secure or hold trade. That in turn will bring better conditions to the people who are buying and selling with keen competition for their favor.

Here is the real mission of the trade excursion. While on the surface it looks like a move of Omaha men to secure greater business for themselves and their community, in the deeper analysis is seen an advantage to the people who have things to sell and who in turn must buy. Omaha is their natural market, and all things else being equal they will come to Omaha. But our city must be ever awake to the fact that it has rivals as eager for this business as Omaha, and so there should be no relaxation in effort.

**VENGEANCE IS A MIGHTY MOTIVE.**

"For," said old Mazarpa, as he lighted his pipe and drew his big cloak closer about him, while his companions listened for the rest of his tale.

"Time at last sets all things even. And, if we do but wait the hour, there never yet was human power that could avert, if unforfeited, the patient wait and vigil long Of him who treasures up a wrong."

He was thinking of how he had settled the score with the Polish nobleman who had sent him on his famous ride. What a warm place he would have found in his heart for the young woman who is now trudging her way from New Orleans to Bremerton, on a similar mission. According to this young woman's own story, she is going out there to "give a piece of her mind" to another woman. The animating impulse is revenge.

When this girl was younger, she was under the care of the woman she now pursues, and was treated like a slave. How long ago that does not matter so much. It has not been forgotten, and now the stout and healthy young lady, sustained by the thought of her own joy in scolding the elder woman, is tramping 3,500 miles just to get even.

Is such a vengeance worth such an effort? Perhaps,

when the girl gets out a little ways from the thickly settled region through which she has thus far proceeded, she may find something to change her views. "Under the wide and starry sky," with nature undisturbed around her, the great spaces of the plains, the majesty of the mountains, all the wonders of God's work around her and very little of man's, she may get a better notion of her own insignificance, of the triviality of her wrongs, and the pettiness of her purpose. If she can tramp across the miracles that lie between the Missouri river and her goal untouched and unchanged, heaven help the other woman!

**MOVING TO THE WORLD COURT.**

Just now the senate is interested in some plan to get into the World Court and keep out of the League of Nations. To Senator Pepper was delegated the task of drawing a resolution that would accomplish this result, and this resolution will be presented to the senate for consideration very soon. President Coolidge made his position very clear in his address to congress in December. He then said:

"Our foreign policy has always been guided by two principles. The one is the avoidance of permanent political alliances which would sacrifice our proper independence. The other is the peaceful settlement of controversies between nations. By example and by treaty we have advocated arbitration. For nearly 25 years we have been a member of The Hague Tribunal, and have long sought the creation of a permanent World Court of Justice. I am in full accord with both of these policies. I favor the establishment of such a court intended to include the whole world. That is, and long has been, an American policy. Pending before the senate is a proposal that this give its support to the Permanent Court of International Justice, which is a new and somewhat different plan. . . . It should be discussed with entire candor, not by a political but by a judicial method, without pressure and without prejudice. Partisanship has no place in our foreign relations. As I wish to see a court established, and as the proposal presents the only practical plan on which many nations have ever agreed, though it may not meet every desire, I therefore commend it to the favorable consideration of the senate, with the proposed reservations clearly indicating our refusal to adhere to the League of Nations."

This language leaves no doubt as to where the president stands on the question of the World Court. In the Harding and Hughes proposals, the United States would be required to act with the League of Nations only in the election of judges of the court. This does not seem to be an insurmountable obstacle. How much further the senate will want to go in safeguarding the nation from contact with the League is not clear. Report has it that several of the ir-reconcilable group have declared a willingness to support the court plan, if it is made plain that such action will not be construed as in any way approving of the League of Nations or assuming any responsibility to that organization by the United States.

Sentiment throughout the United States is preponderantly in favor of the World Court, because of the possibility of its service in the avoidance of war. Whether it will achieve all its advocates promise for it, the court plan does hold out that much as a certainty. Anything that makes war more remote will receive support from our people, who are at all times sincerely opposed to going to war.

Senator Lodge has withdrawn his plan, which met but slight favor, and has given his support to the Pepper resolution. On this the debate will turn, and perhaps the senate will agree to let the United States become a party to the support of a tribunal where international disputes may be settled on terms that will avoid armed conflict.

