

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher
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The Omaha Bee is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the recognized authority on circulation audits, and The Omaha Bee's circulation is regularly audited by their organizations.

Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1908, at Omaha postoffice, under act of March 3, 1879.

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MARRIAGE WITHOUT CHILDREN.

Agreeing in principle with what Dr. Pinto has to say concerning eugenics, we are inclined to the view that the worthy health commissioner has gotten into deep water. The subject of employment of married women has often been debated, with no conclusion. As a general proposition, the wife is expected to retire from active business life when she gets married. It once was the rule.

Modern practice is exactly the contrary. Girls get married nowadays with no thought of giving up their employment. Not always for the reason the doctor cites, that they seek enjoyment of luxuries and comforts they would not otherwise have. Frequently the wife at work uses her income to aid in carrying on some joint undertaking, such as the purchase of a home or the setting aside of savings for investment.

Whatever the reason that keeps wives at work, it is one of the manifestations of a serious change in economic conditions. It is having a marked effect, too, upon home life. What is ever more important, it is having an effect upon the moral stamina of men.

The pressure of modern demands for living expenses in the cities often finds the earnings of the husband insufficient for the upkeep of an establishment which will furnish to the marriage partners that standard of living to which the woman, as a working woman, earning her own money, has been accustomed.

Invariably the newly married folks will start out with the idea that the wife will work "only a few years." It is the hope and expectation that within those few years the husband will advance in earnings until he is "making enough for both." This doesn't always work out, the very facts in the situation often operate against its working out. With the financial help thus given, with the level of living which the added income makes possible, there is often a loosening of the man's sense of responsibility, and the "few years" develops into a permanent habit, a permanent necessity. Then, too, there are men who in a short time, after marriages of this character, develop the habit of leaning on their wife's income. They find it increasingly difficult to get work, they find it easy to refuse employment that may be distasteful. All men, whoever they may be, are just as lazy as they dare to be.

The motherhood instinct of the married woman at work, denied expression through children, will manifest itself in mothering the husband, and thus the loosened sense of responsibility upon the part of the husband is aggravated. In the big cities there are thousands of these working women, who are going to work only a "few years," who are carrying the big end of the load for husbands who work only intermittently, and many of them not at all.

Dr. Pinto has put his finger upon one of the truly serious problems of modern life. However, it is not to be settled by law. It is too deep for lawmakers. It is an outgrowth of the conditions that makes it possible for women to be the earners of real salaries—it is an outcome of the whole woman movement, that seeks an ever wider independence for women. Laws can not stay that movement. It is basic, elemental. It will move onward, not backward. It has already changed many of our habits and customs. It will change others. If the home life of the nation is to be changed by it, if the marriage relation itself is to be changed, well, we will have to go deeper than "passing a law."

If we are courageous we will recognize the facts as they are and brace ourselves to meet the new world that they presage. The solution of it all lies with the women. They are throwing off the old order, because they do not themselves yet know just what the new order is to be.

Rest assured there will be a new order, and that new order will either tip the scales of civilization upward, or tip them downward. All of this is in the keeping of the working women of today.

A LITTLE PLAIN TALK TO THE ALLIES.

Secretary of State Hughes proposes to reply frankly but firmly to the note from Austen Chamberlain, British secretary for foreign affairs, in which the right of America to share in reparations from Germany is challenged. That is, reparations paid under the Dawes plan. As such payments will exhaust Germany's resources at any given time, the Chamberlain proposal amounts to notice to the United States that any American claims must go over indefinitely. To this Secretary Hughes rightly objects.

As the cost of maintaining the American army of occupation is not included, the total sum due from Germany on account of American claims is comparatively slight. It amounts to only about \$300,000,000, and this is subject to reduction incident to adjustment now in process. To pay this over a long period of years will make very little difference in the amount paid to the Allies under the Dawes plan. Therefore it is the principle. Stated by Chamberlain, this amounts to the exclusion of the United States from

any participation in the settlement because of not being a party to the Treaty of Versailles.

