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Omaha—Where the West is at its Best

RUNNING THE RAILROADS.

Senator La Follette reached into his bag Monday and pulled out his railroad speech for delivery in Omaha. This is the one he gets the best effects from. He has rehearsed it so often during the last twenty-five years that he can put it over blindfolded. Consequently his sentences flow trippingly from the tongue, and he makes it sound as if he really believed it.

Does he really endorse what he says? His announcement that rates for transportation are out of joint is not a discovery on his part. The Omaha Bee has again and again discussed the inequalities and in some cases the injustice of existing rates—always with a demand for their rectification. In the present situation, action must be taken by congress. Last December the senate committee on interstate commerce was reorganized by the La Follette group. Unable to elect La Follette chairman, they chose Smith of South Carolina. Before that committee was the message from the president, in which he recommended entire revision of the existing rate structure.

What did the committee do in the way of relieving the situation? So far as legislation goes, the committee did absolutely nothing. Yet it was a La Follette committee. He could have had no more control of it had he been president twice over. If we are to judge his intentions by his actions, the only fair rule for determining a man's conduct, the conclusion is inevitable that he did not want anything done. He was saving the railroads for a talking point in the campaign he was planning.

Senator La Follette approached the topic of government ownership with respectful caution. He does not propose, he said, to do anything rash or abrupt along these lines. He will study the situation carefully, here and abroad. In Europe and Canada. We suggest they include Australia and South America, and Mexico, which is conveniently accessible. If transportation in America were on the basis of that in Europe, our national life would be exactly in the same plight as that of those for whom we have made such sacrifices. Europe's greatest problem today is transportation, and the service is worst in those countries where the government owns the railroads.

In Canada hundreds of miles of track were torn up during the war, and have not been replaced. The number of men employed in the service, however, has been almost doubled. Stockholders in Canadian companies taken over by the government receive their dividends, but out of the Dominion's general fund and not from earnings. The only piece of railroad track owned by the Canadian government which is earning as much as its keep is that part which lies wholly within the United States.

Australia has three state-owned railroad systems, those of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Each state adopted its own gauge, in order that the others might not use its rolling stock. Consequently freight passing from Queensland to Victoria has to be unloaded and reloaded twice, from Brisbane to Melbourne for example, a slightly longer haul than from Omaha to Chicago. How long could American business be carried on in that fashion?

The senator's estimate of railroad valuation is on a par with his claim of certain election. No more definite basis supports it. Capable and trustworthy men have estimated the physical valuation of railroad property, based on current costs, at more than \$22,000,000,000. The I. C. C. allows a tentative valuation of \$18,500,000,000 for rate fixing purposes. And these bases are surely as dependable as those conjured up by La Follette.

The senator paid a high compliment to Senators Norris and Howell for their stand on the transportation question. This stand The Omaha Bee has often referred to. In many respects it is in line with what we have contended for. But the fact remains that Senator La Follette had ample opportunity to proceed in congress to recast the rate structure, to amend or repeal the Esch-Cummins act, and to do a great many things he says should be done. Instead of proceeding on direct lines, with the support of a committee organized in his interests, he did nothing.

For the benefit of all industry, whether of agriculture or others, the present rate system of the railroads should be revised. This may not be done by horizontal cuts on any group of commodities, but must be with due regard to the interests of all, and not for the particular benefit of any. A return to the divided control of state commissions means the re-establishment of the confusion that existed when forty-odd states and the I. C. C. were making schedules, with their conflicts and inequalities far more ghastly than any now complained of.

These matters are not to be disposed of in a moment, by any agency. We submit in all confidence that were Senator La Follette to devote as much attention to an effort to reconstruct as he puts forth in his effort to break down, he would be far more helpful than he is. Just now, and for two years last past, at least, he has merely been an obstructionist. Full of promises he knows he will never be called on to redeem. Willfully neglecting his opportunities to give relief

MR. BRYAN SHEDS TEARS.

