THE OMAHA BEE

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GOOD ROADS AT FIVE CENTS AN ACRE. Is a system of hard-surfaced highways worth a nickel an acre to the Nebraska farmer?

That is just about what it will cost under the plan that has been formulated by the Nebraska Good Roads association. A six-year campaign is contemplated to complete construction of 5,600 miles of roads. Of the total 500 miles will be surfaced with brick or similar material; 2,100 miles of highway will be graded, and 3,000 miles will be surfaced with gravel and clay. The estimated cost of this work is \$27,650,000. For the construction of bridges and culverts, \$5,000,000 is added to the estimate, bringing the total for construction up to \$32,-650,000. For six years' maintenance an estimate of \$9,000,000 is presented, or a grand total of \$41,-650,000.

Sounds like a lot of money. It is a big sum, but it will bring big benefits to the state, to every residen of the state, and especially to the farmer, who has more real occasion to use the highways of the state than anybody else. How will this money be raised? Here is the suggested method:

Appropriated by legislature, \$1,500,000 a years 12,000,000 Two-cent gasoline tax, \$2,000,000 a year \$1,500,000 a year for six years..... 9,000,000 Total.....\$42,000,000

Fifty per cent of automobile licenses will provide \$1,500,000 a year for the counties to defray cost of

maintaining highways. On the 1923 valuation of the state, a levy of one-half of 1 mill will produce \$1,599,316.49, from nd town lots alone. .

How will this affect the property owners? Four counties, selected at random, give this result:

Value Tax Value Per Acre. Per Acre. Per Lot. Per Lot. Adams...... \$ 72 - \$0.04 \$ 731 \$0.37 0.37 Colfax..... 112 0.06 731 722 Cuming...... 120 0.06 1,388 Dodge..... 116 0.06

The calculations are made in round numbers, decimals being dropped and totals brought to the nearest even figures. What it shows is that the tax asked for by the legislature will amount to about 5 cents an acre over the state. Is not the prospect of good roads worth this cost? For each of us it amounts to so little and the benefits are so great.

WATER IN THE BOILER.

We print a letter from a correspondent who is inclined to view the expressions of both President Coolidge and Mr. Davis on capital as being directed against agriculture and labor alike. The writer of that letter falls into the common error of regarding agriculture as an industry that exists without capital, and the equally prevalent but fallacious belief that labor and capital have nothing in common.

Agriculture employs enormous sums of capital. Not only the permanently invested capital, which in 1920 amounted to \$74,924,100,338, but the liquid capital that is employed in the production and marketing of the crops. In 1922 this liquid wealth amounted to \$14,310,200,000. That is two-thirds of the value of all the railroads in the United States, In talking "big business," then we have full right to put the agricultural industry in the front rank. It is by long odds the biggest business in the United States, or the world.

Labor in itself is a form of capital, which is merely wealth that is available for the production of more wealth. Human labor has been declared to be not a commodity to be bought or sold in the market, yet it is the prime factor in the creation of any form of wealth.

To generate power by the release of energy latent in coal and water, a boiler is needed. A continual supply of water must be fed to the boiler so long as the engine is in operation, or disaster will follow. Capital is the water that goes into the business boiler. Unless a steady, never-ceasing flow of capital is returned to the boiler of productive enterprise, an explosion will follow.

This is what is generally overlooked by the wizards who disregard the element of capital in their consideration of economic problems. That is why their engine never produces any power, while their boilers almost invariably blow up.

HOW DO THEY GET THAT WAY?

On Sunday night the democratic sagamores professed to be confident not only of electing a governor of Maine, but of gaining a United States senator and a congressman. On Tuesday they were busy giving out statements that, whereas in 1920 the republican candidate for governor had 65,000 majority, in 1924 the figure was but half of that. On this Thomas Spelacy, Tammany sachem and Davis manager in New York, bases a claim that his candidate is foreordained to win in November.

