

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

GIVE THE LAW A FAIR CHANCE.

Out of the experience of the last two years Governor Bryan comes forward with an expression of doubt as to the efficacy of the indeterminate sentence law. He expects to recommend to the legislature that the law be modified, if not repealed. No doubt exists as to dissatisfaction with the workings of the law as administered. Reason, however, is found for the opinion that if the law were given more nearly proper application, less mistakes would be made.

No law ever devised has entirely escaped the efforts of interested men to twist it from its design. In the case of criminals, first responsibility after conviction rests on the judge. He might be relieved of some of this if a definite penalty were affixed for every crime. That, however, appears to be almost impossible, because of the variations and degrees of guilt. Circumstances that surround each individual case must be considered in the assessment of any penalty. This is the basis of the indeterminate sentence.

Then the law makes allowance for the possible effect of punishment. While the primary object is not to work reformation, as some mistakenly consider, that feature must have its due weight in connection with the infliction of penalty. Under an indeterminate sentence, the quality of change in the mental and moral attitude of the prisoner has its value in finally fixing the duration of his punishment. This is to be passed upon by a pardon board, which examines and weighs all the facts, and concludes as to the advisability of extending clemency. One prime purpose of the indeterminate sentence law is to so divide both authority and responsibility over prisoners that whatever action is taken, it will be the reasoned judgment of more than one man. If that judgment is mistaken, it is as likely to be one way as another. Justice will more frequently come when the decision is that of a board than when it must be that of an individual. A man will often hesitate at assuming a responsibility which he will gladly share with others.

The law should be inevitable, but not inexorable. The element of mercy is never to be omitted from the proceedings. It might be, were the possibility of making the punishment fit the crime reduced to the establishment of a definite schedule of prescribed penalties. Wisdom, born of experience, may suggest some valuable modifications in the practice, but the indeterminate sentence law should not be abandoned solely because its application has not always worked as some think it should. Humanity, looking ahead to forgiveness and always pleading for mercy, should not close the door of hope to its own erring members. This does not mean, however, the expression of a maudlin sentimentality. Society must protect itself against criminals. Let the sentence to be imposed be fair, then enforce it, taking into account the degree of the crime and the degree of reformation of the criminal himself. Tears of afflicted relatives and the appeals of friends have nothing to do with the matter.

BADGE OF THE "HIKING HEELS."

Twenty-two girls over at Glenwood have qualified and are permitted to wear the "hiking heels." This we take it is a badge that denotes that the wearer has covered at least 100 miles on foot in a given length of time. As such it is a distinction of her prowess, athletic ability and true love for outdoors.

The girl who has covered 100 miles of Iowa highway on foot under the skies of autumn or of early winter has gained more than the insignia conferred. She has added to her capacity for enjoyment of the other things of life. No tonic known to the doctor's list equals that of walking in the open air. The very fact of the exercise tends to produce a healthier bodily tone, because of excited circulation. Breathing is also stimulated, and the two combine to establish conditions that can have only one effect, that of better health. So the girls are gainers in this regard.

A healthy girl walking along a country road must see many things to occupy her attention. No matter how learned she may be in the ways of indoor life, her knowledge of outdoor matters can always be extended to her advantage. Iowa does not offer as much in this respect as once was the case, yet there remain birds and small deer of many kinds that are worthy of study, or even casual observance. Encountered in a wayside ramble, or even in the course of a directed "hike," these add zest and frequently mild adventure.

PAYING MORE FOR POSTAL SERVICE

Postmaster General New recently submitted to the president a report on cost of carrying the mails. It was founded on a survey made by mail service experts, and showed that certain classes are now being carried at a net loss to the government. First-class mail only pays a profit. Second-class mail

shows the least per centage of loss, and other classes follow. The survey was made for two purposes. Chiefly to indicate what should be done in the way of bringing the postal service to a self-supporting stage. Patrons of the first-class mail long have contended for a concession, holding that it is unfair to require that they make up a deficit for the other classes.

In the report to the president, the fact was emphasized that the value of distributing newspapers and periodicals at a small loss was more than sufficient to offset the cost. The recommendation, then gets to the merchandise and bulky material that is sent through the mails. When the bill to increase postal clerks' pay was before congress last spring the chief proposal was to add to parcel post charges enough to cover the advance in pay. With the survey before congress the possibility of definite action is made more certain.

