## THE OMAHA BEE

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## Omaha-Where the West is at its Best

#### PRAYER.

Members of the upper house of the New York assembly agree that its sessions should be opened with prayer. They were unable to agree on who should make the prayer, and so adjourned without doing any business. If these men were sincere, their action seems childish. If it is but a new wrinkle in New York political methods, it is an insult to human intelligence. Yet, whichever view one takes of it, the incident presents a phase that will arrest attention of thinking people.

The suggestion that there is a difference of view as to which of several creeds or beliefs shall be represented in the invocation reminds us that the union between the churches is far more apparent than real. One member of the board suggested that the right to pray for its guidance and protection be rotated. From this the inference is that God will on one occasion incline His ear to the voice of supplication as lifted by the representative of one denomination or sect, and on another by some one holdfing to a different dogma. The implication that God distinguishes between the various sects as created by man will shock one who has his faith firmly planted on the fundamental belief that there is but one God.

Prayer, says a hymn that was popular in the old days, and may still hold in some churches, is the upward lifting of the eye. It is a thought, formed but not uttered. It is an act, a symbol. Eloquent invovations fall smoothly from the lips of those accustomed to pray in public. Halting, incoherent words are spoken by the contrite sinner, seeking relief from his burden of sorrow and care. Which of these goes directly to the throne of grace? Hamlet's uncle found no relief in his devotions:

"My words fly up, my thoughts remain below. Words without thoughts never to heaven go." A prayer on any occasion that is offered solely to

amaze or to gain approval from its earthly hearers may have an echo in heaven, but the probabilities are strong that it will not get much attention there. It may help a little to read in this connection the story of Elijah and the priests of Baal:

"Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he s in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth and must

Those words of the old prophet seem to ring still in the minds of many who lift up their voices in "that they consider to be prayer,

No one ever will know how much of prayer is offered, how many hearts each day humbly bow in adoration of the Creator, or seek from Him assistance, comfort or consolation. Nor can anyone determine the quality of prayer, or the form it should lake. All the multiplied tongues that followed the confusion at Babel have been employed to express the desires, the hopes, the aspirations, of the human heart in prayer to the Most High. The Tibetan prayer wheel is sustained by the same principle as the Christian prayer book, a formula for a purpose. For 1,500 years a prayer of Chrysostrom has been preserved and still is used in the church litany. Its thought is as good today as when it first was uttered.

Does the efficacy of prayer consist in the form? Most of those who resort to it, and who derive from it that spiritual sustenance which is carried over into material matters, will probably agree that it matters not in what manner the petition is framed, if it he supported by sincerity of faith and earnestness of purpose.

So there will be genuine sorrow among all true believers at the spectacle of the New York men who have been set in high places presenting to their constituents a dispute over what avenue their approach to God is to follow. For those who are truly perturbed on the point, we advise a perusal of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew.

## TINKERING WITH THE LIBERTY BELL.

"Proclaim liberty throughout the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof." This was the prophetic inscription on the bell that since has been known throughout the land as the Liberty Bell. Cast years before the Declaration of Independence was signed. the mellow notes of the old bell tolled through Philadelphia on that momentous day when the immortal document was signed, and the life of a new nation was begun. Is it not more than a little significant that the words were taken from the instructions given the priests of Israel, with regard to the observance of the Jubilee? What though that great feast is no longer celebrated in its strict and literal meaning, does it not still hold a deep and solemn injunction to all who are concerned with the government of the

people, by the people, for the people, under God? The old bell is just now the center of a rather lively controversy in Philadelphia. A move has been made to remove it from Independence Hall and set it in a shrine or temple in Independence Square. Mrs. Edward T. Stotesbury claims for herself the credit of originating the plan. It is her thought, and she has some supporters, to increase the size of the square by adding another block of ground to it, so as to give a wider vista to the Hall. This will permit the erection of a shrine for the Bell. Moreover, a foreign architect has been requested to submit a design for the shrine.

Against this goes up such a chorus of protest as may only be well described as a hubbub. Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, Sens of the Revolution, all patriotic societies, insist

that the Square, the Hall and the Bell be left as they are. Especially are they indignant that a foreign architect should be asked to design a shrine for Americans. Have we'no architects in our own land who are capable or worthy of such an undertaking?