Against this Secretary Hughes cites the fact that the United States was a party to the war, aided in bringing about the victory, and therefore can rightfully demand a share of any benefits flowing from that victory. So far not a foot of land nor a dollar of wealth has been added to the United States because of the war. What is asked is simply the payment of sums due to American citizens, many of which claims were acknowledged by the German government prior to our entry into the war. There can be no compromise on this point.

The United States expended many thousands of lives and \$40,000,000,000 of wealth in order that victory might be won after the Allies had put forth their utmost endeavor and failed. That fact is not to be set aside. Asking nothing under the Treaty of Versailles, the demand to share under the Dawes plan rests solely on the greater right that belongs to a participant in the fighting.

Other questions might arise before the issue is finally settled, and it is well that the American position be made clear at this time.

FACTS FIRST.

Mayor Dahlman gives his approval to an increase in street car fares. He proposes that tokens be sold at the rate of three for 20 cents. This will reduce the proposed increase to the token buyers from 1 cent to 0.41 cents. Expressed in percentages, the mayor would permit an increase of 14.29 per cent in the basic rate, and of 6.72 per cent in the cost of tokens.

Either of these figures indicates a considerable advance over what is now being paid. According to the mayor, the revenue of the company will thereby be increased by \$300,000 a year. What he does not say, however, is that the bulk of that \$300,000 will be taken out of the pockets of shop girls, store clerks, bookkeepers, mechanics, laborers and others similarly situated, who now constitute the patrons of the street railway. It is on their behalf that The Omaha Bee protests that the mayor's plan should not be adopted until all other means for solution of the problem have been examined and found wanting.

From the city hall comes the word that the city budget is made up and can not be changed. Therefore no relief in the way of reduced taxation is now possible. From the Chamber of Commerce comes the information that the entire situation was carefully gone into, and the committee was convinced that the increase of fare should be forthcoming.

But from the improvement clubs and other agencies for expressing the thought of the people we get the word that an advance in car fare looks like a poor Christmas gift. We agree with them. It would be far more like a square deal to spread the cost over the general assessment roll.

First of all, however, an operating audit of the street railway. Let's be sure the company can not save something in operating costs. Unless we have all the cards on the table in this matter then no increase in street car fares, or, for that matter, no relief whatever. Let's have the facts.

MR. HITCHCOCK AND THE DEMOCRATS.

Word comes to Omaha that the democratic party may call upon former Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock to take over the job of reorganization. If Mr. Hitchcock can throw overboard the Bryans and other "paramount issue" traders he might be able to get somewhere. He knows that adherence to principle is the only thing that will save the democrats, or rather the only thing that will make the democrats. The former senator deserves support in any such undertaking. It is essential to the nation that the democratic party become militant, purposeful.

This has not been possible heretofore because of the rule of expediency that has ruled its councils. Fighting for principles the party could go down to defeat and be all the stronger for it. Fighting for expediency defeat means disintegration.

In seeking a new leader the democrats are looking to the west. He must know western people and western ways. Also, he must be acceptable to the east, to the south and to the north. Just why all this geography is not clear. It looks like expediency over again. The real task should be to find a man—whether he comes from east or west. Geography will kill the man. A man would sweep geography aside.

Having cast the horoscope, the council is about decided to allow Mr. Hitchcock to take on the job of reforming the hosts and preparing the way for another campaign. Clem Shaver is going to join Cordell Hull, George White, Homer Cummings and others. Shaver is not expected to resign, however, until the \$300,000 deficit in the campaign budget is cleared away.

The general endorsement given Senator Hitchcock by party leaders is such as would gratify any man. However, the chairmanship of the party is a big job. Heretofore it has been a straight road to oblivion for the holder. Cordell Hull is the only one of late years to hold it and not disappear under a tide of failure. His personal popularity in Tennessee sent him back to congress, where he long ago demonstrated his usefulness. If Mr. Hitchcock takes the place he will have the moral support of Nebraska at any rate, republicans as well as democrats.