Conceding Mr. Spelacy's mathematics, that the vote in Maine may mean a reduction of popular pluralities, there yet remains something of a marpin. Harding had 7,000,000 more votes than Cox.

This can be reduced 50 per cent, and still leave a respectable preponderance for Coolidge.

Clem Shaver gets inspiration from the Maine results, and is out with a statement in which he gives John W. Davis 204 electoral votes and Coolidge 138. Figuring from this, Mr. Shaver already has the procession moving down Pennsylvania avenue, with John William Davis riding at the head of it.

It would be a shame to wake up either of these ardent dreamers. As they got great consolation out of contemplating a victory in Maine, so let them enjoy the prospect of sweeping the United States. It will come to about the same end.

DEFLATING THE FARMER.

One delusion certain Nebraska democrats persist in hugging is that the slump in prices in 1920 was due to the republican party. The adoption of the platform at Chicago in June, these special pleaders say, brought about the decline. It might be well to examine that platform to see what it did contain. Some pertinent declarations in that platform are:

"We pledge ourselves to a carefully planned readjustment to a peace-time basis and to a policy of rigid economy, to a better co-ordination of departmental activities, to the elimination of unnecessary officials and employes and to the raising of the standard of individual efficiency."

"The burden of taxation imposed upon the American people is staggering, but in presenting a true statement of the situation we must face the fact that, while the character of the taxes can and should be changed, an early reduction of the amount of revenue to be raised is not to be expected."

. . . Almost up to the present time, the

practices of the federal board as to credit control have been frankly dominated by the convenience of the treasurer. The results have been greatly increased war costs, a serious loss to the millions of people who in good faith bought Liberty bonds and Victory notes at par, and extensive post-war speculation, followed today by a restricted credit for legitimate industrial expansion. As a matter of public policy, we urge all banks to give credit preference to essential industries.

"THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM SHOULD BE FREE FROM POLITICAL INFLUENCE, which is quite as important as its independence of domination by financial corporations."

. . . We pledge ourselves to earnest and consistent attack upon the high cost of living BY RIGOROUS AVOIDANCE OF FURTHER INFLA-TION IN OUR GOVERNMENT BORROWING, by courageous and intelligent deflation of over-expanded credit, by encouragement of heightened production of goods and services."

This is what the republican platform of 1920 said. It promises to check extravagance, to lower the cost of government, to reduce taxes, to discourage speculation. To encourage productionand thus increase employment. Each promise has been redeemed.

What follows is old straw. It has been threshed over many times. In June, 1919, a warning had been issued to the public to cut out speculation. Instead, the orgy increased. Between July 1 and December 31, 1919, the asset currency circulation of the Federal Reserve bank was increased by almost \$1,000,000,000. And then the brakes were set. As it happened, legitimate business as well as speculation suffered. Prices on farm products already were on the down grade. Long before election day in 1920 the down tide was in full stream.

How can any intelligent man urge that this deflation was due to the pledges made by the republican party. The Treasury department, the Federal Reserve board, the entire government of the United States was in democratic hands. The people, farmers and all, merely reaped the whirlwind sown by democratic incompetence. At this point it is well to remember that the republican platform of 1920 was endorsed by a majority of over seven million votes.

A Philadelphia man who spanked his 19-year-old daughter has been placed under a peace bond. The physical application of the father was more evenhanded than the magesterial application of justice.

The Minneapolis Journal covers the subject in one brief paragraph: "If you wish to put the supreme court down alongside the interstate commerce commission, vote for La Follette."

The winner of the Atlantic City bathing beauty contest has been announced. There are 10,000 or more prettier women teaching school in Nebraska

Cole Blease will warm up the senate again after March 4, 1925, he having full approval of the South Carolina democrats. Surely, there is no accounting

We are informed that the prince of Wales wears

his hat tipped lightly to one side. Probably not quite so much so, however, as the average Maine repub-The La Follette press bureau admits it was "mis-

taken" as to Brookhart. Events will show other places where the press bureau guessed wrong. Governor Hunt of Arizona, having been nomi-

nated for the fifth time, might be justified in asking the voters to make it for life or good behavior.

