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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

FOR SHAME, MR. BRYAN.

When Charles W. Bryan was making his campaign in Nebraska two years ago, he spent much time and effort in denouncing and seeking to discredit the administration of Governor McKelvie. After he assumed office he deemed it wise to continue this course. He persistently indulged in extreme criticism of "my predecessor." Concerning the handling of the state's finances, the governor's charges were specific if not definite. Particularly and frequently he asserted that a great deficit existed in the cash account of the state.

Again and again during the time the legislature was in session in 1923 Governor Bryan charged that the cash funds of the state were from \$250,000 to over \$4,000,000 short. Efforts to get him to locate the shortage, or fix responsibility for it failed to produce more than the vague and general assertions. He always blamed the "previous administration" for having recklessly expended money, creating a huge overdraft in which all the expected revenue had been anticipated. His own part would be the gigantic task of restoring the treasury of Nebraska to a healthy condition. This he would do.

Just now Bryan supporters are beating the tom-tom and crying aloud, "Nebraska's finances are in good condition. Taxes have been lowered. Our governor has made good. See what he has done!"

When the governor had made his sweeping charges several times to the public in general, and the legislature in particular, there was a feeling of apprehension in the lawmaking body. Naturally, the members wanted to know the exact conditions. It is finally up to the legislature to make appropriations. Its members have a direct responsibility on this score, regardless of the governor's budget. In truth, any economies that have resulted since Governor Bryan went into office are due to the acts of a republican legislature, not to a democratic governor.

The senate named a committee to inquire into the charges made by Mr. Bryan that a deficit existed. The governor had finally located the shortage in the road funds. Two members of the committee were republicans, the third a democrat. Notifying the governor of the appointment of the committee, he was asked to grant a conference. Not once, but four times was this request made. And just as often did the governor decline or neglect to meet with the committee. He did send long letters to the committee, in which he repeated his assertions.

In one letter the governor fixed the amount of the deficit at \$295,000. Another time he alleged that the funds were short \$581,513.47, again it was \$2,925,000, and then it was \$4,040,387.93. Twice at least the governor was meticulous even to a penny. Failing to get into personal touch with the governor, the committee began its independent examination, and verified the facts as published by The Omaha Bee last year. Instead of there being a deficit in the road building fund, the committee finds an unexpended balance on June 30, 1924, of \$419,844.23.

Thus does the governor's bogie man disappear. The committee's unanimous report is:

"The committee is of the opinion that the governor's charges in his messages are without proper foundation, are extremely misleading, and do not state the facts as recorded in the offices of the state treasurer and state auditor.

"Governor Bryan, in the opinion of the committee, by alleging large deficiencies in the funds of the state departments that did not actually exist then or since, has discredited the true financial condition of the state, as the state government is in excellent financial conditions and has been so for years."

This report is signed by John W. Robbins of Omaha, George Wilkins of Emerson and W. B. Banzing of Union. All are members of the state senate. Each is known as a man of integrity and high character. Neither would be suspected of making a report tinged or tainted with partisan bias. It was the truth they sought. It is the facts they have disclosed.

These facts convict the governor of having, either through ignorance or malice, discredited his own state. Instead of defending the financial credit of Nebraska, he has wantonly and without good reason assailed it.

Books and records were open to the governor, as to the committee, and he easily could have ascertained the exact condition of the funds. He was content to repeat his unwarranted and unjustified allegations, varying the amounts from time to time, until it was apparent to anybody the governor did not know what he was talking about.

Now he seeks to be elevated to one of the highest positions on earth, that of vice president of the United States. His ambition is unbounded, but what will the voters say to a man who is thus unmasked in his astonishing attempt to cripple the credit of his home state for no better reason than that he might possibly make himself look good to his self-deluded admirers?

"Save Norton!" is now the slogan of Nebraska democratic managers. They are sacrificing Davis and Bryan for the paltry loaves and fishes of state government.

LET "BATTLING BOB" TELL US.

Robert Marion La Follette, self-starting candidate for president, is to speak in Omaha on Monday. Tickets already on sale. The local managers say that anyone will be welcome, although the man who comes with the dollar will be doubly appreciated. At St. Louis the senator outlined the issues he expects to present to the farmer.

First, he proposes to relieve agriculture by the passage of the McNary-Haugen bill and the Norris-Sinclair bill. "With strengthening amendments." What the nature of these amendments will be he does not say.

Second, he will repeal the Cummins-Esch act, and revise railroad rates downward.