We hope that the "noes" will have it in this matter. None who have ever visited Independence Square, the Hall and the Bell, all so hallowed in American history, would willingly consent to even the slightest change made. All should be preserved as they are, and have been for so long, a fane sacred to the nation. Ambitious leaders, like Mrs. Stotesbury, may be allowed their dreams, but the simplicity of beginnings should not be furbished up by modern additions, just to meet the artistice ideas of some one who will shortly be forgotten, while the Liberty Bell will stand while its metal endures.

#### WEALTH WIPING OUT MISERY.

An intensely human document is the review of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation for the year 1923. In many ways it is romantic, at any rate it challenges the imagination more than a romance recently recounted. Dealing simply with facts, relating to the activities of scientific men engaged in research, examination and instruction, carrying the combat against disease into all penetrable portions of the globe, the review gives a picture of humanitarian activities that are beyond the comprehension of even many who read of what the Foundation is doing.

Warfare against stegomyia, anopheles, the hook worm, the typhoid baccili, these are taken as a matter of course. Sanitary science has made such practical application of simple rules in the United States and other civilized countries that we are free from epidemics of preventable disease. This security naturally tends to a conclusion that other lands are equally immune. It is informative, then, to read in the report how the Foundation is laboring to extend modern medical knowledge in China, for example. Or of the establishment of nurse training classes among the Igorotes. The pursuit of the hookworm in New Guinea, or of stegomyia on the Gold Coast of Africa, show the old world belted by the offorts of the scientists who operate under the direction of the Foundation. It is good to read that, whereas in 1920 505 cases and 249 deaths from yellow fever were reported from Mexico, in 1923 there was not a single case. Some record.

Also, it is equally encouraging to note how the funds of the Foundation have served to keep burning the light of medical science in Europe. Assistance has been given to schools in every country in Europe during 1923. A great anatomy building, attached to the University of London, was formally opened during the year, funds have been provided for it by the Foundation. Elsewhere similar aid was extended. A graphic map shows the marks of the institution all over the world, helping hu-

People will still was their heads, and agitators call down maledictions on John D. Rockefeller, because of his wealth, but even these must admit that some of those millions are well employed. No. greater institution was ever established than the Rockefeller Foundation for the benefit of an afflicted race. Its discoveries and its application of the discoveries of others are making the world safer for humanity, so far as disease is concerned. Its millions are a blessing to mankind.

#### HAVE A HEART, YOU FOLKS.

No feature of the city school exhibit drew more attention than the nature study. Especially intercarefully accurate descriptions written by the children. It shows how closely the youngsters observe and note the markings and other peculiarities of birds. A local Sunday school is going into the woods, note books in hand, to study the wonders all around, and learn of the glory of God through observing His

This is well. "He doeth best who lovest best all things, both great and small." What we want to suggest, though, is that grownup folks take a little of this lesson to themselves. For years and years they have been preached to on one point, and yet have learned little.

If the joyride on Sunday affords any pleasure at all, it is by reason of the beauty of the landscape. Trees and shrubs and grass and flowers all add to this. Yet many forget that this beauty is easily destroyed. They break branches off trees, denude shrubs, pull flowers up by the roots, and fill their cars with trophies of a pleasant day.

When they go back over that route next spring they will not find the flowers. Simply because they could not restrain themselves. One would be bad enough, but the onslaught comes from a procession, and the damage is done. Nature retaliates. Nothing is left for seed, or the replacement by future growth, and another season will show bare spots where beauty now delights the eye.

Have a heart, you folks who go into the country on Sunday. Keep in mind that what you now so enjoy should be preserved, and that you are not only spoiling your own but others' pleasures as well when you fill a car with blooms at the expense of the future.

## THE PENSIONERS OF PEACE.

Several religious denominations have made more or less progress towards establishing adequate pension systems for their aged ministers. The Presbyterian church is now considering a pension plan formulated by a committee of which Will H. Hays is chairman. It provides that the minister shall pay 21/2 per cent of his salary into the pension fund annually, and the congregation 71/2 per cent. At retirement at the age of 65 the retiring minister is to receive 50 per cent of his average salary during his life period, with a minimum of \$600.

