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#### WHY NOT HAVE THE ROADS?

According to a statement from the Nebraska Good Roads association, \$4,000,000 is waiting in the United States treasury for Nebraska to accept and spend on good roads. To get this money the state will be asked to spend less than a million. Instead of matching dollars with the federal government, the state will only be required to put up 24 cents where Uncle Sam puts up 100 in this instance.

While the money is lying idle in Washington, other states are getting theirs, because they are at work on road programs. Taxpayers in Nebraska are contributing its pro rata share to the federal aid fund, and this year is getting very little benefit from it. Just why the legislature failed to make proper provision at its last session is not easy to explain, but the failure is costing the state something more than it can afford. The next legislature will have full opportunity to make good, and another year should see Nebraska busy on the good roads program once more.

It is not pleasant to be told that Nebraska stands 31st of all states in population, seventh in per capita wealth, 16th in total wealth, and 45th in the number of miles of hard surfaced roads. No state in the union needs them more. California alone has more automobiles in proportion to the population than Nebraska, and these indicate the use that is made of Nebraska's highways by its citizens.

In 1923 Missouri spent for construction work on state highway systems, \$26,608,823; Iowa, \$12,-663,736; Colorado, \$4,305,563; Kansas, \$4,301,640; South Dakota, \$3,455,672; Wyoming, \$2,138,163; Nebraska, \$1,200,000. How much longer will Nebraska be content to linger at the bottom of the list in the important work of good roads construction?

#### ON ALWAYS BEING CYNICAL.

a professional critic of all things under the sun comes to deal with a political platform, no matter by whom it is prepared, what it contains, and which of the many parties presents it to the public.

The men who prepare such a platform, honorable though their names may be, unquestioned their patriotism, admitted their deep and broad experience, must be regarded as mountebanks, deliberate deceivers, bent on cheating the public. The delegates who voice their approval of the platform are "morons," or ibeciles. There can be no honesty of purpose in any political platform, no sincerity of desire on the part of those who frame it to serve the public and to improve the state of society.

This may explain why Arthur Brisbane, for example, sneers so extensively at the platform adopted at Cleveland. He will do the same at the one the democrats adopt at New York. A leader of thought, for he has a host of followers, he persistently seeks to destroy the faith of man in everything. Brisbane can write good stuff, and frequently does. He says many kind words in the course of a year, expresses many an illuminating thought, and encourages many a struggling soul. Just as he has done this, he undoes all his good efforts by a wholesale and unreasoning condemnation of an entire political convention.

Nebraskans know the delegates they sent to Cleveland, and have confidence in their integrity. The same must be true of every state in the union. If this be true, it is reasonable to assume that the convention fairly represented the voters of the United States, and that its work, in candidates and platform, was done honestly. But Mr. Brisbane, in his superior wisdom, disposes of the whole affair

There isn't anything in that platform to frighten anybody, nothing to cause excitement, nothing to indicate that anybody in power in the republican party believes that there have been important changes

in the world since 1914. Therefore, we insist that to be a cynic consistently carping at everything and everybody requires frequently the outrage of common sense and the ordinary trust that must exist between man and man in order that society may exist at all.

#### FRENCH POLITICS STILL HECTIC.

Forcing Millerand to resign as president, and electing Doumergue to the place is the first fruit of the victory of the left in the recent French election. Doumergue, who was president of the senate, was not the choice of the left. Painleve was the candidate of the group that will give to Herriot his majority when he is named as premier. A queer turn in temporary coalitions upset the left and made the new president of France one who may be said to represent the minority.

All this is more than a little puzzling to the average American, who is not accustomed to see his government flash up and disappear, according to the whim of groups, large or small, in congress. It is the effect of the bloc system carried to its logical Doumergue represents the momentary coalescence of blocs that have no permanent affinity. They voted for him because they were opposed to Painleve, not for any purpose of giving him continued support. Herriot, who will undoubtedly go in as premier, is situated similarly. While he represents the left, that group has not a majority in itself, and any time one or two of the lesser groups now aligned with the left decide to oppose the cabinet, down it will go, and a new one will come on.