Third, he will revise the federal reserve act. He has several other plans, mainly of the nostrum variety, such as putting "dirt farmers" in the cabinet and on the federal reserve board. It may not be impertinent to inquire why, if the senator favors the McNary-Haugen measure, he did not put the weight of his influence behind that bill when it was going down to defeat in congress under the onslaught led in the house by Voigt of Wisconsin, one of his trusted henchmen? A word from "Batling Bob" at that time would have brought support to the bill that would have passed it. He must have been saving it for the campaign.

Also, railroad men and farmers alike will be interested in knowing how the Wisconsin wonder-worker plans to cut down railroad revenues and keep up railroad wages. Maybe he does not intend to. Until he succeeds in establishing government ownership and democratic control, he will not be able to get money from the federal treasury to meet the deficit, as was done under McAdoo, when the government paid \$2,700,000,000 for the fun of mismanaging the railroads for twenty-seven months. Wages are higher now than then, so the deficit will not be less than \$100,000,000 a month, and somebody will have to stand it.

Another point on which La Follette could enlighten Nebraskans, if he would, is why the cost of carrying on the public business of the state of Wisconsin is more than sixteen times greater now than when he was first elected governor. La Follette became governor of Wisconsin first in 1901. Between 1900 and 1923 the cost of running the state has increased 1,605 per cent. A rather high price to pay for a theorist's plans. Also, not a very strong recommendation for his promise to lower the cost of government. He might tell us how he does it.

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE.

Fred Peregrine of Grant, Neb., is entitled to the blue ribbon for conciseness of speech and for the merit of his message. Mr. Peregrine was the recipient of the pure-bred sire traded at Grant for a scrub, and when asked for a speech he said:

"I came here six years ago with one cow and \$1,600 and went into the wheat raising business. In four years I was broke and in debt. A Grant banker staked me to dairy cows, and I got back into the game I had left in eastern Nebraska six years ago. Today I am out of debt, do not owe even a store account in Grant, and have a little money in the bank. And it is all due to my good cows. I thank you."

There may have been many speeches of greater length delivered in Nebraska, but seldom one that was so fraught with meaning to the farmers as the brief speech Fred Peregrine made to his farmer friends at Grant. In it is the message of diversification of crops, of more intelligent interest in farm by-products, of profiting by bitter experience. Men like Fred Peregrine with brevity of speech and wealth of example are factors most sorely needed right now in the development of permanent prosperity in this commonwealth.

One often hears the statement that some particular section of Nebraska can raise nothing but wheat, or that another section can raise nothing but corn. The statement is absurdly false. There is not a section of Nebraska where good milk cows may not be made profitable, and in many so-called one-crop sections the dairy cow can, and has, made comparative prosperity possible where in former times a mere living was about all that could be hoped for.

The cream check and the egg check have chased away the clouds of gloom in many of Nebraska's farming sections. And the more and bigger these checks the fewer will be the clouds.

Henry Ford withdraws his Muscle Shoals proposition "because a business proposition has been mixed up with politics." And yet the crying need of this country is politics founded on as substantial a business basis as big business. And "hot air" is not the right kind of political foundation.

However, it might be well to suggest that the policeman be not in too great haste to open fire, even if the fellow he thinks ought to be arrested is running away.

Oklahoma shows unmistakable signs of lining up for Coolidge and Dawes, if you are interested in knowing how the campaign is going.

A legislative record is a mighty inconvenient thing when a man is running for office and wants to forget what he did.

Oswald Garrison Villard says he is not a "parlor red." All right, let him be classified as he will. He talks the language.

Straw votes may not be conclusive, but when they all point the same way there must be a reason.

Dan Butler is also sprinkling some tacks along the route over which Bre'er Norton is skidding.

Did you notice how many water ships it takes to get one airship across the ocean in safety?

The Shenandoah is showing the weakness as well as the strength of the rigid dirigibles.