**FACTS ABOUT THE A. E. F.**

One thing the passage of the bonus law did that will be appreciated by those who like precise information. It brings out the exact number of men who served with the colors in any capacity during the days we were at war. The total number of men who were finally accepted and performed military service was 4,051,600. Those who performed both home and overseas service were in number 2,057,907. Those who performed domestic service only numbered 1,993,699. The average number of days' service of those who served overseas and both overseas and at home is 312. Average number of days for those who served both overseas and at home, 171. Average number of days for those who served only at home, 212. Average number of days for those who served more than 60 and less than 111 is 84. All who went overseas served more than 111 days.

Only 8.5 per cent of the men called served less than 60 days, and only 14 per cent served less than 111. Of those who went overseas 115,274 are excluded from the benefits of the act. Those serving at home who are excluded number 404,822. For domestic service only 1,309,760 men will receive bonus on an average service of 228 days. Men who will receive bonus for both home and overseas service (the average time being 486 days, 312 overseas and 174 at home,) is 1,942,633.

The bureau that will handle the claims expects to hear from 5,250,000 claimants. Many of these will be rejected as ineligible. At present 7,076 filing cases contain 169,000,000 documents pertaining to the soldiers' records. Maj. Gen. Robert S. Davis, adjutant general of the army, says every record is as complete as is necessary, and that he is ready to start on the big job.

Newspapers that lately printed long obituary notices of Sun Y. Sen are now carrying equally lengthy proclamations the doctor is issuing, defining the powers of the world in general. For a dead man he is making a lot of fuss.

The American army fliers are doing right well in their race against time, distance, and the British and French competitors.

No sign of consolidation is noted in the move to establish a railroad ticket office on every downtown corner.

Southern Presbyterians made short work of evolution, but Mr. Bryan belongs to the church north.

One fact brought out by the committee is that bootleggers thrive in Washington.

**Homespun Verse**  
—By Omaha's Own Poet—  
*Robert Worthington Davie*

**A FARMER'S OPTIMISM.**

I'm able to buy the necessities yet,  
I'm plodding ahead in my usual way;  
There's much that I'm living with hope to get,  
But when I'll succeed 't would be foolish to say.

I reckon I'll stay on the farm awhile;  
I may not get rich—but I'll manage to keep  
My courage and maybe have reason to smile  
When barley and onions are ready to reap.

Things don't always suit me and seldomly turn  
The way that would bring me the cash when I'm low,  
But I—like the others—am living to learn  
The fate I defy as I harvest and sow.

And gleaming it all at a glance—I am here—  
One place is as good as another, I wot;  
Life's all as we take it, vivacious or drear,  
And changing about doesn't help it a lot.

**Can't We Ever Do Anything Without That Old Kill Joy Tagging Along?**



**Letters From Our Readers**

**Nebraska's Public Schools.**  
Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The Bee, in an editorial recently, comments upon an address delivered by Dr. Strayer before the Schoolmasters' club in Lincoln. The Bee concludes with the statement, "That something remains to be done." That is most certainly true. As our school system now stands it cannot make progress or remedy many present conditions.

It is a state school system largely in name only, and for that reason our children are not receiving equal educational advantages in the state. There are some school districts so fortunate as to have as many as three or more railroad systems running through the district, paying heavy taxes towards the maintenance of the schools in the districts; other districts having no railroad or other public utility or corporation to tax, and it is in such districts that school taxes represent a large portion of the tax levy and become a real burden to the taxpayer. In Douglas county the Elk City school district comprises nine sections of land with no corporation or public utility to levy a tax upon. Maintaining a 10-grade school is a heavy burden upon the land.

Each district is a law unto itself as constituted at present, governed by state laws. However, these state laws lack teeth, and unless a taxpayer wants to go to the trouble and go to court there is nothing to prevent school boards from exceeding their budgets and get away with it. The same thing is true on the curriculum side, which, after all, is the more important. It is true we have our county superintendents, but their function is limited also. In many districts sectional feelings and political leaders inject themselves into the affairs of the schools for their own purposes. Often men are placed upon the school boards who have no interest in school matters, and what is worse, do not care to acquaint themselves with the same. This is also true relative to our county superintendent. This office should be filled by persons selected for their ability to serve the schools and not for their popularity of being elected.