Evidently Bryan (W. J.) does not share the confidence that Bryan (C. W.) expresses with regard to the vote in Nebraska. Else why does Brother Bill, tears coursing down his time-furrowed cheeks, plead with fervor to Nebraskans that they do not go back on Brother Charlie?

"Where," asks Brother Will, "did any republican ever establish a municipal coal yard?"

We can not answer, but are we to take it that because Bryan (C. W.) when he was city commissioner of Lincoln entered the retail coal business that he thereby qualified to hold the high office of vice president, with a possibility of becoming president? Bryan (W. J.) refers to the fact that Bryan (C. W.) saved the gasoline users of Nebraska over \$400,000 this year by reducing the price of gasoline. How in heaven's name did any act of Charles W. Bryan affect the price of gasoline, either wholesale or retail?

In 1920 a little gasoline price war was precipitated in Omaha, but did not spread to the state, although Brother Charles talked grandiloquently about what he was going to do. Then, in face of the governor, the gasoline producers put the price back to where it was. Months later the war broke out again in Omaha, brought about by the "muny" station. Slowly it spread to Lincoln, and a few other places. Then users of gasoline besieged Governor Bryan, pleading that he make good his oft-expressed determination to sell gasoline in the name of the state.

His answer was a one-pump station at Sixth and South streets in Lincoln. How ludicrous this gesture is shown by the fact that when the governor came home from the New York convention he found his "state" filling station had disposed of some 600 gallons of gasoline, while uptown stations were selling thousands. Also, that the "state" price was 15 cents while the "trust" was selling at 13 cents per gallon.

We should be disappointed in Nebraskans if they allow themselves to be wheedled or cajoled into voting for Bryan (C. W.) under any pretext. It certainly would be the height of absurdity to vote for him because he ran a municipal coal yard in Lincoln or that he brought down the price of gasoline. He had about as much effect on the selling price of gas in Nebraska as he did in New England, where a general cut went into force not long after it did in Nebraska.

A QUERY IN VERSE.

In these days of elections by minority votes the good citizen who either "has no time," or otherwise fails to vote, would do well to read the verses presented herewith:

You say your taxes are too high.
But do you vote?
About extravagance you sigh,
But do you vote?
How long? you yell, must we endure
This state of things which keeps us poor?
How long? I do not know, I'm sure;
But do you vote?

The lights are bad, the streets a mess;
But do you vote?
Your indignation you express,
But do you vote?
You say the Bosses rule the show.
That Graft is reaching high and low.
And doubtless all you say is so.
But do you vote?

You growl at rotten politics,
But do you vote?
You howl at Bosses and their tricks,
But do you vote?
You say, O Decent Citizen,
(We've heard you, time and time again;
"We want things run by Business Men!"
But do you vote?)

Unless you do (I wonder do you?)
You've got just what is coming to you.
—Berton Braley.

The citizens to whom this query is directed are both men and women. Signs are not lacking in Omaha that this year will be in truth,

The Year of the Big Vote.

But while we are on the subject—are YOU registered? Are YOU going to vote? Might be a good idea to mark your calendar, to make sure. If you are not familiar with registration rules Call up, The Editor, The Omaha Bee, AT. 1000.

"TRUE WORDS, THEM."

Very few persons who heard the La Follette speeches at the Auditorium on Monday night but were impressed by the solemn truth of one of the utterances.

"I don't think," said each speaker in turn. To get the fact over to his hearers he repeated the assertion, "I don't think." And then he proceeded to demonstrate that he does not think.

What each of those speakers will find out in due season is that the voters are thinking. The more they contemplate the situation the less likely they are to follow the lead of the man who publicly shouts, "I don't think."

Notice that Clem Shaver figures the democratic national committee will have to get by on \$750,000. That is enough to demonstrate that the New York convention really was a total loss.

The Yankton bridge is another bond between South Dakota and Nebraska, and may there never be anything between the two states but the Missouri river.

A Nebraska teacher who sticks for science has just won a suit against a board of trustees who want Genesis undiluted. We will get to a decision yet.