President Coolidge is said to favor the increases in postal charges sufficient to at least cover the added pay of employees. The bill which was passed and vetoed failed to make provision for meeting the added cost. Its friends are divided as to whether to press for immediate action on the veto, or to delay until something is done toward increasing postal income. In either event the prospect for the postal workers getting better pay is excellent.

DAMMING A STREAM OF WEALTH.

John J. Commonpeople scanned the front page of his paper the other morning, and noted that New York had put an embargo on live poultry. He turned to the crossword puzzle and soon was deep in his daily amusement. Mr. Commonpeople has not yet fully realized what that embargo means. Perhaps the letter from Governor Bryan to Governor Al Smith may give a notion as to what is involved.

Poultry yards in Nebraska contribute about \$45,000,000 each year to the gross income of the people of the state. More than half of this is for fowls, and probably half of that is for chicken on the "hoof." Chicken cars are familiar enough to railroad men and to those who load them. It is no uncommon sight to see one of these peculiarly constructed carriers stuck in the middle of a fast freight train, whirling its way to an eastern market. The demand for live poultry comes from those who are required to see the bird killed in conformity to a strict regulation.

Many tons of dressed poultry go out of the state each year in refrigerator cars, to supply the demand for dainty diet that exists in those regions where chickens cannot be raised. Other thousands of tons of eggs also go out from Nebraska. Some day our own folks will realize the importance of this source of wealth, which is all but forgotten in the imposing presence of corn, wheat, cattle and hogs. The embargo is temporarily annoying, for it dams a stream of wealth that has flowed steadily for a long time. Only temporary, however, for folks will not give over eating fried chicken or codded eggs, and Nebraska will soon be supplying the raw material for dainty dishes once more.

GETTING ON WITH THE OTHERS.

One of the satisfactory results of the republican administration the first four years of which is about to end, is that out of the mists a definitely outlined foreign policy is emerging. It rests on the sure foundation of American sovereignty over affairs that rightfully belong to America. A decent regard for the opinions of others, and respect for their rights, but firmness when it comes to asserting the rights of our own land. Secretary Hughes has expressed this sentiment in every public utterance, and has had the support of President Harding and President Coolidge at all points.

It is not at all surprising, then, to find that President Coolidge has informed congress he will not consider calling an arms conference to assemble at Washington until after the Geneva conference called for May, is disposed of. It also is stated that the United States will take part in the Geneva conference in May, if it is held. One of the reasons for thinking that the conference may fail is that several of the powers have so far found themselves unable to ratify the protocol under which the call is sent out. That, however, is not a matter of American concern.

Our government is striving at all points to meet its obligations to the world. At no time in all our history have our external relations been so satisfactory as now. At peace with all nations, with the most cordial of communications, the course pursued by the present administration is bearing the fruit of good will based on justice and right. The fact that we are getting along so well with the other nations of the world is a convincing proof that the foreign policy as it is being developed is a sound one.

Douglas county does not want to "hog" the road fund. Proof of this can be found in the millions of their own money the citizens of Douglas county have spent to improve roads.

The seizure of four carloads of liquor at Chicago may mean less cheer for some men, but will probably mean a lot more cheer for thousands of children.

"Cross word skill" is not an especial qualification for a wife, says a minister. Nor are just plain cross words without puzzle attachments.

What can be said on behalf of the man who was killed on the same crossing where he once was seriously injured?

President Coolidge urges development of the aircraft industry. It might help to give the army some new planes.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