As to supplies and equipment, there is a tremendous waste in our present system, every district buying its own supplies at long prices, and sometimes very inferior when compared with what should have been purchased. A more centralized administration should receive our attention. In this respect we can well afford to look into the school administration of some other states. Books and other school supplies should be purchased through one state office. Quality, adaptability and price should then receive expert attention. Teachers' salaries should be uniform in the state. Supervision should be provided for counties or districts. A state school board, composed of men versed in school affairs, should be created, with county boards working under their direction. A general state school fund rather than county funds would give to every child equal opportunity to receive an education. Certainly this whole matter should be looked into by a commission, such as was suggested in the last legislature. It is too important a matter to allow it to go on as it is. Important not only to the teachers of the state and to every taxpayer, but what is of more importance, to our children.

HENRY F. KIESER.

**LISTENING IN**  
On the Nebraska Press.

"The further congress backs away from the president, the farther the country gets away from congress," sagely remarks Editor Brown of the Kearney Hub.

Editor Sutherland of the Tekamah Herald says a good neighbor is one who can tell you what's the matter with your car and then helps you fix it.

Fred Howard of the Clay Center Sun says it has always been a mystery to him why a girl who has never been in should have a coming out party.

"Can you remember," plaintively wails Charley Bolkin of the Goshen Independent, "when a poor man had nothing for breakfast but ham, eggs, biscuits and coffee?"

Endorsing The Bee's recent editorial, "Use the Idle Rivers," the Kearney Hub exclaims that "a river that has nothing to do but run idly and endlessly to the sea, should be dammed at every opportunity."

Editor Hammond of the Cambridge Leader and Editor Holmes of the Cambridge Clarion now have another bond of sympathy. Each was fined \$25 and costs in federal court on the charge of printing stuff about a lottery. The alleged lottery was a prize giving contest put on by local merchants.

Allan May of the Auburn Herald doesn't believe all the bad things he hears about the Ku Klux Klan. He

**SUNNY SIDE UP**  
Take Comfort, nor forget  
That sunrise never failed us yet  
Celia Thayer

**FIE, FIE, GEORGE!**

Why should friend George rush to deny  
That one sweet Georgia miss  
With gleaming mischief in her eye  
Gave him a dainty kiss?  
Why should he show himself late  
And raise a dreadful fuss?  
We rush to seize this time to state  
We wish it had been us.

It grieves us sore that George should rave  
And wildly saw the air  
When charged that a sweet maiden gave  
To him a kiss so rare.  
Had he been George and got that kiss  
We'd play the game with zest,  
And give it back to that sweet miss  
With compound interest.

O George, your actions we deplore  
And wish we had been you.  
We couldn't cuss; we'd ask for more,  
At least we'd made it two.  
Your action makes no hit with us,  
You merely give us pain,  
Had we been you there'd be no fuss—  
We'd say: "Do that again."

We have had some political ambitions in our time, but not until now have we ever aimed so high as a United States senatorship. But if to be kissed by sweet young missies who attend senatorial hearings and investigations is one of the senatorial prerogatives, we announce here and now that we are going to slyly creep into the ring. You may rest assured that instead of raising a fuss and charging blackmail when an osculatory caress is mentioned in connection with our name, we will not only admit it, but actually boast about it.

In all our long and more or less eventful career we can recall but one kiss that annoyed us. It was when we were about 12 years old. An old maid school teacher larruped us for some misdemeanor, and then to prove that she had no ill feeling toward us, planted a kiss upon our unswelling lips. When we became a senator of the United States no woman need fear that we will fail to reciprocate. We will be utterly unlike Senator Norris in at least one respect. We always did believe in reciprocity.

The name Craig stands out rather prominently for us. It is at Craig, Mo., that we edited our first newspaper. It is at Craig, Colo., that we have a vicarious interest in an oil well. And at Craig, Neb., we had the pleasure and honor of addressing the finest bunch of high school graduates that it has ever been our privilege to see. Nine stalwart young men and nine beautiful girls made up the class. That's the kind of a 50-50 split we like to see.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

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**Union Pacific**

**Abe Martin**

Many a fellow would be alive 't' day if he hadn' saved enough 't' retire. Never tell a single woman she don't look 't' right!  
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