C. B. Sezer's rise to eminence in the railroad world is another illustration of the opportunity that is ahead of every boy in this land. He began as a clerk, and is now very close to the top.

"Mike" Endres ought to prepare a protocol to govern his deputies while on duty and stop their wasting time in arresting one another.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

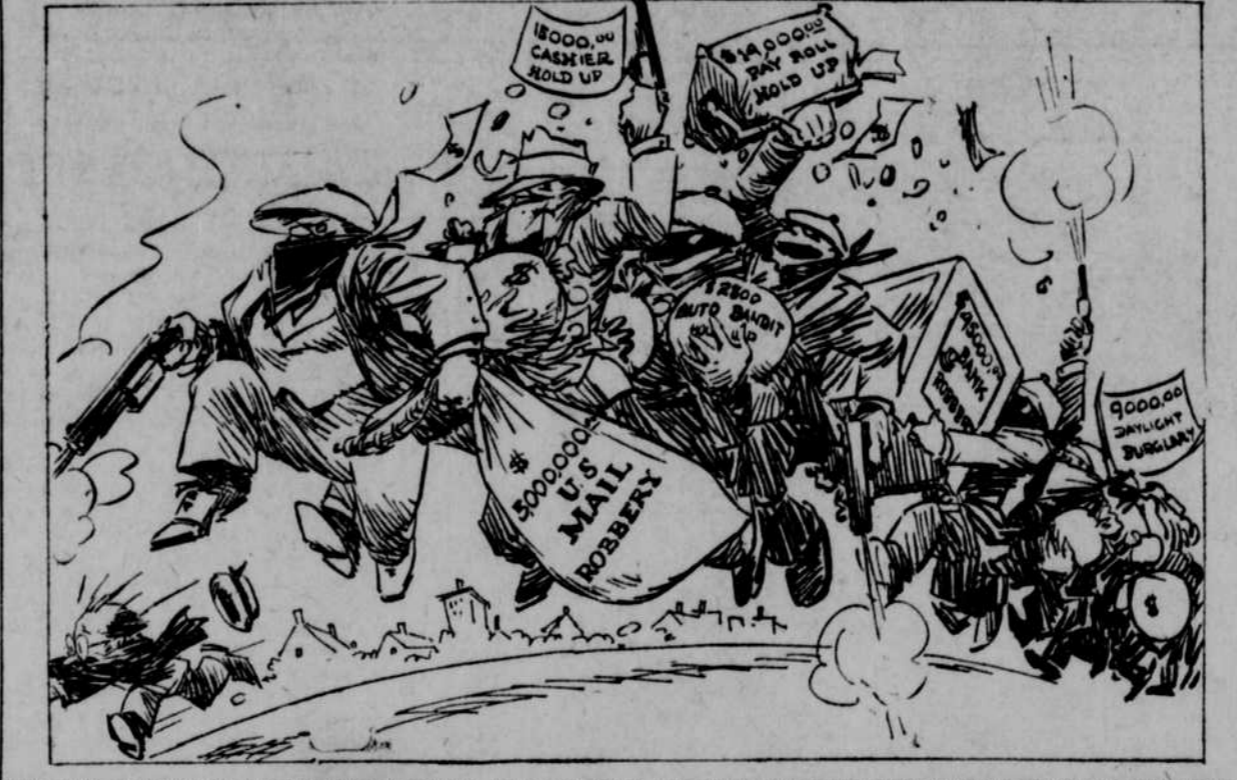
SCANDAL.
Each day some scandal comes to light,—some vain, dishonest one
Is forced to face the music for the ill that he has done;
Each day aspersion is put down to silence and disgrace,
While forward comes a new surprise to take the other's place.

The public, stricken with dismay, surveys the latest dope,
And often wonders what can be the use for further hope.
Long-trusted ones are failing us, kind friends are proved untrue;
It seems almost incredulous what folks will choose to do!

Behold the many millions who plod onward all the while,
And take the mute acceptance of their virtues with a smile.
But ever stand by honesty regardless of the cost,
And in the haze of hastiness are nothing less than lost.

