

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

TO LET THE PEOPLE KNOW.

We have consistently advocated a short and busy session of the legislature, to be distinguished by the slightest possible amount of new legislation. This does not mean that we are in favor of continuing certain outworn forms that persist under the statutes. Some improvement can and should be made in our system of elections. Discussion has largely turned on the single point of the direct primary law, overlooking some other phases of the system that are really more in need of definite attention.

One of these is the so-called corrupt practices act. We do not question the wisdom or intent of that law. It has shown by its working, however, that it overreaches the objective. Called into being to prevent the wholesale corruption of the electorate, the law as it stands in a sense defeats its purpose by reason of the limitations it puts on what should be a legitimate activity on the part of any candidate for office.

At the late election the voters rejected by an impressive majority an amendment to the constitution that would have put all political parties out of business. One of the arguments presented in support of that amendment was that the vote should be for the individual, regardless of his party views or connections. Intelligent voting under this law would have been impossible, for the corrupt practices act so limits its candidate that he would find it impossible to properly acquaint the electorate with either his personality or his opinions.

Plainly now, the law that was intended to encourage independent voting, has had the effect of keeping a considerable number of the voters in ignorance as to the character or qualifications of the majority of the candidates. A comparatively unknown man, no matter how able or well equipped for public service, can not get himself properly introduced to the public and keep within the limit of the law which specifies how much he can spend in carrying on his canvass for votes. We do not think that this was the original or the present intent of the law.

One of the oddities of the law as it stands is that it rigidly limits the amount that may be expended in newspaper advertising, but allows any sum for posters, cards, circulars or the like. It is not easy to think that the newspaper was deliberately discriminated against. Yet under the law the best possible medium for getting information to the people is forbidden the candidate after he has reached a certain point.

Other features of the law deserve consideration. The whole statute should be carefully overhauled. Every possible safeguard against corruption should be preserved, but the way should be made open to the honest, sincere man who is seeking public office. He should have every opportunity to make himself and his cause known to the voters.

Under such a law it might be that many good and worthy citizens could be induced to enter public service who are now deterred because they are not widely enough acquainted throughout the state. It might also have the effect of discouraging some who thrive because by years of persistent self-advertising they have builded up names that overshadow because of being better known some that deserve more because of being more worthy.

At all events, the people are entitled to know all, and under the existing law they can not be told all.

COMMONER TAKES A FRESH START.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan has, we are told, made application for membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A ribald scoffer suggests this denotes his surrender to evolution and to Darwin. Far from that. Evolution, maybe, Darwin, never. We can understand Mr. Bryan accepting the dogma of growth, which is but another way of spelling evolution. As to the doctrine that men sprang from monkeys, the Great Commoner will no more assent to that than did Darwin himself.

On the other hand, the term "science" is broad and inclusive. Mr. Bryan will find the American association busy on lots of things besides biology. He may even contribute to the general sum of its activities. Out of the depth of his long and varied experience he surely can evolve something that will interest his fellow savants. What is hard to conceive is a picture of Mr. Bryan as a student, cloistered and serene, pursuing to its lair some elusive fact.

He has been too much engaged in the preparation and dissemination of facts of his own to pay any heed to what others were doing or saying. Yet, now, in the cool evening of a somewhat tumultuous life, he may sit down to ruminative rest. It should be a pleasure to him to co-ordinate and catalogue a lot of the odds and ends of knowledge he has gathered up as he hurried along his way from one paramount to another. Out of these he should express an altar of wisdom both sweet and fragrant.

If, indeed, the Great Commoner is making a fresh start, a world will wish him well. He will find in the orderly pursuit of any branch of science,

even that of politics, something that has been denied him so far in life. A calm, dispassionate pursuit of truth will fill his mature life with a solace that should take the hurt out of any sting he may have sustained in the arena where he has so valiantly battled. Philosopher Bryan that may be, salutamis!

LAKE-TO-OCEAN BOTH WAYS.

Twenty-eight experts, constituting the board of inquiry, have approved the plan to allow Chicago additional water from Lake Michigan. Much debate has been in progress for years over this matter. All the way from Milwaukee to Buffalo a protest has gone up, and even Toronto has joined in the chorus of disapproval. It is contended that to allow Chicago 10,000 cubic feet of water per second in addition to that already being withdrawn will interfere with the ports at other lake shipping points, and generally with navigation.

The experts say that the estimated lowering of the lake level by five inches for the object contemplated will be slight when compared with the three to five feet loss incident to natural causes. A gain will be scored, because it will aid navigation in the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. The water in the Niagara and St. Lawrence rivers will not be affected for years. An inference warranted by this latter statement is that the new \$125,000,000 sewerage system of Chicago will be beneficial to a lot of folks not directly affected by its prime object.

Already shipments are being made down the Mississippi river to tidewater. Some have come up the river, and with the Illinois-Chicago canal made of greater capacity, this traffic may also be expanded. Work on the preliminaries of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence project is going ahead steadily, and the ultimate outcome of all this should be the establishment of two feasible routes from the lakes to the ocean.