A federal court having halted further grand jury probing into the Fall oil deals, there yet may be a chance for the senate committee. The Literary Digest is now engaged in taking a

shown were it a rye straw vote. The New York Times says the republicans in Maine had their backs to the wall. They also had their eyes on the democrats.

straw vote for president. More interest might be

Ak-Sar-Ben races are getting their share of attention, but the real race is between King Corn and Jack Frost.

Douglas county republican women are moving in the right direction, and with the enthusiasm that brings success.

If Mr. High keeps on, he will become low at the state house.

Maine went as usual.

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

THE TREND OF THINGS.

Not long ago my kin and I Were farmers, one and all; In spring we sowed our wheat and rye, We threshed them in the fall.

But one by one my blessed kin Sold out and moved away, And found a stopping place within The city bright and gay. Alone I battled in the fields

Defying grief and woe;

I harvested some bumper violds

And almost made it go. Until my kin kept coming down Because they loved the loam. And being starved to death in town.

Drove me from farm and home. And I regret with some despair, As I glide down life's stream, That I can't visit them and share Fried chicken and real cream.

Considering All the Strange Help We Have in the Kitchen, It Might Not Be a Bad Idea



The Rascal Whipper.

Colonies in 1865, Jefferson Davis.

The democrats say that their part

is the oldest party in the country It may be, but it isn't the first. The compare themselves with Lincoln an

Washington, and even take Wilson' picture and put it up with those two

nen. A man that lied to the people o get elected the second time, by

promising to keep us out of war and then saying that any man that was

ud to fight was not a citize

Letters From Our Readers

Omaha Bee: All the candidates for president are posing as friends of the farmer and the laborer and are saying some mighty nice things about the farmer and the laborer during the campaign. But maybe the candidates are merely campaigning, and so it may be well to quote from the utterances of the candidates that were made before they became candidates. The following is from an address by Calvin Coolidge at the Amherst college alumni dinner, November 27, 1920:

"Modern civilization depends to a manufacture of the president coolidge it is hard to discern much difference." JAMES W. HANSON.

The country in such shape that it cannot be straightened out in four years. It will take some time, and the cannot be straightened out in four years. It will take some time, and it the people are foolish enough to cannot be straightened out in four years. It will take some time, and if the people are foolish enough to country roads," namely, the people are foolish enough to country in such shape that it cannot be straightened out in four years. It will take some time, and the rubber trust, the Santa Fe railroad if the people are foolish enough to country roads," namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads, "namely, the people are foolish enough to country roads and transmit the organization for the suppression and treatment to country roads."

Coolidge and Dawes, also La follow for the people are foolish 'Modern civilization depends to arge extent on accumulated and in vested capital, and for its advance

will depend more and more on accu uldn't want them? I have print it.

lawyer wouldn't want them? I have print it.

J. P. Morgan & Co., the Erie railroad, the Guaranty. Trust company, the and have read a good many letters standard Oil company and other foremost companies on my list. I am proud of them.—Big business has made this country what it is."

The following is from an address to say about President Coolidge and the republican party, I call it plain by Charles G. Dawes at Chicago Union League club. February 22, a nummy and says he is a speechless.

Union League club, February 22, a mummy and says he is a speechless man. That man Hitchcock must think the world is dead and that he and history has proved most futile and the rest of the democrats can lead disastrous is a democracy. Steps the people on the same as Wilson d taken of recent years towards the when he kept us out of war. Did l

principles of free democracy are leading in the direction of tyrannical mobile under evil rulers."

forget that, or does he think the period ple are blind. I think if the truth known, Davis is probably related I have been unable to find anything that man who tried to split the Unite

