

## THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

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N. B. UPDIKE, President  
BALLARD DUNN, Editor in Chief  
JOY M. HACKLER, Business Manager

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### Omaha Where the West is at its Best

**GET READY FOR THE HEARING.**

Assurance is now given that any hearing on the tramway company's application for an increase in fare will be held in Omaha. This is right. Moreover, the announcement should be accepted as ample notice by those who are interested to be prepared to state their case.

The company will naturally make the strongest showing possible. It has already made out a strong case from its viewpoint. Support is readily given to its request that it be relieved from certain charges that appear onerous or unjust. What arouses public resentment is the attitude assumed by the city commissioners, that nothing can be done to give the company relief in the way of tax reduction, and therefore it will turn to increased fares in order to obtain the revenue it desires.

Until every other remedy has been applied, every expedient exhausted, there should be no effort to advance the price of rides. This plan would put the burden on those who are least prepared to bear it. The item of car fare weighs heavily on the budget of the working people, who travel long distances by street car every day going to work and getting back home. Any increase on these should come last, if it comes at all.

What the company asks to be relieved from is the occupation tax and the cost of paving between tracks. Either this, or such additional compensation from patrons as will cover the two items. The city commission points out that the budget has been arranged and the levy made for the year, and therefore it is impossible to give any relief through reduction of taxes.

This leaves the alternative of adding to the cost of rides or denying the company its increased revenue. On this point the railway commission will have to pass. Further reduction in service is hardly possible, for the number of trains now operated has been reduced to a minimum already.

All this is independent of the franchise question, which will come up in good season. It may reappear in the same form as two years ago, when the legislature was asked to grant permission to operate busses in connection with the street cars. Whatever action is taken in this regard, the fare question is the one most pressing.

Improvement clubs and other similar organizations should be ready to meet the railway commission when it convenes, that the case of the street railway patron may be properly presented. City and company will be on hand, and the straphangers ought to be.

### FIRST OF A NOBLE LINE.

Many times the story of Dan Freeman, first American homesteader, has been told. It is not, however, so hackneyed that reference to it may not be made again. In fact, the recent division of the homestead between his children calls attention anew to the beginning of what was finally the distribution of one of the most glorious estates ever parceled out among men.

When Dan Freeman settled down on a piece of ground in what is now Gage county, Nebraska, he made his selection from all out of doors. Under the sun he was free to choose from millions on millions of unoccupied acres. What determined him in his choice does not matter. He made his selection, and when the homestead law was finally passed, his filing was so early that he got the first patent issued under the new act.

So Dan Freeman became the first of what grew to be a wonderful army—

"The first low wash along the shore  
Where soon shall roll a human sea."

After him came a flood of homeseekers. Overland they came, and then on the railroads that rapidly were pushing into the new region west of the Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, the Dakotas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, parts of Iowa and Minnesota, fertile acres and a new world, were available to those who followed Dan Freeman.

Rich was the reward of those men and women, who overcame the hardships and endured the privations of pioneering. The lands they chose were fruitful, and from the teeming bosom of mother earth they drew the wealth that has made great the states cut from the empire they founded. Indeed, it was a noble line Dan Freeman headed, one whose honor will not fade while the solid foundation of western farms remains.

### OUR NATIONAL DISH.

President Burger of the United Restaurant Owners' association declares that ham-and-eggs is our Great National Dish. Monsieur Gourlie, who name denotes his nationality, says the griddle cake is entitled to the honor. That the dispute may be settled without further loss of time or display of acrimony, we issue the ultimatum that President Burger is right. Not that we have anything against the griddle cake, the flapjack as it is commonly known. We're for it in its proper place and time. But we will fight for the honor of the good old ham-and-eggs until the stars grow cold and the leaves of the judgment book unfold. There's the dish that sticks to one's ribs, paints rosier the dawn, and streaks the

western horizon with the golden hues of hope and contentment as the sun sinks to sleep.

