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THE BLOC AND THE GOVERNMENT.

While the democratic convention was wallowing in the muddle it made for itself, Robert E. Lee Saner of Texas, president of the American Bar Association, was discussing the activity of minority groups at the meeting of the association at Philadelphia. Mr. Saner especially addressed himself to the fact that 167 different amendments to the constitution were proposed at the last session of congress. Nearly all of these emanated from minority groups, proposing to fix minority notions in the fundamental law of the land.

How far this tendency has progressed and how serious its possible influence on the course of government was pointed out by Mr. Saner, in his comments on the situation in congress:

"We saw in the organization of the last congress the overpowering influence of a small insurgent but highly organized bloc. . . . This, too, has encouraged the activities of highly organized minority factions who seek by intensive propaganda to convince the representatives that their particular wish is the voice of the people. To this disproportionate power in the insurgent blocs and subservience to popular propaganda may be traced the present tendency of congress toward the enactment of sumptuary laws increasing federal interference in affairs of private concern and then venting it to that measure of faith and confidence which it might more creditably strive to attain."

There is a stern indictment of the bloc as such. In the platform adopted at New York is a boast that through the assistance of the blocs the democratic minority was enabled to defeat the administration in its principal program. The insurgents are given no credit, but the republicans are blamed for not controlling them, even at the very time when the democrats were giving them the utmost aid and comfort.

The bloc or group, insurgent or otherwise, can not be denied our form of government. Only when its effort becomes destructive does the minority become subject to severe criticism or an object of suspicion. In the last congress the purpose of the bloc was manifest from the outset. It was not to secure any constructive work, to make sure of any lasting benefit for the people, but simply to thwart the administration in its efforts to enact laws that were deemed necessary. Behind this effort was the admitted determination of the leader of the insurgents to run for the office of president of the United States.

All the business of the government, of whatever kind or nature, had to pass the scrutiny of the bloc leader. He royally exercised his private veto through the activity of a handful of followers, insignificant in numbers, yet rendered absolute by reason of the fact that the democrats, themselves a minority, acquiesced in and supported the bloc in all its major operations. Representative government, as Mr. Saner declares, was suspended for the time, and bloc control ruled. The expression of a highly organized minority took precedence at all points in congress.

A minority is always entitled to its hearing in this country. If it has right and justice on its side, it will soon become a majority. But the right of a minority to simply blockade is open to question. That is all the La Follette bloc achieved in the last congress. That is all it hopes to achieve in the coming election. On this the democrats relied in congress; on this they base their hopes for the coming election.

Davis followers do not expect to elect him president. What they hope and yearn for is that La Follette will carry enough votes in the electoral college to prevent the election of Coolidge. By the combination of two minorities, with only one thing in common, a desire to beat the republicans, they hope to overthrow what each admits is the popular choice of the great majority of the American people.

This is the effect, the influence of the "bloc" as such in our system of government. The encouraging hope is that enough voters will come to understand this plot. That they will defeat the schemers by defeating the government from the confusion into which it will surely be thrown if the program followed in congress can be carried out in the election. The danger does not lie so much in possible defeat of Coolidge, or the election of either of his opponents, as it does in the destruction of popular government through a series of technicalities created by connivance of political marplots.

REAL AMERICAN TRIUMPH.

Lieutenants Smith, Wade, Ogden and Nelson of the American army air service reached Paris at a very opportune moment. The French capital was busy celebrating "Bastille Day." It rung with the praises of the American athletes who had so impressively won for the eighth consecutive time the Olympic championship, when these pioneers of aerial circumnavigation landed. Such a reception has seldom been accorded visitors, even by the French, whose enthusiasm is proverbial when it comes to giving welcome to a guest.

These Magellans of the air deserve the fuss that is made over them. Behind them lies the worst part of their journey. They have fought and overcome danger, hardship, privation, such as was not

calculated on at the outset, but must be reckoned with whenever any pioneering is to be done. Mountain ranges, desert wastes, ocean stretches, all have been covered by the expedition. From civilization they plunged into the wilderness. Out of the wilderness they emerged into civilization once more. They were weary, sick, worn in body, but cheery of soul and as full of the spirit to win as when they hopped off from San Diego last spring.