In all, since the republic was proclaimed in 1871, six presidents of France have resigned. Thiers was first, Deschanel the last before Millerand. Interest-

ing French history clusters around each of these episodes. The republic has endured and will endure, in spite of its protean politics. Probably because the French people are more patiently steadfast than the French politicians.

#### DRESS UP FOR THE LIONS.

Next week Omaha is going to be hostess to the first really and truly international convention that has gathered here in a long time. The Lions are coming in force, for their great annual assemblage. They will bring some representative men, delegates who are important in their own home towns, and whose good opinion is worth having.

The true Lion is afraid of nothing, not even of bright colors. Yet Omaha has a splendid opportunity to test this latter statement to the limit. Let home owners and building owners, and business men and citizens in general make ready this week, and dress up the old town in its gayest. Fling out the banners, and fill the air with streamers, and let us see if we can scare the Lions.

It can not be done-that is, the Lions can not be frightened, but they can be pleased, and they will be if they see evidences on all hands that Omaha is proud to have them here for the convention. We do not know what sort of promises Dean Ringer and Vincent Hascall and the rest of the local Den made to the prospective visitors. All we know is that the Lions are live wires, and that 2,500 delegates and goodness knows how many visitors are coming. The Kansas City delegation had 75 reservations at one hotel, and last week telegraphed to have that number increased to 125. That is just a hint as to what

Omaha will house the visitors all right, will feed them, and show them hospitality in every way. Decoration is the only thing unprovided for, and it, should be looked after.

#### BOYCOTT THAT SOUNDS HOLLOW.

The Japanese uproar against America recalls Macbeth's comment upon life. It is "full of sound and fury, and signifying nothing." Threats of a boycott on all American goods sounds big, until the situation be examined. In 1922-23 the trade between Japan and the United States amounted to about \$580,000,000, with a balance of some \$60,-000,000 in favor of Japan. The Japs buy very sparingly of American manufactured articles. In that year a total \$43,000,000 of foodstuffs of all kinds were purchased by Japanese of America. Chiefly this consisted of rice, wheat flour and pork products, the latter mainly bacon and lard. Mainly our exports to Japan consist of steel, lumber, glass and other building material, which are not produced in the empire. Trade in these fell off almost onehalf from the wartime peak.

For years the United States has been the principal market for the wares of Japan. In 1922 almost one-half of the total exports from the empire came to this country. We must concede to the Japanese possession of ordinary intelligence, and this means they are not apt to cut off their principal customer through a boycott that only amounts to a protest against a political act.

The statesmanship of Japan is superior to the hubbub that is raised by the politicians. For they do have politics over there, and for several years one of the great issues has been universal suffrage. Govcynic is that frequently the expected sneer must be forced. To be a consistent apostle of discontent, one must often write or say things in which he has neither heart nor faith. Especially is this true when the control of the main are. It does not mean a war, or even a serious of the crises arising from this, and the American experience of the crises arising from this, and the crises arising from this, ernments have fallen, one after another, because of interruption of Japanese trade, for they are as anxious to sell to America as they have been in the past.

#### "AGIN' THE GOVER'MENT."

The democrats are opposed to the republican platform-quite naturally. Their opposition is due to a congenital difficulty that makes it impossible for them to appreciate the fact that great constructive programs are built in quiet planning and are carried out by force of character.

Noise and hubbub and running about in circles is so natural an atmosphere of the democrat that he can not appreciate the greater power that lies in the well organized mind that moves directly toward ob-

The people have read the republican platform. they will soon have a chance to read the democratic platform. They can read the difference, too. One of them is couched in the language of the builder, the other in the language of those who merely are

The heart of the democrat still moves to the slogan of the party, "We are agin' the gover'ment."

"What Happened to Hogs" captions an esteemed contemporary. Well, so far as we are concerned they usually get our seat in the street cars, and are always just ahead of us in the cafeteria line.

Maybe the men who have ducked the vice presidential nomination are wiser than those who sought to name them. It takes a mighty good man to measure alongside Coolidge.

That Nevada senator acquires a reputation worthy of being placed alongside that of the young fellow who fired the Ephesian dome.

Now we have the remarkable spectacle of democrats shedding tears over the passing of Henry Cabot Lodge from leadership. It is funny.