The flapjack is a wonder in satisfying a craving for something toothsome, but it has never been the incentive to conquer the desert, span continents, explore the forests and extend the frontiers of civilization. But the good old ham-and-eggs—there's the combination that has filled men with the ambition and the strength to dare and do. Rising from the succulent combination at early dawn, men have gone forth to deeds of high emprise. Back from desert and jungle, worn and weary with he-man exertions to make a new world, we hear joyful exclamation: "Gimme a plate of ham-and!" and the appearance of the order, the ham crisp and the eggs gleaming golden in an aura of white, would inspire a smile radiant as the sun.

Ham-and-eggs the national dish? We'll tell the world! Right here is one of the reasons why this is the greatest nation on earth. Flapjacks are good, they appeal mightily to the appetite. We like them in their place. When all is said and done, however, we must vote for President Burger and ham and eggs as the national dish.

**HOME-MAKING IMMIGRANTS.**

One little feature of the report on immigration for the last year deserves comment. It is that while the tide of entry has swelled many-fold, the outgoing stream has dwindled. Here is the way the report tells the story:

"For a long period prior to the World War the number of aliens leaving the United States was fully one-third as great as the number admitted, but the exodus declined rapidly during the three years when the quota law was in operation, until in the last year only 78,739 aliens departed, compared with 708,896 admitted."

One of the stock phrases of the late John M. Thurston was, "The gates of Castle Garden never swing outward." By this he meant that once an immigrant reached this land, he stayed. Mr. Thurston lived to see a considerable return movement. He saw America exploited by thousands of European laborers, who acquired a competence by dint of a few years of sweating toil in American mines and mills or on the railroads, and then returned to a life of comparative ease in their homeland. One of the complaints against our immigration law was that it cut off the stream of wealth that was enriching the lands around the eastern end of the Mediterranean, including Italy.

German, English, Mexican, Scotch, Italian, Hebrew, Scandinavian, Polish and African, in the order named, are the racial stock chiefly making up the immigration of last year. These are, with the exception possibly of the Mexicans, homemakers. Even the Mexican prefers life on this side of the Rio Grande. Uncle Sam is gainer as a result of his resolve to let the gates at Castle Garden swing less freely inward.

### DOLLARS DEVOTED TO SERVICE.

Not all that is going on in the world has to do with man's meanness and weakness. While there is plenty of evidence that humanity still is prone to err, signs of a better nature are not wanting. Tucked in between the accounts of battle, murder and sudden death, with which the news columns bristle, may be found little stories of more encouraging nature. For example, we read of one millionaire announcing further gifts to educational institutions of \$12,500,000, which brings the total of his benefactions up to \$53,515,000. A rather tidy sum to be given away with so little ostentation that not often have people heard of George Eastman.

Another millionaire, James B. Duke, has just arranged a trust fund of \$40,000,000 to be devoted to educational uses. In Nebraska a small college makes public the fact that it has just received \$40,000 from an unexpected source. Browse around through the records as printed day by day, and many of these items will be found.

Men who are thus disposing of their accumulations are doing several things worth while. Probably neither of them ever thought of the tax collector, but they are making his task much lighter. And they are also making the way smoother and easier for the boys and girls who are coming into the world. Ample education will be placed within the reach of more students, and as this is applied the general quality of the citizenship will be improved. Benefits will come to all the world as a result.

The leaven of Christmas is working, for its effects are noted in such announcements as those cited. Dollars so devoted to the general service of the human race are well placed. And America continues to afford proof that mere possession of wealth does not harden men's hearts nor breed oppression instead of kindness and love for mankind.

W. J. Bryan tells the ministers that one way to establish peace is to find out the causes of war and remove them. If he had always talked so sensibly he might have been president long ago.

Let us have the Riverside Drive, but let us also be certain of the legality of the bond issue. Technicalities now may not amount to much, but twenty-five years from now they will loom big.

The little girl who took her saxophone and set out to make her way in the world has plenty of spirit, but showed bad judgment in choosing her weather.