The plan is feasible and comprehensive. The powerful Presbyterian church should lose no time in adopting something of the sort. Big business corporations have learned the wisdom of the pension system, and the church should take heed of the lesson. The ministry is notoriously underpaid, like teachers in our public schools. The vast majority of preachers find it difficult to live in comfort on their salaries, to say nothing of laying aside something for the inevitable rainy day. Their lives are lives of service and self-sacrifice for others. The average minister would fare much better in a material way were he to devote to some other profession the same talent and energy that he devotes to his chosen

Every church denomination owes it to itself and to its ministry to so provide for its ministers that after a life of sacrificing service they will not be left destitute. The pity of it is that in the years agone so many aged and indigent ministers of the gospel have been shunted to one side, their usefulness gone and their services forgotten. Better salaries during their working years that they may accumulate sufficient for old age is one alternative to the pension

## SUNNY SIDE UP Take Comfort, nor forget

That sunrise never failed us yet Celia Thanter

THE LORD'S DAY.

This day apart, dear Lord, we give to Thee, Although all days are Thine for us to give Our service and our thanks full cheerfully Through all the years Thou givest us to live Incline our hearts to love, our hands to tasks That buildeth for the good of humankind, And give us faith to know that he who asks In humble love of Thee shall surely find.

Teach us, dear Lord, that work is our reward, Not punishment still charged upon the scroll. Strength to us give, that we may stand on guard To keep away the sins that sear the soul. With songs upon our lips we come this day That marks Thy vict'ry over death and grave; And kneeling at Thy throne we humbly pray

Help from the hand that mighty is to save. Amen! Dearly beloved, this morning we will consider for a few brief moments the words of wisdom as they fell from the

In all labor there is profit, but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury. As we have remarked on other days of the week, many

lips of Solomon, taking the following:

times and oft, we are too prone to demand that a Law Be Passed, instead of buckling down to work.

Too much talk of the lips about reform, dearly beloved, and not enough work; too much dependence upon politicians and not enough display of industry; too much discussion and not enough digging and delving. The Church of the Living God, dearly beloved, will not thrive and grow merely through the lip service of its adherents, but can only go forward on its high and holy mission as men and women work as well as pray. Fine sermons and sacred concerts are all right in their way, but they never builded strong congregations. That requires work and sacrifice.

"Not every one that saleth." It is easy to say, and most people are doing it. But he \* \* \* that doeth them." Note the emphasis on the "do," my brethren. What the world needs, what this country needs, what the Church of God needs, is less lip service and more work; less theory and more practice; less dependence upon legislation and more dependence upon toll and perspiration.

It is high time, dearly beloved, that we turn our eyes towards Jerusalem instead of towards Washington; high time that we' throw away the broken reeds of political palaver upon which we have been leaning while wailing and whining, and taking new hope from faith and the kinks out of our backs, stand forth like strong men.

What the world needs is more workers and fewer shirkers. It needs fewer orators upon the hustings and more men between the plow-handles and in the shops and factories. It needs a rest from blatant reformers and a chance to grow weary at honest tolling. Too many people are trying to make a living without working. The world needs more calloused hands and fewer

We are now going to sing that old familiar hymn so full of meaning if we can but grasp it-

Work, for the night is coming, Work through the morning hours, Work while the dew is sparkling. Work midst springing flowers.'

And as we sing let us put the emphasis upon the word work," remembering that "in all labor there is profit, but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury." Afer we are dismissed let each of us go forth rejoicing, remembering that work is not man's punishment, but his reward.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

## Co-Operative Thrift in Nebraska

By T. J. FITZMORRIS. Secretary braska Leage of Savings

No feature of Nebraska's develop- over 50 per cent in home ownership. ment strikes a more cheerful note than the growth and constructive than the growth and constructive mutual associations in Nebraska ap-work of the building, savings and loan pears, it is no more astonishing than

per member. According to the federal Department of Commerce chart of mutual association growth during the census decade. 1910-1920, Nebraska associations advanced from a per capita of \$14.33 to \$50.72, ranking fourth among 48 states in per capita gain. Even more notable is the fact that during the last six years of the war, the speculation and deflation of post-war years, Nebraska associations doubled their resources.