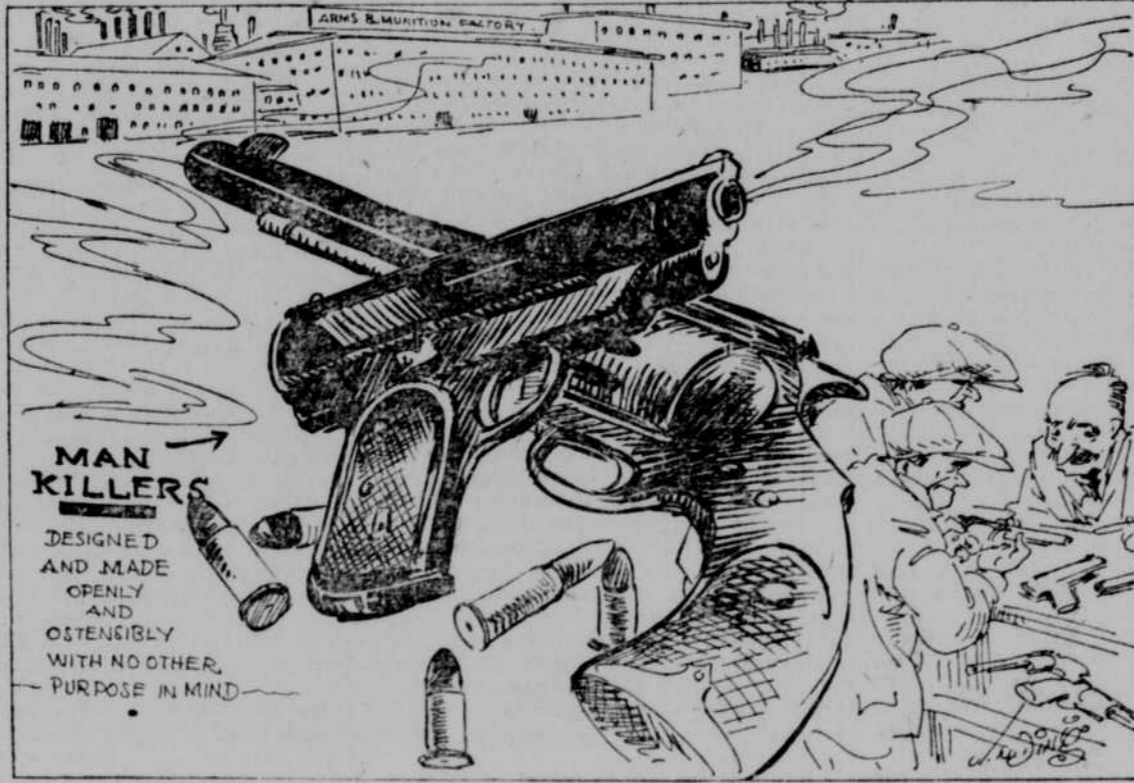
CONFIDENCE.
I would smile when the shadows are darkest,
I would laugh in the face of despair,
I would cling to the hope
That a smile will elope
With the homely old Cynic of Care.
I would fashion my dreams from the fragments
Of promiseless ashes and dust,
I would never believe
That I could not retrieve
My loss,—I would struggle and trust.
I would pause—I would think for a moment,
I would hope in the presence of gloom,
To gain what was lost,
At a faithless cost,
With the spirit that maketh one win.
I would smile though my sorrows are many,
I would hope in the presence of sighs,
I would never forsake
The great issues at stake
Till the soul that lives after me dies

Straining at a Gnat and Swallowing a Camel.

BY MAGNIFYING 15 MILLION DIAMETERS
YOU CAN SEE THE LITTLE GERMS WHICH
IF IT GETS DOWN THE WINDPIPE GIVES
PEOPLE THE EPIZOOTIC.



WE VACCINATE, QUARANTINE, STERILIZE AND SPEND A LIFETIME TRACKING THE LITTLE DISEASE GERM TO ITS LAIR—



BUT AGAINST THE MAN KILLING "GAT" WE DON'T EVEN FUMIGATE.

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.

Backing Up the President.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Instead of prophesying that the president will show more strength in his leadership, wouldn't it be a better idea to advise those who voted for him to back him up in his efforts and to warn their congressmen that they will not tolerate radicalism or insurgency? We hire congressmen to help him in his efforts to run an efficient governmental machine and not to fight among themselves as they have been doing for many years past. It is time this element was cleaned out and kept out of both parties. We can just as well have an efficient, smoothly-running machine as the kind we have. Other lines of big business are run this way, and why not the business of government? Too many of us think that government is some sort of political hocus-pocus, when the fact is that it is just as much a business proposition as any other line of endeavor. I have no use for a traitor of any kind, whether political or otherwise. I hold that a man who deserts his party in time of need is as guilty of treason as the man who deserts from the army or navy, and is much more to be censured. Can anyone visualize Lincoln or Washington, or, for that matter, Taft, or Root, or Hughes, bolting his party? Have we examples of great men who bolted their party who amounted to anything after so doing? If so, I do not know who they are. Instead of going into a state coma until the next presidential election, let us voters keep our eyes on the gun, and when some of our hired hands get too gay and too smart in their efforts to gain a little personal notoriety, put the brakes on them. We are guilty of electing Coolidge and Dawes for the biggest jobs in the country, now let's give them our support, regardless of political affiliation. If our congressmen do not give him the proper kind of help, let's tell 'em about it plain English, or rather American. Don't be afraid to tell your representative or senator what you think. That's what he wants to know. Don't be afraid to tell the president what you think is wrong, if you are sure you are on the right trail. Don't bother any of them with trivialities, but let it be our duty to give our executives all the help and sympathy we can.