A Nebraska school board is trying to head off any deal between Cupid and the schoolma'am. At present the score is a tie.

Two more Omaha teachers have retired after 40 years of service. In that time they have earned more than a pension.

It must be a pretty good republican platform if it takes a democratic editor that long to tell what is

Chauffeur Dale's shotgun may well be listed among the efficient deterrents of crime.

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

SIGNBOARDS.

On every side within the town through which I dally Signs mark the way behind my steps, and nearer draw

Vast portraits, painted to portray the best of all that's Absorb the beauty of the way and blear the eyes of mine How oft it takes me backward to those woods in beauty dressed-

Those nameless nooks of splendor which reveal the un Which more than the material give to those whose souls

Inscribed upon the pedestal of wealth which they have Vast portraits, painted to portray the best of all that's

Absorb the beauty of the way and blear the eyes of mine, Until I long to wander in those woods which only grow, But the exalted worthiness of nativism show

# Of Course There's No Such Thing as Pleasing Some Folks.



1611 Fifty-fourth Street, Perry.

cially when they have to pay more

Twelve Thousand a Year.

Something like 12,000 new laws ar

flicting, ambiguous or of uncertain pplication is attested by the fact that

the appellate courts, during a like period, hand down something like 13.

00 judicial decisions. In America no

or not, or what it means, until it has been passed on judically. Thus we have one branch of the government

naking laws and another unmaking them, a process not alone costly and slow, but probably destructive of

respect for law; because the averag

isn't likely to put himself out to be

NET AVERAGE

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and aworn to before me this 5th day of June, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY.
Notary Public

tomorrow.-Kansas City Star.

itizen who takes the view that ft's

# Letters From Our Readers

e average movie the better enter the United States millions of dollars?

Our H. C. T. U. have copies of the real commandments in large print then come back with an apology to the ramed and hing in some of the ramed and hing in the ra framed and hing in some school rooms, but the number is in. far your superiors intelecually sufficient to go around. Unless the teacher calls attention to the fact, many children will never know Thou shalt not kill" is one of God's education? Have we reached a period from state and nation, Wealth and have to depend upan one lone sugar where we have no regard for behavior, or any other equipment aside from that of the mental? Do child dustrial wages must come down to the Sidney Enterprise notes the distrial wages must come down to the state sheriffs redered by observed to law and harmonize with the product of the fact that a couple of state sheriffs redered by observed to law and order today? Ask In the first place, most of us ought found business good." yourselves these few vital questions, to know if we read papers that the which we think should open avenues average farmer, and rancher, are not to many of the problems confronting us today

H. N. getting for their product what it costs to produce it. If even they do the most of the work themselves, espe-

Perry, Ia.—To the Editor of The than 6 per cent for their barrowed maha Bee: In answer to Doc Ferrell's money, and most of them have to

Railroad Man's Views.

you are very young or you himself and other help used, besides a are getting old, your disposition is getting soured like an old doctor I would figure?

knew years ago, who had lost all his patients for the reason they all had tombstones sitting on them. So you come that the biggest part of the are an old rall are you, Doc? You population in both the cities and the probably tampered ties on an extra country will go on the rocks, except gang for a week. You didn't have for a few who have the wherewithal backbone enough to stick any longer. to stern the tide? A BEE READER. an run the engine or punch your That a good many of them are con

letter of June 6, would like to ask borrow, in that business as well as him if when he went on a trip he any other. would feel safe if he knew the man When it is all cut and dried which was at the throttle of the engine would tend to make the better times pulling the train was an operator and we are all waiting for to stop trying knew nothing of running the engine. to cut industrial wages (making un He says he had years experience in employment, especially in the cities the railway game. From the trend by every attempt made in the direct of his letter the only experience rail-tion of wage reduction and see to i roading he ever had was on his an-that the man from the country gets nual trip to his wife's peoples home for his product, all it cost him to his christmas dinner

Why do railroad company's require from 5 to 6 years firing or braking from a new man before giving him charge of engine or train, if any one enacted in this country every year

## Abe Martin



No matter how long a feller owns flivver he never gits through emonstratin' it. I've allus wanted t' hear what a clerk thinks after he gits through talkin' an' you don' buy anything.

## LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press.

Editor Wilson of the Milford Review recently spent 58 minutes writ-ing an editorial—two minutes to ticket? If the railroad man doesn't writing and 56 to getting rid of book Omaha—To the Editor of The Omana Beer It seems that the Franks
nurder case stands without precedent. It certainly should cause people
ent. It certainly should cause people

Do we still object to the Bible agement, not the railroad man or which will be better enter. The better enter the better ente the average movie the better enter-tainment for our children? What is breeding this coldness and indiffer-ence, this lack of humane instruction in our youth?

The United States in the United States in a Wausa nome the other day and the department of the lady of the house if she had any old rags for sale. "No," snapped the woman. "My husband insists on formation from the best posted man my wearing 'em!"

blowing their own horns.

Noting that Scottsbluffs is to have a cheese factory, Ed Temlin of the Shelton Clipper sarcastically remarks commandments. And now may we norfolk—To the Editor of The Oma-ask, What is the real definition for ha Bee: Reading in The Bee editorials factory and a brewery it wouldn't have to depend upon one lone sugar

# That sunrise never failed us yet con Thaiter

AGRICULTURAL.

In January how I love To dream of hoe and spade.

And in my dreams to contemplate The garden I have made. In February how I plan

Straight row and level bed, And dream of lettuce, pease and beans And radishes so red.

In March I walk around the lot

And mark with care each place, Where ev'ry vegetable will grow

With meet and proper grace. In April I take out the tools,

In May I sort them o'er: In June I buy my green goods at The corner grocery store.

E. W. Kerr says he can remember 30 years ago when eggs were three dozen for a quarter, butter, 10 cents per pound: milk was 5 cents per quart; the butcher gave away liver and treated the kids with bologna; the hired girl received \$2 a week and did the washing; women did not powder and paint (in pubsmoke, vote, play poker or shake the shimmie. whiskers and boots, chewed tobacco, spit on the sidewalk and cussed. Beer was 5 cent and the lunch was free. Laborers worked 10 hours a day and never went on a strike. No tips were given to waiters and the hat-check grafter was unknown. A kerosene hanging lamp and stereoscope in the parlor were luxuries. No one was ever operated on for appendicitis or bought glands. Microbes were unheard of: folks lived to a

a Merry Christmas. Now, says Mr. Kerr, everybody rides in automobiles, or flies; plays golf, shoots craps, plays the plane with their feet, goes to the movies nightly, smokes cigarets, drink Ruckus uice, blames the H. C. of L. on the republicans, never goes to d to same day they get up and think they are having a wonderful time. These are the days of suffragetting, profiteering, excess taxes and prohibition and if you think life is worth living, I wish you a Happy New Year,

good old age and every year walked miles to wish their friends

Just as soon as we can get around to it, which may be never, we are going to offer the editor of the Blue Valley Blade a remedy for a disordered liver. Incidentally, too, we are not going to make any extra effort to get around to it.

We trust that none of our admiring readers will be deceived by the word "inhalatorium." That is the name given by the government to another of its activities. It doesn't mean what a lot of fellows think it means, but means simply a room where a sufferer from some disease is confined and some kind of gas turned on for him to breathe, the supposition being that the germs that infect the patient will be eradicated. This explanation will doubtless result in a decreased demand for the treat-

An old-time friend says the great trouble with the automobile is that you can't wrap the lines around the whipstock and let the blooming thing amble along where it pleases. WILL M. MAUPIN.

through jungles and swamps and rag-

There was a silence, and then Ton

he phrase "Two's company, three's crowd," was thinking of political

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Other Times.

The teacher was trying to give her nuplls an illustration of the word mostly of saloons and a race tack' "Crimson Gulch used to consist "Perseverance."
"What is it," she asked, "that carries a man along rough roads and
smooth roads, up hills and down.
"That was before the bootieg days,
rejoined Cactus Joe. "Now it consists
mostly of garages and a cemetery."
—Washington Star.

ony, whose father was a motor dealer, spoke up: "Please, miss," he said, "there ain't no such car."—Youth's Perhaps the person who invented Hotel Conant

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