In more to disposed to draw the long bow in stressing the community worth and constructive value of mutual associations. Recapita of \$14.33 to \$50.72, ranking fourth among 48 states in per capita gain. Even more notable is the fact them look around in Omaha or in any other community in the state war, the speculation and deflation of post-war years, Nebraska associations doubled their resources.

Between 80 and 90 per cent of the is responsible for as many ual associations made loans in the "To practice thrift," says the tate for 47,750 new buildings, mostly American Lumberman, "is to take

building of the various communities and the welfare of the whole people. It is home money, employed at home, and almost exclusively for the in-crease of homes and home owners. way or another the resources of mutual associations index the sav ing habits of the people, make possible cause of liberty and forward the ambition for owned homes, and terests of society as a whole. ontribute substantially to Nebraska's high standing as a home owners' state. According to the federal cen-sus of 1920, 57.4 per cent of the homes in the state are owned by the occupants, a record 11 per cent higher than the average for the whole United States and exceeded by only 11 other

During the fiscal year 1923 the resources of Nebraska associations in creased by \$16,800,000, a gain of 1715 urnover in the same time rose to \$5,500,000, a remark. a period of alleged business hardship But the significance of the figures is not expressed by the gains or volume of transactions. It lies in the assur-ance that increasing thrift means in creased earning power, better living solld prosperity than doubters

The worth of these institutions to the communities where they exist can be measured by the increase in owned homes, wise spending and steady say In the metropolis their potential power as home promoters is striking ly in evidence. The federal census of dwellings in Omaha owned by the occupants. In the 1910 census the per centage rose to 39.8 and in the census of 1920 to 48.4, a percentage of ownership exceeded by only three other cities having a population of 100,000

or over. The increase in owned was taken in January, 1920, warrants the claim that Omaha is now well

Astonishing as the development of

ssociations. These mutual institu- their record for safety and earning tions unite in their business activities power. Only one instance of receiver two primal factors that make for individual and family independence—the saving habit and the ownership of past. During that period associations lomes. Few persons outside the membership realize the extent of their inbership realize the extent of their influence for community betterment, and fewer still stop to consider and measure their power as constructive forces in community life.

In less than a third of a century Nebraska's mutual associations have grown from \$3,000,000 of assets to \$115,000,000 on the first of this year. The latter sum represents the savings of 150,000 people, an average of \$766 needs to the people.

and shade trees. And no other agency total resources is employed in financ-ing new homes, the purchase of homes built in former years, and in refunding cupants visualize co-operative thrift mortgage loans. Official records from at its best—the saving of money and its proper use.

state for 4.750 new buildings, mostly the first step toward independence, chasing of homesteads or payment of and to accumilate a competence is homestead mortgages," both classes to take the final step in acquiring of loans requiring an outlay of \$27. say that tenancy is a species of serv-Practically all of this huge volume itude; it would be a misuse of words to say that the family is truly free that must move at another's dictation. ings of Nebraska people, working for that must move at another's dictation, the development of the state, the up. In such a case a man's home is no nger his castle.

"If to practice thrift is a virtue, to teach thriftiness in others is a duty imposed upon all who know its value. If home ownership and that alone spells liberty, then to promote home ownership is to advance the cause of liberty and forward the inbest agency for promoting thrift and home getting is the building and loan association; and it is an agency that sets up relations between men that in themselves soften and ar he difficulties along life's pathways. Those who lend to the association

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THE OMAHA BEE Daily ......74,265 

Does not include returns, left-

V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me

#### Singing Chi Omegas

Through the Lincoln Orthopedic hos pital they go— Singing Chi Omegas from the U.— Tis so pitiful, the sight of helpless children there

children there.
On their cots of suffering to view!
College girls, at turn of life where brook and river meet,
On what higher, altar, nobler seat,
Could they yield voice-incense sweet as Himalaya nard
Than at "these," the crippled children's feet?