The Atlantic ocean is yet to be crossed, but it offers no such formidable obstacles as already have been overcome. Good reason for thinking that part of the journey will be handily made. There is every reason to feel that soon these splendid young Americans will be winging their way across the home land, victorious from the greatest undertaking "bird men" have set themselves. They will have shown the way around the world, making possible the trip by air. In time mankind will take advantage of the knowledge gained. America still leads in achievement in the air, if not in numbers.

ONLY ONE BOSS LEFT IN NEBRASKA.

The democratic convention at New York disposed of one Nebraska problem very definitely. It settled the question of "Who's boss?" for the untried in this state. In 1922, when Brother Charlie was out for governor and the senator was running for a third term, "harmony" prevailed. When the election returns showed a spread of 130,000 votes between the two that harmony did not taste so sweet.

In a final effort to restore good feeling, Brother Charlie pulled W. H. Thompson out of Arthur Mullen's path, and allowed the Omaha boss to become national committeeman. The senator and his coadjutors put over an endorsement for McAdoo, despite the fact that Bryan was avowedly an aspirant. That looked as if power was passing from Lincoln to Omaha and that democrats would get their time from the big town boys.

When the hour struck at New York, the McAdoo forces were ground into the dust by the Brennan-Smith crowd, and William Jennings Bryan told the boys in the back room that Gilbert M. Hitchcock would never do as a candidate for president. One of Mr. Bryan's suggestions was adopted, and the vote went to Ed Meredith and not to the former Nebraska senator.

Charles W. Bryan was then nominated for vice president, and once more the senator was harnessed at the tail of the chariot of his great antagonist. The Bryan ascendancy in Nebraska was thus firmly fixed by the national convention. It only remains for Brother Charlie to name his choice to succeed him on the state ticket.

Norton of Polk may be the man. Dan Stephens would like to have it, and so would Jim Dahman, and a number of other deserving democrats might accept if pressed. Not until Brother Charlie has settled down after the excitement will we know anything definite.

Waiting for his announcement of his wishes as to who will be put on the ticket in his place, the Omaha leaders of the party are tuning up their fiddles, ready to follow Governor Bryan in any key he may pitch. It may be discordant, but it will be "harmony," as that is understood just now by Nebraska democrats.

A LITTLE TEAM WORK, PLEASE.

It might be helpful in a general way if the law enforcing authorities were to adjourn their differences for a little while and make common cause against the forces of disorder. Highways outside the city of Omaha or streets inside the city, all ought to be safe for those who use them. Just now they are not. Bandits nightly swoop down on victims, robbing them and wounding or killing when resisted.

Argument as to where one jurisdiction ends and another begins may be all right when there is nothing more serious at stake than division of authority. Just now is not the time for the police and the sheriff to begin to set up lines of this sort.

A little close co-operation between the two forces, with no effort to pass the buck on part of either, might reassure the citizens, justly exasperated because of the conditions that prevail. Stop petty parties, if need be, but stop holdups first. The bandits are more of a menace than the spongers. They must be suppressed.

Chief of Detectives Van Deusen has taken the right step. Let Sheriff Endres fall into line.

The democratic convention nominated a man wholly unsatisfactory to Mr. Bryan. Only three national conventions out of the last eight have nominated a candidate wholly satisfactory to Mr. Bryan.

Of course, there will be no difficulty in choosing a candidate to succeed Governor Bryan on the state ticket, but one gets an idea that all are watching to see what the Omaha crowd is going to do.

Munich, Bavaria, has just celebrated the 900th anniversary of the establishment of the brewing industry. It seems fully that long, or longer, since it was disestablished in this country.

A Shipping Board office is about to be established here, a tribute to the overseas trade of Omaha, that is growing so fast it needs special attention.