Abe Martin



Constable Newt Plum has ordered all restaurants an 'cafes' t' clean up their spinach an' cart away th' sticks an' broom straws an' strings. Mrs. Amy Crow, whose husband died day before yesterday, still has nearly half o' th' money he left her.

pathy in our power instead of forgetting all about them until next election, and depending on public sentiment to do what we ought to do ourselves. What is public sentiment, anyway? Merely the expression of a minority of so-called publicists, some of whom are right and others wrong. If we back our president and force our congressmen to help him instead of throwing monkey wrenches into the machinery; then if he fails us, we won't be to blame and will know what to do the "next time."

JOE SIMMONS.

Far From It.

"Look here," he said, "I'm going to leave. I've never seen such dirty towels in my life, and I can never find any soap."

"But you've got a tongue in your head," was the landlady's curt reply.

When in Omaha
Hotel Conant
250 Rooms—250 Baths—Rates \$2. to \$3

low winter fares to—
Florida
and the
GULF COAST

No place else in winter holds quite the charm of the sunny South. Here winter is just another and longer summer, offering you every opportunity to keep on enjoying the outdoor things you love. Take the

Omaha-Chicago Limited
as far as Chicago and you are assured a train journey delightful beyond the ordinary. This popular overnight train to Chicago leaves Omaha daily at 6:55 p.m. Council Bluffs 6:30 p.m. Makes excellent connections for all points South.
Let our travel experts serve you
City Ticket Office, 358 S. 16th St.
Phone Jackson 4411
Union Station, 10th and Murey Sts.
Phone Atlantic 6133
W. E. Beck, Gen. Agent, Pass. Dept.
Omaha, Neb.
Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway
TO PUEBLO SOUND—ELECTRIFIED

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 14th day of October, 1924.
W. H. QUIVEY,
(Seal) Notary Public

Bee Want Ads are the best business boosters.

SUNNY SIDE UP

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

I've heard of men so awful mean
They'd skin a flea for hide and tallow;
Or lick a soup bowl slick and clean,
No matter if 'twere deep or shallow.
I've heard of men so mean of heart
They'd squeeze down hard on ev'ry dollar
Until the Goddess' tears would start
And she would have to loudly hoiler.

I've heard of men so mean and near
The thought of wear gave them keen twinges,
And so they climbed the fence for fear
To swing the gate would wear the hinges.
And once I knew a man so mean
His heart was wont to quickly flutter,
If children at his board were seen
To use molasses with their butter.

But of all men described as mean,
There's one who's worse than all the others.
His heart so small, his soul so lean,
That all good thoughts he quickly smother.
He is so mean, and always was,
That as excuse for never giving
He says there is no Santa Claus—
And he's the meanest fellow living.

We are dreadfully tired of uplifters. What we yearn for is more go-alongers. Time was when we were real strong on the uplift business, but the tribe of uplifters has not only grown too numerous, but too dandified, insistent. They insist on lifting us, even if they have to pass a law to pry us upward and onward. We have pronounced anathema upon Professional Uplifters. Henceforth we are going to forego their Smiling Go-Alongers—the good fellows who try to live clean and decent, who know their own weaknesses so well that they are ever ready to overlook the weaknesses in others. We want to mingle with fellows who try to help us because they like us, not because they want to compel us to be as good as they think they are. If the Professional Uplifters would lay off us common fellows for a while and confine their efforts to uplifting one another, we'll rejoice and be exceedingly glad.

With all due respect to the wisdom and acumen of Dr. Pinto, we're strong for the girl who hesitates about giving up a hundred-dollar job for an eighty-dollar man. Nor do we believe that his remedy for the industrial situation is a good one. In our humble opinion the remedy lies in producing a generation of young men with the energy and ability to dig in and earn enough to provide a home with reasonable comforts. And while we are trying to do that we might pay some attention to remedying an industrial system that so often makes it necessary for the wife to be a bread winner in order to provide a home and creature comforts for the children.