An Omaha preacher told his congregation the sort of girl needed to make an ideal life. Then he assured them no such girl lived. Frank at least.

Old Boreas will do well to pipe down and let Santa Claus have the stage.

Air mail might also be used for business as well as sentimental reasons.

If it wasn't a blizzard, what was it?

### Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davie

**MY GOAL.**  
Last night as I sat in my rocker—  
Last night when day's troubles were done,  
With little essential to bother,  
And rhymes for the evening spun—  
My darling, a mischievous cherub,  
Climbed up to my lap in a heap,  
And asked me to hold her and rock her  
Until she had fallen to sleep.

Last night when my darling lay sleeping  
In mythic somnolency's charms,  
I thought of the precious wee nuisance  
Asleep in my welcoming arms;  
I thought of the value of riches—  
Of potent material things—  
Of fame and exalted achievement  
Which Fate to so few of us brings.

Last night as I rocked, and was taken  
To wonderful vistas of worth,  
I came to the highest dominion—  
The place of a father on earth—  
And may I sagaciously fill it—  
It is the proverbial role!  
Let others go elseward and upward,  
But mine is the lovelier goal.

### Dam 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.

**When Will It Stop.**  
Albion, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: We notice in today's issue Mr. Frank Martin presents some more of what he calls "anti-prohibition arguments." Arguments? His first "argument" is that the Volstead and the bone-dry laws were put over in a time when the nation was fully occupied by the world war. Now any grammar school pupil could tell Mr. Martin that when the United States of America entered the war 26 states had voted dry and that over 85 per cent of our area, inhabited by more than 69,000,000 people, was dry territory. They could tell him that five months before we went into the war, with prohibition the great issue of the campaign, the congress which proposed the amendment was elected. November, 1916; by January 16, 1919, the 35 states necessary had ratified the amendment with a combined vote of 4,088 to 828. Since ratification 10 more states have come in with a combined vote of 3,918 to 415. The 18th amendment was not "put over" in a few months or years; it was not "put over" at all; but after 73 years of struggle, of education, agitation and legislation the enlightened citizens of the United States of America carried it over the top with the most overwhelming vote given any of the amendments. He asks: "What particular business would benefit tremendously by closing the saloons?" That is easy; every business but the two that are hand-in-hand with it, i. e., the vice den and gambling den. He asks: "What business would be benefited by closing the saloons?" He takes them when it was open? He talks of bootleggers and poison—it is all poison—liquor, as if they only came into being with prohibition. Fifteen or 20 years ago a neighbor of ours, living almost within a stone's throw of our home, bought wood shavings of a couple of bootleggers in a few minutes and then insane. His fling at the soldiers and what they fought for we pass by, as their glory is too great to be affected by his blame or my praise. The cry against the loss of "personal liberty" is such an old chestnut. On page 10, column three, today's issue, is an account of the conviction of two boys for attempted attack on a girl. Why interfere with their personal liberty? Or why have a law on the subject when it does not prohibit such crimes? We read in a Toronto (Canada) paper that the government there was having trouble with men who had left off the smuggling of booze for the more lucrative smuggling of aliens into the United States. They got the money and land the alien if it is easy; if any danger arises of being caught they sink their dupe and his belongings

and present an innocent appearance to the officers. Why a law against smuggling, murder or any other crime? Because we are a civilized people. The man that buys or sells booze or dope does it because of his criminal tendencies, and those tendencies would crop out whether there was a written law against them or not. One grain of wheat is found among the chaff. He says: "If ever there was a good prolific field field for the professional fool killer it is here in the United States."

ELLEN S. WATSON.