Voices rich-conservatory-trained vocal art,
Polished fit for the similitude
of fair palaces—accord in burst of

Meet to cheer up shut-ins' saddest Pale and drawn, each wee face beams appreciative smile— Real plaudit, not affected praise— Bell notes bugle forth the fumes from

Eden's favored blooms, Permeating as the noon-sun's rays. Languid, weakling, listening ears-

unwonted to such charm— Life-enhancing, happy, fleeting mooth the rumpled pillows seem, soft, for the nonce, as silk; Gone, forgotten polgnant pains that

Singing Chi Omega meritorious, for Here's a rose-your sure success to

speak— Palpitant with ardor's odor of your graciousness. Fluctuating blushes as your cheek.

O, the light of your dear ministering mercy lent As the Master's was, for "one of these Little ones" He loves and blesses, bids

Shining light, death shadows to ap-Practice teachers you may be, prima donnas grand, But you'll chorus no more worthy

Come unto Me!"

parts
Than the ones you warble in the or thopedic ward To His stricken lambs—God bless r hearts!
—Alta Wrenwick Brown.

The Evening Sun Ought to Be In-dicted."

fay E. House, in the Philadelphia Ledger. The prize of \$100 offered by The (Baltimore) Evening Sun for the best definition of the difference between a epublican and a democrat was wor definition. It was: "A republican is a person who thinks a democratic administration is bad for business; a democrat is a person who think a republican administration is bad for business; both are right."

If you care to leave it to us, that's a bum definition. It has all the smartness and flippancy of the Greenwich Village school of thought, but it doesn't make sense, ar I if The (Ballinger). timore) Evening Sun paid \$100 for it, it ought to be indicted for throwing

good money away. Conjointly, the republican and demo cratic parties have run this country since 1856. It's a heluva fine country, and don't let any cross-bred Slav or sensual sophisticate tell you dif-ferent. If the republicans and democrats are to be blamed for its failings and defects, they should also be cred ited with its virtues and achievements But in any condition or emergency the counsel and advice of a republican or a democrat is preferable to that of a follower of the loose-lipped school of economic and philosophic thought

All Sizes. Customer-I want a couple of pillow Clerk-What size?

size 7 hat .-- Chaparral,

Customer-I don't know, but I wear

## The Hired Girl

Mr. Hill points out that colored fe-male servants are replacing white. "In Chicago in 1920, 23.9 per cent, or about one-tenth of the female serv-

Many of our most thoroughly manicured ladies view this situation with why you don't go to work, dod-blame alarm. They do not know what we your ornery hide."—Country Gentleare coming to, but they are able to man. prophesy, not without tragic implications, that before long we shall all be

doing our own work.
We do not believe the situation is as desperate as it appears. Labor saving devices, conveniences in house building, the growth of the apartment with its simplified housekeeping have undoubtedly reduced the demand for servants. With immigration restrict-ed, however, some method will have

From the Independent.

Embittered housewives, who waste in employment offices those hours which might better be spent in playing the harp or airing the Pekinese, will learn with dismay that domestic servants are growing scarcer and scarcer all the time.

According to the census there were in 1910, 1,309,549 female servants, white and colored, reported in the United States. In 1920 the number was 1,012,133, a decrease of about 30 per cent, or nearly one-third.

Writing on the "Recent Northward Migration of the Negro," Mr. Joseph A. Hill of the census bureau says: "In New York City the number of female servants fell off from 113,409 in 1910 to 84,615 in 1920; in Chicago the decrease was from 34,473 in 1910 to 26,184 in 1920; in Philadelphia it was nearly the same—from 37,050 to 28, 290. Evidently people are learning to do without domestic servants. I shall not stop to inquire how."

Mr. Hill points out that colored female servants are replacing white. to be found to make domestic service

"I don't take any stock in these 'ere paytent medicines." asserted Lafe Loop, a languid citizen of Wayover-behind. "They're an enemy to the "They're an enemy to the human race. S'pose, now, you are getting along all right, unable to work about one-tenth of the female servants were negroes (sic), as compared with 19.2 per cent in 1910. In New York the per cent of negroes in the total number of servants increased from 12.4 in 1910 to 22.4 in 1920; in Detroit from 6.1 to 23.1; in Cleveland from 8.7 to 30.1; in Philadelphia from 38.5 to 53.8."

Many of our most thoroughly maniafterward everybody wants to know

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