A district judge holds that pop is not a proper item in a bill for medical expenses. A pop bottle has sent many a man to the doctor, though.

Mr. Hearst got his in the platform, and now the democrats are to get theirs—in the neck. Mr. Hearst bolts the ticket.

It will take longer than four months for the democrats to do all the forgiving that is set before them.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson says that few fat men go wrong. Of course not; they don't lean that weigh.

Anyhow the name Davis will have an especial appeal to one democratic element in the solid south.

Many auto accidents are caused by one-hand driving, the other arm hugging a delusion.

Omaha is now the home of 217,369 happy, hustling people. Watch us grow.

Homespun Verse

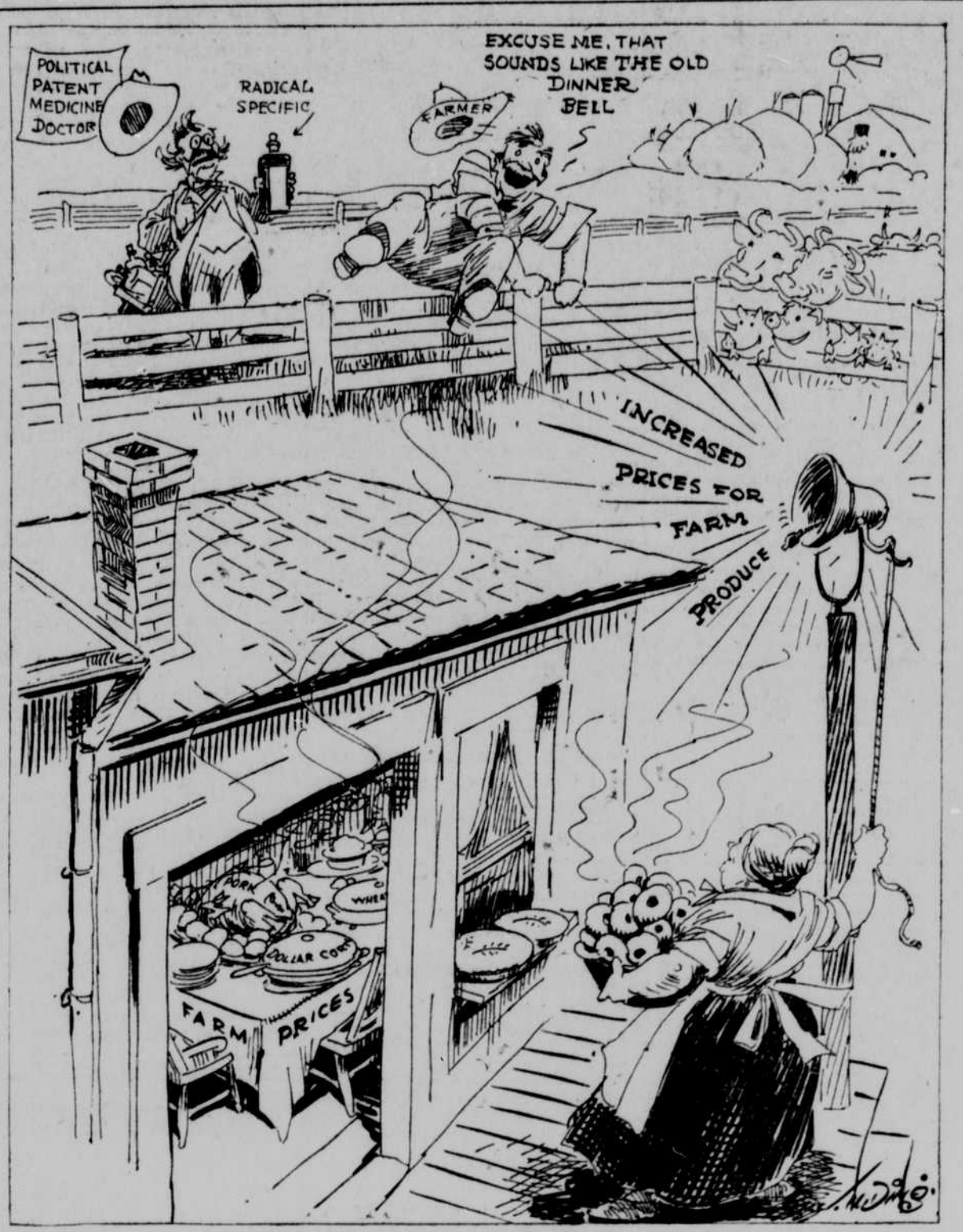
—By Omaha's Own Post—
Robert Worthington Davie