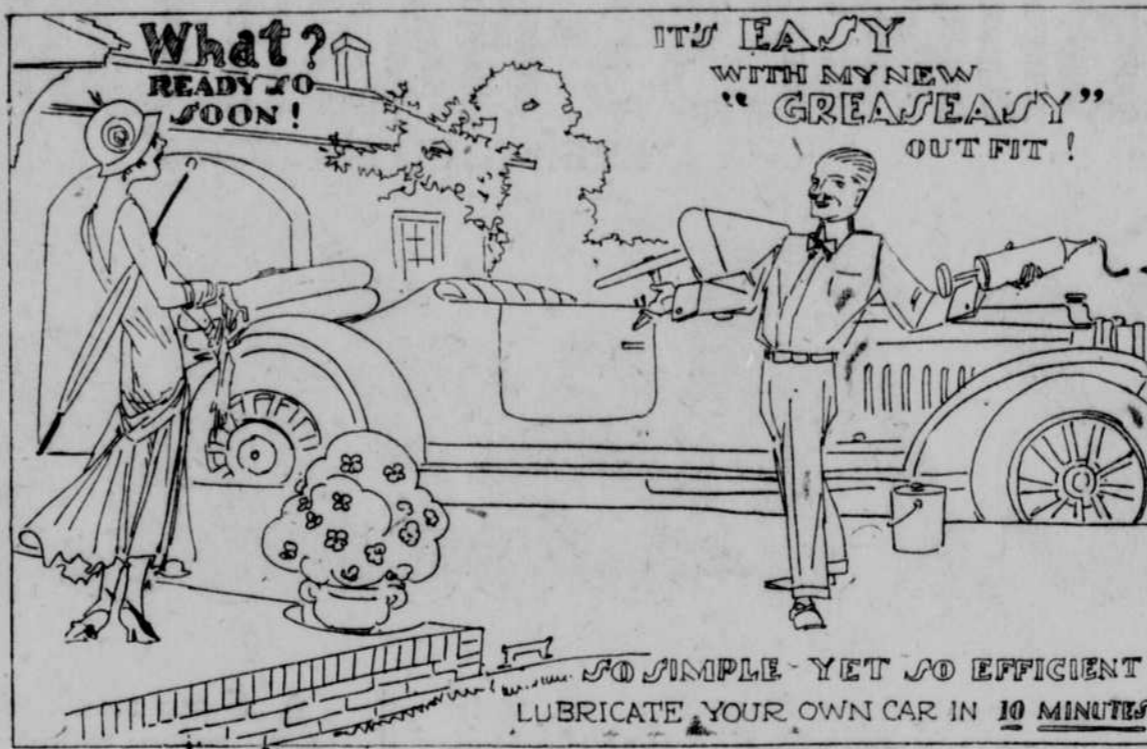
Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

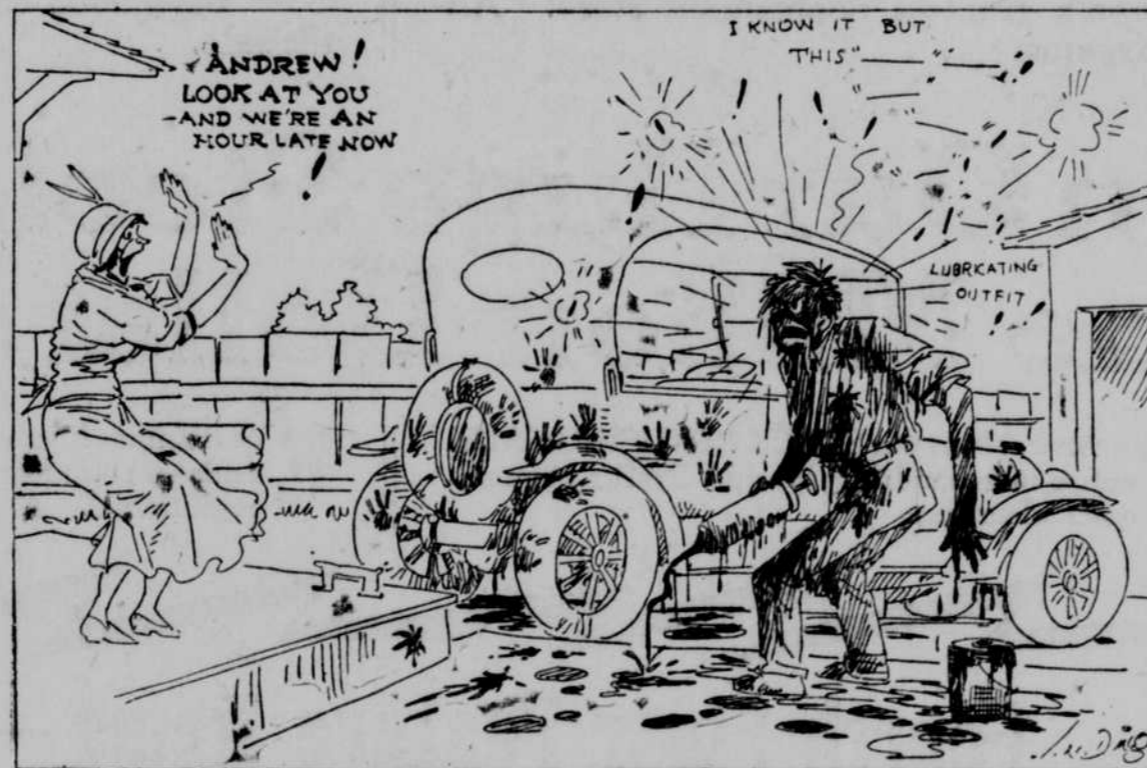
THEY HAVE GONE AFAR TO ROOM.