**Tramway Suggestions.**  
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: A suggestion is offered in connection with the street car problem in Omaha. It is suggested that the city of Omaha will limit the street car fare to 5 cents and that the street railway company be subsidized by the city to an amount equal to the difference between the revenue produced by the 5-cent fare and an amount sufficient to enable the street railway company to earn a fixed rate of dividend such as might be determined by a committee well qualified to judge such matters. The 5-cent fare will advertise Omaha favorably to the outside world. The 5-cent fare will let the poor man who is compelled to use the street car system as his means of transportation pay his just proportion toward the maintaining of the system. Property in Omaha would depreciate very much in value should the street car system be discontinued. Therefore it is quite evident that the property of Omaha is benefited by having the system in operation, and a property tax would be the means of raising the funds to make up the deficit between a 5-cent fare and a fixed rate of dividend, details to be worked out.

C. F. WHITE.

**Worse Luck.**  
It was in Twin Peaks tunnel. Something happened to the lights and they all went out for a moment. When they came back a woman complained to the conductor.  
"Somebody kissed me!"  
"Gwan," growled a workman. "You ain't got no kick. Somebody swiped me veal cutlet." Now, what do you think o' that?—San Francisco Bulletin.

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## SUNNY SIDE UP

Take comfort, nor forget,  
That Sunrise never failed us yet.  
Celia Thaxter

One thing that does puzzle us: What is sole leather made out of these days?

The assistant treasurer of the United States reports that he is experiencing trouble in forcing silver dollars into circulation. Being very sympathetic and therefore sorry for our over-worked public officials, we hasten to proffer him all possible assistance within our power.

A firm is advertising "53 miles to the gallon." We know a man who went around the world, saw all the animals existent and some that Noah never heard about, all on less than a quart.

Just suppose' this case: A self-respecting young woman is walking home from her daily work. It is growing dark. A strange man driving an auto pulls into the curb and leerily asks the young woman to get in and ride. She refuses. He insists. She pulls a revolver and fills the man as full of holes as a colander. Young woman is arrested and put on trial for murder. You are drawn on the jury. What would be your verdict? Right you are, and that would be the verdict of the whole jury if we were a member, or that jury would be hung until its bones rattled in the passing breeze.

Six p. m., Omaha time, Saturday, Dec. 13.—That's the exact time and date when we are going to parade with a WAOW (Women's Auxiliary of the World) mechanical dingo at small radio-casting station. This announcement is made again in response to several letters of inquiry. Wonder if they are inquiring so they can tune in on some other station at that hour?

Too bad, isn't it, that President Coolidge had to visit "the world's greatest market" last week. If he had postponed it for a couple of years he could have visited it right here in Omaha.

Merely to settle all disputes we'll say that Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross of Wyoming will be the first woman governor. She will be inaugurated a couple of weeks before Ma Ferguson is made governor of Texas.

I'm going to pass up  
J. J. Simon Wynn.  
All he has left is  
Synthetic gin.

Make your good resolutions now, and if you can keep them until January you may be able to keep them through 1925. Confidentially, all we are going to swear off is swearing off.

There are several hundred children in Omaha who would think they were living in heaven if they were as comfortably housed and well cared for as most of the dogs exhibited at the recent canine show.

Another thing that doesn't worry us a bit: What becomes of all the second-hand gum?

Will somebody please explain why it is that the morning when you do not have to get to work early is the morning when you simply can not sleep as late as usual?  
WILL M. MAUPIN.

**NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION**  
for the SIX MONTHS  
Ending Sept. 30, 1924

**THE OMAHA BEE**  
Daily ..... 73,790  
Sunday ..... 75,631

Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind.

V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of October, 1924.  
W. H. QUIVEY,  
(Seal) Notary Public

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SMOKELESS SMOOTLESS  
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Could Not Walk. Itched Badly. Cuticura Heals.

"Eczema first broke out on the backs of my hands and ankles in little pimples that had water in them. Later the pimples would break open, swell up and turn red. My feet were so sore that I could not walk, and I had to keep them up in a chair. It itched badly, and the trouble lasted about three months."

"I began using Cuticura Soap and Ointment and they helped me, and after using three cakes of Cuticura Soap and three boxes of Cuticura Ointment I was healed."

(Signed) Miss Anna Springer, R. F. D. 1, Mendota, Mo., May 7, 1924.

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