WHEN THE MISSUS GOES AWAY.
I have often needed counsel; I have often needed aid,
And I've shuddered in the thickest of the fray—
But my deepest trials and troubles to my sorrow are displayed
When the Missus takes the kids and goes away.

And at night I read her missives while the dishes scented
And the floors are really terrible to view;
A disgruntled, lonely fellow, sick of keeping house,
Am I.

Trusting that my strife will presently be through,
For the children's buoyant prattle I am longing con-
stantly—
For the one who makes the world serene and gay,
And if baching is a blessing, it is otherwise to me
When the Missus takes the kids and goes way.

Better Than All the Patent Medicines in the World



Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 300 words and less will be given preference.

"Roar" From a Lion.
Frederick, Md.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: This is the first opportunity I have had to write and express the deep appreciation of the members of our party for the splendid way in which you and your associates aided in making our annual Lions' convention such a wonderful success. Never in the history of Lions International have we experienced the cordial reception and consideration of every detail on the part of the local authorities as was the case of holding the convention in Omaha. It seemed that nothing was left undone in the manner of details for the entertainment and arrangements for the success of the meeting.

The people of Omaha appear to view with each other in their hospitality extended to the Lions and their wives and guests, and the friendly news was not only exhibited by the Lions Club of Omaha, who, of course, had such a large part in the convention and did their work so well, but it seemed that the citizens of the city themselves were tremendously interested to see that every one enjoyed their stay. Great credit is due each and every citizen of your city, who seemed to challenge each other in their efforts to look after the comfort and convenience of their Lion guests. I was deeply impressed with the splendid manner in which the convention was conducted. The Omaha Lions and Omaha people did themselves proud and set a high standard, one that will be difficult to reach in future conventions.

Allow me to personally thank you for the part which your splendid paper played and the many articles of publicity which it carried, also for those references to our song, "Keep Smiling On." Particularly do I appreciate this, as our club is dependent

upon just such things to aid in the spreading it over International. My attitude toward Omaha is one of profound appreciation, and I am happy to express these sentiments to you and through you to the people of your fair city.
H. NOEL HALLER.

Convict Alibis.
From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
On discovering that five out of six men arraigned before him for sentence in the court of general sessions were not citizens Judge Talley indignantly protested against making this city the dumping ground for crooks all over the world.

The general poverty of Europe made the migration of professional criminals an acute post-war problem. In both Great Britain and France the police authorities have found a measure of protection for their people in requiring noncitizens in their borders to report to the police at regular intervals. Undesirable strangers are kept under surveillance and frequently deported. In both countries the evil is treated in a sharp, drastic manner and maulin sentimentality is permitted to play no part.

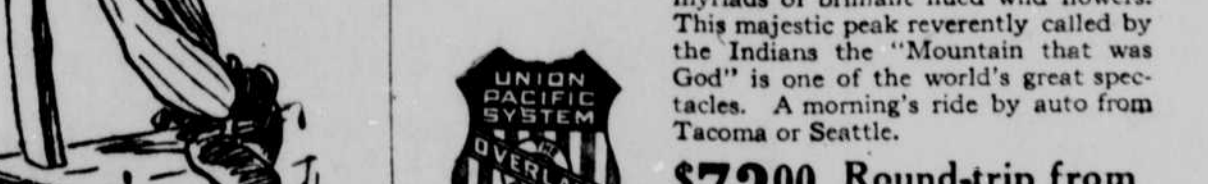
In this country we have depended entirely upon the immigration authorities to prevent the invasion of professional criminals. But the general experience of trial judges is shown in this particular instance which aroused the indignation of Judge Talley. These criminals are coming into the country in large numbers, but not through the channels provided over by the immigration officers. They first enter Canada or Mexico. The business of smuggling criminals over the border has grown to alarming proportions.