Bryan (W. J.) is still pleading for the man he said was unfit to be nominated.

"Rattling Robert" is more than peevish. He is perturbed.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

THE BETTER WAY.

One has requested that I say
Which seems to me the better way—
Shall life be taken for life spent,
Or shall it be imprisonment?
Shall evermore the hard, cold bars
Deny the freedom of the stars,
Association and the bliss
That make a goodly world of this?
Sometimes our laws look strange to me—
I think we doubt eternity,
And the old faith that watchful God
Knows every man who treads the sod,
And will upon Redemption Day
Make every guilty mortal pay.
And from those who have failed him draw
More than regard for written law.
It seems to me it would be best
To shut the murderers who've confessed,
Or who've been branded by disgrace,
In some remote, remandful place,
—And let them live their lonely years
Repenting not or shedding tears,
And when existence they have trod,
Let them go forth to answer God.

Some Folks Do Go to the Strangest Places for Their Health



Letters From Our Readers

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

A Government by the People?

Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: If it is a fact that a man can poll three times as many votes as his nearest competitor, in the election of president, and can poll over the sum total of all of his competitors combined and still not be elected, then the United States of America has no more of a government by the people than has Russia.
The fact that the people of the United States had little to say about their own affairs was almost proven when the Mellon tax bill came before the last session of congress. But now when a large majority of voters in the United States cannot elect their own president it is high time Americans gave up this fallacy of believing they are the land of democracy. They had better by far return under the British king, where no pretense whatever is made about who rules for almost anyone over school age knows that the king is merely a figurehead and that the house of lords rules the empire with a hand of steel. It would better, by far, extend this rule to cover the United States than to go on kidding the people with any more idea of self government when a small group of men like La Follette backed by a powerful foreign press can set aside the will of a majority of the people and throw the election into congress where they are apparently independent of the people's will.
Some one has said it is a matter of Coolidge or chaos. It is worse than that. It is Coolidge or disaster and if the people of the United States have no better sense than to vote for disaster then they hardly blame anyone but themselves if they get it.
—ONE WHO KNOWS.

Religion in the Public Schools.

Albion, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I have been wondering so much is being done in the public schools and colleges to undermine Christianity that the people—some of them are so afraid of allowing the reading of the Bible in the public schools? Mr. Frank Martin says: "There is a religious atmosphere in the Sunday school that is entirely missing in the public school." Then is it not time the windows were opened and the atmosphere of the public schools purified? The public school has our children three-fourths of their waking hours. Have we a right to send them all that time to a place where the religious atmosphere is entirely missing? The Sunday school has but a few hours in a year to give the children religious instruction, less than a week. The home plants the seed as best it may, and very often the school plucks it up as soon as it is sprouted. Giving to the children

No man or woman can make a mistake by flushing the kidneys occasionally, says a well-known authority. Too much rich food creates acids which clog the kidney pores so that they sluggishly filter or strain only part of the waste and poisons from the blood. Then you get sick: Rheumatism, headaches, liver trouble, nervousness, constipation, dizziness, sleeplessness, bladder disorders often come from sluggish kidneys.

The moment you feel a dull ache in the kidneys or your back hurts, or if the urine is cloudy, offensive, full of sediment, irregular of passage, or attended by a sensation of scalding, begin to drink water in quantities; also get about four ounces of Jad Salts from any reliable pharmacy and take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys may then act fine.

This famous salts is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for years to help flush clogged kidneys and stimulate them to activity, also to help neutralize the acids in the system so they no longer cause irritation, thus often relieving bladder disorders.
Jad Salts is inexpensive and can not injure; makes a delightful effervescent, lithia-water drink, which everyone can take now and then to help keep the kidneys clean and the blood pure, thereby often preventing serious kidney complications. By all means have your physician examine your kidneys at least twice a year.

Abe Martin



Whether a young couple quarrel or not, the girl has 't' make up after ever' kiss. If we'd give a prospective voter a nickel cigar 't'day he'd git out an' work against us.
(Copyright, 1924.)