Abe Martin



What gits us is how th' wife that scrambles eggs for her husband's all-night poker party knows he's gin' t' win. By th' time a feller earns enough money honestly t' breathe easy his children are grown an' usin' th' car ever' time he wants it.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and aworn to before me this 5th day of August, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY, (Seal) Notary Public

true American. I say a man that puts Wilson's picture up with those smart men is not smart himself. The How Does This Touch the Farmer? from the utterances of La Follette, to do it; they are real mud-slingers Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: All the candidates for possibly some one else will be able the country in such shape that it

Hampton, Neb .- To the Editor of civilization and investment of capital. The Omaha Bee: Having just read Omaha Bee: Being a life-long re-The following is from a letter by John W. Davis of March 31, 1924:

"I have a fine the st of clients. What last answer to what they said and please the building the first thing I

MISSOURI HARD

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dered the republican party during their campaign. It is natural for them People say that Harding and Coolidge

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id that signify?

your hat-what's wour hurry?"

sleep after a certain Tuesday in November.

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Omaha.-To the Editor of Th

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WELCOME STRANGER!

Who spent his summer wage for gas; And 'midst a great travail of soul Asks credit for his winter's coal We have hopes. We have progressed thus far through the watermelon season without witnessing the spectacle of Lottie Clifford up to her elbows in watermelon rind pickles. But we are apprehensive, just the same. WILL M. MAUPIN

Pake Comfort, nor forget That sunrise never failed us yet Colia Thalter

We sometimes wonder how the poets live who write the

It is not for us to criticize the sentence pronounced by

kind of verse selected for the "current poetry" page of the

Judge Caverly. We did not hear the evidence, and we refused

to waste time reading that portion of it that was printable. We have our own opinion about the justness of the sentence,

but shall refrain from expressing it here. But we have no

hesitancy in declaring our opinion that the boys were not wholly to blame. Wise and judicious application of the Bed-

slat in earlier stages of their careers might have prevented the

Were we a multi-millionaire with an urge to Endow Something Worth While, we would endow a School for the Proper Training of Parents. And having so endowed it we would insist upon the honor of being the first student to enroll.

beginning to feel the weight of accumulating years. But we expect never to grow so feeble physically that we can not knock the block off'n any one of them who refers to us in our presence as "the old man."

Preliminary symptoms as observed in the front office indicate that the business manager is feeling the urge to fare forth and garner in the ducks. We announce here and now

that our acceptance of an invitation to a duck dinner is con-

tingent upon a complete understanding about divers and sun-

At this time we desire to call the attention of the health and police authorities to the "Saints and Sinners" table at the

Athletic club. Our insistence that the younger generation be

taught to show some respect to its elders can never make proper headway in the face of the example set at the aforesaid

The first chilly night in September impresses upon the mind of this native Missourian that a gas log is a bum substitute for the old-fashioned fireplace of youthful days.

sulted in the charges laid against the proprietors of a beverage company in that city. In the first place, we knew nothing of

the product, and in the second place, had we known that the

beverage produced was such as charged by the prohibition authorities we would have concealed the information from

Now comes the wight, alack, alas,

We indignantly deny that our recent visit to Columbus re-

We have several lusty children of our own, and we are

Literary Digest.

necessity of a judicial sentence.

table during the luncheon hour

even our most intimate friends.

eard was the band playing a very try? This is a movement that should opular dance tune, "Sleep." What have the endorsement of everyone that signify?

FRANK J. CAREY.

This morning on reading the elec-tion news from the state of Maine I Germany hasn't seen anything but am inclined to say, "John, here's dotted lines since the old Hindenburg

There will be plenty of time to leep after a control of time to

Shortest Line Fastest Time

Rochester St. Paul **Minneapolis**

Smooth track, all-steel equip-

Two Fast Trains Daily TWIN CITY LIMITED Omaha 8:00 P.M.
Council Bluffs 8:28 P.M.
Ft. Dodge 12:12 A.M.
Mason City 2:30 A.M.
Rochester 6:10 A.M.
St. Paul 7:05 A.M.
Minneapolis 7:45 A.M. r. Minneapolia...... 7:45 A. Sleepers, Club Car (meals served), Coache

TWIN CITY EXPRESS

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