To protect the country along these borders, stretching from coast to coast would require an army. Recently certain trial judges have been directing the clerks of their courts to send full reports of convict alien cases to the immigration office, with the suggestion that these men should be deported on the expiration of their terms. This plan should prove effective. Trial judges everywhere co-operating with immigration authorities can do much to overcome this growing menace.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

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

Among the numerous things that give me a pain is this peculiar way a certain class of people have of estimating crowds. For instance, at the reception to Brother Charley at Omaha Monday three newspaper estimates ranged from 500 to 2,500. And all three of them were exaggerated.

Owing to circumstances which the legislature of 1907 took out of our control, we are deprived of the pleasure of participating in the Oregon Trail Day festivities in the Old Home Town Friday. It was our good fortune to have had some small part in initiating the annual festival, which we hope to see grow until it becomes of national size. It commemorates the sacrifices and endeavors of the pioneers, all of which are entitled to considerably more recognition than they have been getting in this materialistic age.

However, with Ol' Doc Condra and Perry Brazel and Co Gardner and others like them on the scene, our absence from the festival will not be noticed. But Gering's Oregon Trail Day festival is destined in time to become nation-wide in its scope.

In our extremely youthful days one of our greatest pleasures was to be privileged to rummage in the attic of the old home in Missouri. There were stored the relics of the tribe whose name we bear. Memories of those delightful days were recalled recently when we had occasion to store a few odds and ends in the attic of the apartment wherein we reside. There we stumbled upon a very ancient relic in the shape of a wooden box with hinged lid and a wire fastener of easy design. The box itself was a relic, but when we opened the lid we discovered two dozen other relics, dust covered and colorless. Each one of the two dozen relics was labeled "Storz."

Our old friend and fellow traveler upon this mundane sphere, Senator Al Sorenson, is in a garage for the purpose of having his scintilla renovated. His repair men insist that he shall have no flowers, candy, cigars or chewing tobacco. That prevents us from making visible demonstration of our interest and friendship. The one thing that the repair men omit from the list, and which would doubtless be appreciated, we can not secure. And if we could we doubt if we could make up our mind to separate our own self from it.

Until we are confident that the corn crop is going to make good we shall refuse to get het up about politics. Now that we have welcomed back in our midst the democratic nominee for vice president, it is our firm determination to eschew politics and confine all of our worrying to the corn.

Our idea of gymnastics is the spectacle of a politician opening his facial orifice for the purpose of inserting a pedal extremity. It happens frequently, but never ceases to excite our risibilities.

The kiddies often express their thoughts in peculiar language. Little Dan, who abhors the idea of being bathed, was forced to accompany his mother to the bathroom to have his feet washed.

"But, mamma, all my other is clean," he insisted.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

Center Shots

The difference between lunch and luncheon is anywhere from a dollar up—Steuhanville Gazette.

So far every bloc has its candidate except the wet Nordic agnostics.—New York Herald-Tribune.

A man who gives the right of way to a woman driver is not only chivalrous, but prudent.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

It used to be that a man who drove with one hand landed at the altar. Now he lands in the hospital.—Newark American Tribune.

Postmaster General New is opposed to the scheme for the C. O. D. letters. And so are we. There's too much waste basket mail already, without more.

Having to pay for it—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The beautiful White River Country of the Ozarks

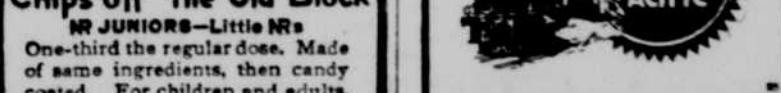
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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of July, 1924.
W. H. QUIVY,
Notary Public.

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