Scribes and Pharisees disapproved of it and its Author. The Ten Commandments, too. Dear! dear! too bad, since they are the foundation stones of all law. We do not exclude history from our schools, lest a democratic or republican teacher might influence the pupils to view matters from their different standpoints. Then why deny our children the Bible, the "lamp to their feet," for such a flimsy reason?

God has said: "My word shall not return unto Me void, but as the rains and the snow coming down from heaven, and returneth not again, but watereth the earth, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so My word shall accomplish that whereunto I have sent it." It needs no interpreter. Let the children have a course in Bible study, as they have in any other branch and they will find some one with whom to discuss it, never fear. Why not give Jesus the same opportunity we give Darwin? He says, spiritual and material essences will not mix any better than

SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget,
That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Thayer

If there are any sour, dyspeptic, complaining men and women reading The Bee, we would have them meet W. S. Overholser of Furnas county. And Mrs. Overholser especially Mr. and Mrs. Overholser homesteaded in Furnas county nearly 40 years ago. They have experienced all the hardships of the pioneers. And last August a hail storm ruined their wheat and corn crop, entailing a loss of not less than \$8,000. Are they whining and complaining? They are not. They are happy and taking their loss as something unavoidable. They have gone through that sort of thing several times, but have never lost their courage and faith. To them 13 children have been born, now happily married and all just like their mother and father, happy, optimistic and industrious.

If anybody in this neck o' the woods has a right to complain it is Father and Mother Overholser, but they don't. Life looks good to them, and they have faith. On election day Father and Mother Overholser and a whole flock of sons and daughters and sons-in-law and daughters-in-law will go to the polls, and every one of them will vote for Coolidge and Dawes, Nebraska needs more men and women of the faith and courage and optimism of this splendid pioneer couple.

Members of the We Knew Him When club will please shove along and make room on the bench for Fletcher Newton Merwin, editor and publisher of the Beaver City Times-Tribune for 40 years or more. Newspapers have come and gone in Beaver City, many of them started for the sole purpose of running Fletcher out, but he is still there, prosperous and happy. One son is postmaster, another is his business manager and associate, and another is a lieutenant commander in the navy. Members of the club will please stand at salute as Fletcher joins the band.

John Q. Holmes, United States game warden, inspected the train at Orleans to ascertain if game laws were being violated. The only game he found was a game of pinocle and the train was given clean bill of health. Holmes says fatalities among ducks in northwest Nebraska has been due to impregnation of alkal in many of the lakes.

A prehistoric tooth found in a sandpit near Beaver City was on exhibit when our train pulled in. The tooth is about three inches one way by two and a half inches the other, a part of the process is with the tooth. It might have belonged to a cow weighing about 16 tons. The next largest tooth within our recollection was one we had while on a fishing trip in Canada, 60 miles from the nearest dentist.

Solemn initiation services were held at McCook the other night, and Superintendent McLaren and Trainmaster French were taken into the Order of the Yellow Dogs. Bull Train Kennel No. 604 now has a membership of 22, including college professors, railroad attorneys and transportation officials, newspaper men and dairy experts. A tri-state convention will be called for Omaha during the coming holidays and delegates will be present from Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa.

What is needed in this section of Nebraska is a banquet committee whose members know a good brand of cigars when they see it.

Speaking of politics, which we have been instructed not to do in this department, we opine that all efforts to keep southwestern Nebraska farmers discontented until after election day have proved futile.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

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These splendid parks with their playgrounds, golf courses, tennis courts and bathing beaches make Omaha a delightful city in which to live.

Omaha's parks are attracting more people to make their homes among us. As Omaha and Nebraska grow, the Bell System must spend about three-fourths of a million dollars each year for new telephone equipment to provide for the increased demands for service in this state.

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As Omaha prospers, the telephone industry will progress. Therefore, we are interested in Omaha's future and strive to provide reliable service at the lowest possible cost consistent with reasonable wages to employees and a fair return on the money invested in the business.

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

(Seal) W. H. QUIVEY,
Notary Public