The evildoers are but few compared with those who loom
Like torches of fidelity throughout the dark of gloom.
And there is hope! Have faith, ye friends, and better days will dawn,
Because the good folks of the world will beckon Progress on.

Maybe We Haven't Been Getting Our Money's Worth



WE WISH SOME STATISTICIAN WOULD ADD UP OUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE BANDITS, ROBBERERS AND HOLDUP MEN



AND SEE HOW MANY MORE POLICEMEN WE COULD GET FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY.

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.

Sympathy for Graham.

Wisner, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Of all the travesties foisted on to a public in the name of justice is the sentencing of Jay Graham, 20, for 25 years in a reformatory for the theft of \$20. I feel confident in saying that I wouldn't be a bit surprised if anyone of the men that helped sentence that young fellow has beat the state out of many dollars more every year in his taxes.

If he had been a bank official of a bank that had failed through their "dealings" he would have had a mock trial and been fined and sentenced to a month in some jail, but it would never have been carried out.

Or if he had been some judge in a big bootleg deal that involved thousands of dollars, he would have been written up a few times and the world would have forgotten it.

Or some rich man's son that had murdered some one in cold blood, the state would have spent thousands to hire alienists to examine him and lawyers to defend him.

But he was just a poor boy and stole all of \$20, so they spent three days on justice and gave him the small sum of 25 years. Oh, what a mockery our justice is! I do not believe in crime, but I do believe in the punishment fitting the crime.

The way it is now it puts a premium on big crimes. A small of fence gets 25 years, a big one gets 30 days in a jail.

Yours with scorn, JIM DUGAN.
P. S.—Hope they never get him.

Behold He Prayeth.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: After all that is said and done we need not be surprised at the result of the election. For one I was not surprised. I voted for the president because he was a praying man. We have confidence in the man or woman that prays. The man who prays knows God. And the man that knows God prays. And God knows them. The president was put there by the hand of God and none of his enemies were able to cast him out. His strength is in God, and so long as he does not turn aside after vanity they may as well try to stop the polar waves from the north or the blithering gales from the south as to try to stop his career. Poor indeed are people who know not God. They may be mild-mannered, may wear nice-fitting clothes, man manipulate the fork in the right way when eating with the

Abe Martin



We hate to say it, but the mothers of 'day are turning out an awful lot of bandits. Artie Small has traded his equity in a correspondence course in saxophone playin' for a repossessed car. (Copyright, 1924.)

Some Are to Be Excused.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: We have heard a good deal about the Community Chest drive and about the slackness of the Omaha people in filling that chest. There is undoubtedly a reason and a very good one why this failure occurred. Perhaps you know what the reason—or various reasons—are, and I think that the people ought to know why certain persons are averse to giving in this cause. I don't think it is niggardliness at all. There is some more potent reason. Perhaps we think that this money isn't judiciously expended by the various charities; maybe there are so-called "charities" that are unjustly benefiting from this "chest." Why not give names to the various charities which come under the head of this "chest" service? Then we can form our own opinion as to whether the service is deserving or not. Why call us "slackers" until you know the reasons that actuate us? We certainly have the right to exercise our own judgment with reference to giving our own money, especially when we happen to think that some supposed deserving objects of the "chest fund" do not come under the name of "charities" at all. Perhaps again, the people are not at all pleased to be commanded to give, whether they are able to or not. Many working folks have every cent they earn already placed and it distresses them to have to break up the routine in order to give a "few dollars" to charity. Charity rightfully begins at home, and while I, personally, have given freely the amount demanded—or suggested—perhaps is better. I know of families who are unable to give a cent, for substantial reasons; lack of employment and a large family are good enough. It seems to me that those who can simply afford to ought to make up the deficiency by popular subscription, and I haven't a doubt that they would if so solicited, rather than balked into giving by use of the so-called "slacker" term. There is too much use being made of the term "slacker" and we are heartily tired of it. If the quota cannot be made up right at the present time, why not have a drive later on? This is unquestionably a bad season of the year to make a drive. Everything

International Council of Women.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I have been reading and hearing a great deal about the International Council of Women, which will hold its sixth quinquennial convention in Washington, D. C., from May 4 to 14, 1925. What is the particular object of this meeting? How many countries will be represented? How many organizations are in the National Council in the United States? What is the membership of the National Council?