The folks are widely scattered, and have gone afar to room:
 They used to write to me and say that they were far from home;
 They used to ask about the friends whom they were wont to know;
 They used to wonder much about their joyous Long Ago.
 But Time has dimmed the mem'ry of the cottage where they grew;
 The playground and companions have been lost to mem'ry, too—
 And in the distant regions where today they gaily roam,
 They've found the hunted arbor, and they have secured a home:
 A home it is as was the one revered by them when they were
 Were Dad and Mother's little tots incessantly at play—
 A home where the elements that fashion it complete,
 And give it charm and reverence, and keep it ever sweet.

And Many a Political Nostrum Has Turned Out the Same Way



AS IT LOOKED IN THE ALLURING ADVERTISEMENT—



AND THE WAY IT WORKED AFTER YOU GOT IT.

Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words or less, will be given preference.

Pleads for the Merchant.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: "Do away with traveling salesmen." One contributor recently stated in these columns would reduce the overhead expenses of merchants in Nebraska nearly \$1,000,000, which would equal the amount of eggs sold for one year. Another writer suggests that the merchants resort to advertisements in the daily newspapers to overcome the waste.

No doubt there are good reasons for the suggestions. But why resort to these methods of past ages? We live in an age of progress and lots of people are going to get on with the old systems, but awake and arise to the hour. Let every rural merchant install a radio receiving set in his store and each day of business the sales manager of the wholesale house can call in to inform said merchant of the change in price of the articles he is most interested in.

We deeply sympathize with any merchant, for he is unlike the scientist who can go to the public library and secure biographies of great scientists and artists, showing what they have accomplished in the face of hardship and under handicaps. The physician may attend a course of lectures and acquire through what he learns from your editorial page—if it is too bad you can not drive home the idea to all the nation. I think that some slides in the movies would do a whole lot toward showing the people their part. But, anyway, this nation is quite sane and will back Coolidge and Dawes to the finish. We still believe in the government our fathers built. Anyone who don't like it—the back door is as large as the front one.

LEONARD ROBINSON,
2401 Holdrege Street.

Repulsive Fads.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: If the degrading pastime of slaughtering fatted in game, indulged in by former European potentates, is to be revived here (as denotes a news item from California), it will be a bitter pill for those with faith in the supremacy of high ideals over more or less harmful superfluities on our stage of progress.

We advance or retrograde according to surrounding conditions that fit the direction of our destiny by selecting or favoring certain characteristics necessary to or facilitating survival. The greater our intellectual advancement and the closer our co-operation, the stronger will become



The reason why paupers are so blamed scarce under prohibition is because they get poisoned before they kin qualify for the poor house. What th' average father can't understand is why th' public schools don't teach his boy what an archipelago is instead o' puttin' it up 'im.

(Copyright, 1924.)

Center Shots

After all, when you think of our automobiles, prohibition and the Chicago murder trial, it almost seems as if the Japanese ought to pass a resolution thanking us for keeping them out.—Philadelphia North American.

Air fleets are like umbrellas. They are most useful when up. But they have to be provided before the storm.—Chicago News.

Like most Americans the prince of Wales feels that he needs a rest before going to work following his vacation.—Brooklyn Eagle.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of October, 1924.

W. H. QUIVEY,
Notary Public

"The Same Kindly Care Afterwards that you Gave Before"

The Reposing Rooms



A sorrowing man came to our doors not long ago. He had committed to our care his best friend. He wanted to see Mother—to be alone with her for a little time—for the last time, in fact, before was paid the final tribute of all her friends who would follow to her last resting place.

"Why—is she upstairs?" he asked, surprised, as an attendant led the way. And surprised deepened in his face when he was ushered into a room, softly glowing with pink lights—a room with thickly carpeted floor, and dresser and chairs.

And then he saw Mother—sleeping her last sleep in a handsome bed, with soft, thick mattress and snowy linen—sleeping just as she might have slept in her own bedroom at home.

"I didn't hope for anything like this," he said, with awe and gratitude in his voice. I thought she might be—I didn't know where—perhaps downstairs with—others! You don't know how much I appreciate this!"

It is refinements like this which have made Hoffmann-Crosby service outstanding in its completeness.

Hoffmann-Crosby Funeral Home

Twenty-fourth at Dodge St.

Omaha, Neb.

Telephone Jackson 3901

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