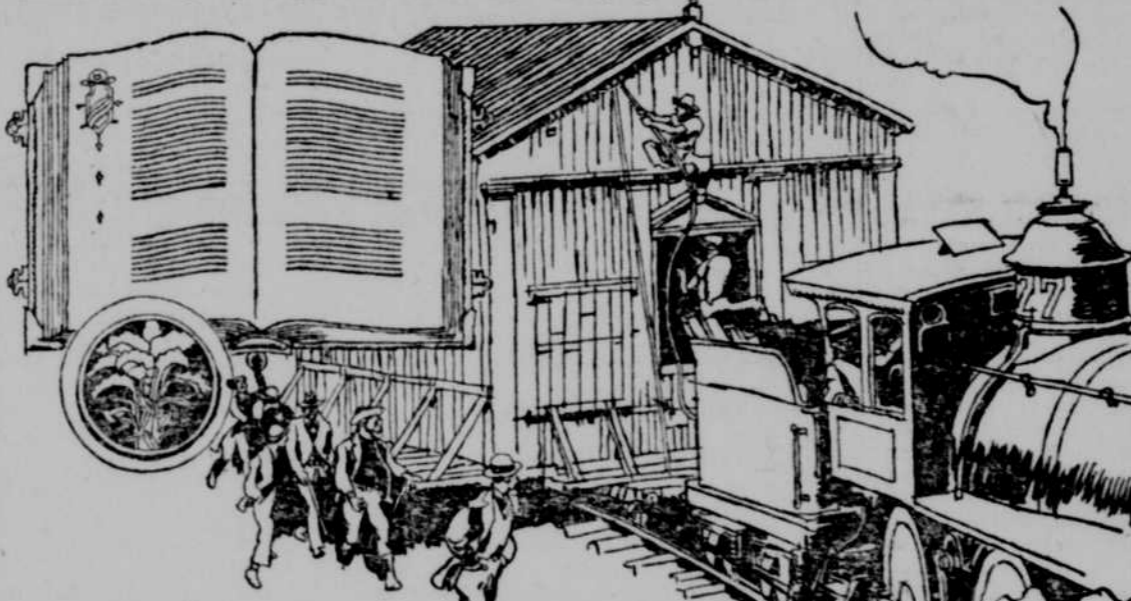
While waiting for Christmas trees to glow
One thing I know to be strictly true:
A lot of good fellows I love to know
Can't get it up like they used to do.

Another worry: Why do they waste material in putting buckles on the high-topped goloshes the women, bless 'em, are wearing these sloppy days?

When a man is 60 years old he usually has spent the last 30 wishing he knew as much as he thought he knew during the first 20.

If the average man would do as much work as he thinks he can, there would be less demand for labor-saving machinery.
W. M. MAUPIN.

LEAVES FROM THE BOOK OF NEBRASKA



The Court House Takes the Train

SHORTLY after the Billings Division of the Burlington was built, a keen rivalry arose between Hemingford, the old county seat, and Alliance for the honor and distinction of being the county town of Boxbutte County.

The question was submitted to the voters. To quote an old settler: "More votes were cast at the election than there were men, women, children and prairie dogs in the whole county." Alliance, the new railroad center of the county, was declared the victor.

To get county business under way quickly at Alliance, the old wooden courthouse was loaded onto a car and hauled there. At a number of points the railroad cut had to be made wider to allow this remarkable piece of freight through.

Getting through is a Nebraska habit. Finding a way to do a hard job and doing it well is the open secret of Nebraska's greatness. Her pioneers found it hard to make a living in Nebraska. But they stuck to their discouraging job and built up the most prosperous agricultural state in the nation.

Her merchants and manufacturers have the same spirit. Forty Nebraska brickyards make bricks for Nebraska buildings. The cattle and hogs and sheep that fatten on Nebraska farms no longer leave the state on the hoof. Nebraska workmen transform them into a hundred delicious food delicacies. These and other Nebraska industries actually produce a larger income than her agriculture.

Trivial by comparison but vital in importance is the business in which the Standard Oil Company of Nebraska was a pioneer—the state-wide distribution of kerosene, gasoline and lubricating oils. But it has done its job in true Nebraska style—thoroughly. From the days of the kerosene lamp through the era of automobiles, tractors, and trucks, ample supplies have never been lacking.

Doing business in this state, directed, staffed and operated by Nebraska citizens, chartered under Nebraska laws and paying all wages and taxes in Nebraska, this company is a home institution. It shares the fat years and the lean with Nebraska. Its success is wholly dependent on ability to render adequate and satisfactory service.

THIS is one of a series of advertisements in which historic spots and incidents in Nebraska history will be featured. If you desire a complete file of them, write the Standard Oil Company of Nebraska and the complete series will be mailed to you at once at the last advertisement has appeared.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF NEBRASKA
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Branch Offices: LINCOLN HASTINGS NORTH PLATTE

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