How often does this body convene? What important questions will come before this Council for discussion? How many representatives will each country send to this convention and how are these delegates chosen? Do

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coming together: coal hills, clothing and shoes, more lighting, Thanksgiving, and now Christmas. School children must have proper clothing and other things as well, and it all must come out of the weekly wage for so many of us. Have a heart and go a little easy on the "slackers."

M. S.

One Woman?

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Why spend so much money in bringing together such a large conference? Will such a meeting bring about a better understanding between the women of the world and will it be a decisive step towards international peace?

ONE INTERESTED.

SUNNY SIDE UP

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

Great throngs of Christmas shoppers in the stores. Clerks beginning to show signs of fatigue. Keep smiling, however. Woman with small child in hand striving to get through crowd. Child sets up loud wail. Kindly disposed women endeavor to comfort waiting kiddie, the result being louder wails. Floor walker finally effects reunion. Mother grabs child and gives it good shaking.

Young lady at gentlemen's furnishing department, looking at neckties. Trying to recall his complexion so as to get ties to match. Looks at shopping list and nervously bites end of pencil. Opens compact and powders nose. Asks to see some linen handkerchiefs. Adjusts hair over left ear. Says she will come again and asks way to department where smoking jackets are sold.

Elevator jammed full of women, and mere man shopper crowded over into far corner. Woman drops package and tries to stoop over to recover it. Impossible, as elevator is too crowded. Package stepped on by fellow passenger at first landing. Woman glares. "Some people have no regard for others." Other woman glares.

Plainly dressed little woman with wide-eyed little boy in tow. Looking at expensive toys. Finally passes on and little fellow wears woebegone look. "Yes, dear, Santa Claus will visit you, but he is so poor this year that he will not be able to bring you much."

Slip of girl behind a bargain counter. Frantic grabbing by customers. "Just a moment, please." "Wonder you wouldn't try to wait on people when they come in." "I'll try to hurry your change, lady." "You clerks think you own the whole store." "I'll get your package just as soon as the wrapper can wrap it." "Why don't you get enough help to attend to people?"

Pleasant-faced woman waiting for package and change. "Just a moment, lady." "Yes, dear, Santa Claus will visit you, but he is so poor this year that he will not be able to bring you much." "Gee, it's a pleasure to wait on people like that," sighs the tired girl behind the counter.

"Hey, Bill! Get next 'o' de tlectric train dere. Ain't she a peach?" "Ah, dat ain't so much. Pipe de radio set over dere. Ain't she a wiz?" "Dratther have a radio dan all de tlectric trains in de shop."

Young man in hosiery department. Leans over and whispers confidentially to young lady behind counter. "Do you know what size she wears?" Young man shakes his head, but holds hands about so far apart. Young lady smiles and suggests that the stockings may be exchanged if not the right size. Decision made as to color and young man departs smiling. "Gee, but they fall easy these days," remarks the clerk, sotto voice.

Holly and tinsel; mistletoe and festoons of multi-colored paper. Santa Claus talking to wide-eyed little folk. Phonographs going in all directions. Young lady in music department playing selections for customers. Luncheonette crowded with shoppers snatching hasty lunches, mostly ice cream and macaroons.

Aisles crowded. Overhead carriers working overtime. Streets moving masses of humanity. Christmas is just around the corner.
WILL M. MAUPIN.

the countries represented pay the expenses of their delegates? Will the women of the United States entertain these delegates during their stay in Washington? Who is the president of the international organization? Will this conference be presided over by an American woman? Why spend so much money in bringing together such a large conference? Will such a meeting bring about a better understanding between the women of the world and will it be a decisive step towards international peace?
ONE INTERESTED.

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