River men are urging the provision of funds to make the upper reaches of the Missouri serviceable to commerce. It is no longer a dream beyond reason to picture a network of waterways that will serve the great interior valley from the Rockies to the Alleghenies. Persistent, patient plugging along right lines is bound to bring the reward.

HOW CAN THE PROFESSOR TELL?

The president of Colgate university calls attention to his institution by declaring in favor of an aristocracy of learning. He would have a selective process established, whereby only those capable of absorbing an education be permitted to approach the fount of learning. Too many young people are now cluttering up the campus to suit him. All over the land schools are crowded, class and lecture rooms are packed, laboratories and libraries are inadequate, all because so many young men and women are seeking to know the beauties of higher education.

We will not contend against the professor's argument that a great many of these young people will not receive much benefit from a course at a university. All will get some. One of the most helplessly inefficient men ever connected with a Nebraska school had a "Ph. D." from a great university. Thomas A. Edison was a trainboy and then a telegraph operator at a time when most boys are going through college. Education did not help the one, nor lack of it hold down the other.

How will the professor go about to make his selections? He knows, or should know, how uncertain the Binet or other of the tests applied by the psychiatrists have proven. To mention a few—would he have looked with favor on Charles P. Steinmetz, when he first set out to scale the heights of learning? Ulysses S. Grant was not distinguished for class work, nor was John J. Pershing. Colgate may go ahead, carefully choosing the material from which to make scholars. It may turn out prodigies of learning as well as of prowess on the athletic field. No limit should be set on that, even though the faculty does restrict the number of undergraduates in residence at any given time. But somewhere doors always will be open to the inquirer, even though he be of the poorest possible material, and doomed to flunk from the first. He will at least get his chance.

The notable increase in the total of our exports during the month of November ought to impress some who so loudly cried about the United States having lost its foreign trade. Half a billion dollars in shipments for a single month would look good anywhere.

Despite the absence of snow President Coolidge tried out a new pair of skis on Christmas day. By dint of practice he hopes to be able to hop over a lot of congressional bloc obstructions between now and March 4.

Ice harvest takes the place of building operations in the normal progression of winter's programs. We hope it is soon over, that the builders may get back on the job.

Wreckers tearing down an old courthouse in New York state discovered a bottle of 100-year-old Scotch whisky. There are no courthouses in Nebraska that old.

The cross-word puzzle has no terrors for the man who at the first try can make out his income tax report in a satisfactory manner.

One of the easiest things in the world is hanging onto your own money and criticizing the way other men employ their money.

Boy Scouts to guard the coasting areas is adding another bit of service to a group that has made good in many ways.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

THE SCHOOL OF EXPERIENCE.

The surest way in which to find
Just which is what and why
Is to pursue experience
With vengeance in your eye.
There isn't any reason for
One's wisdom being great,
Unless it is the reason
That Time makes one meditate.
One need not take advice from those
Whom he would like to spurn;
He may go living as he will,
And later sadly learn;
One may not need the guidance of
His elders, but he may
Expect to know how wise they were
When he has gone astray.
The greatest school is probably
Experience—it gives
A practical cognizance
Through the many years one lives—
And he who is a scholar
Till life's day is growing late
Is generally much wiser
Than the pink cheeked dandy

Confound It, Why Didn't We Spend That for Police Service?



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.

Nebraska's Primary Law.
Wausa, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee:—The Nebraska primary law in its present form is a farce. Nobody likes it except some politicians. And yet, whenever a proposition to change it comes up people holler that the corporations and special interests are scheming to take away from them their right to choose their own candidates for office. Why, bless you, under our present primary law the people have no voice at all in choosing candidates. All they can do is to go to the primary and vote for some one who has already nominated himself and paid to have his own name printed on the ballot. That is the big reason why people do not get out to the primary and vote—they have no voice in choosing the candidates. But politicians and special interests can file the names of their secret agents as candidates, and have them printed on the ballots, and all the people of the state combined cannot hinder them. Yes, it is much easier for a political boss or demagogue to induce two or three of his henchmen to file for an office or to buy a candidate than to buy half a convention. Under our present primary system very often many of the candidates are mere political leeches without any party affiliation or principle at all, who fasten themselves by means of the filing privilege to the party ticket they believe will be successful at the polls.

There are many public spirited men and women who would make splendid officials, but who will not themselves file for office because they are holding good positions, and to take a political office would mean a sacrifice on their part. But they would be more than willing to make the sacrifice if they were chosen by the direct representatives of the people at large. There are many ways in which the primary law can be vastly improved. It cannot be changed so as to take away from the people their power to choose their own candidates, because they have not that power now. Here is a plan by which the electors can take the whole nominating power into their own hands:
1. A primary is held by each party in each precinct or ward. The electors at the primary elect delegates to the county convention. The number of delegates shall be one at large and one for each 10 electors attending and voting at the primary.
2. The county convention nominates candidates for county officers and elects delegates to the state and district conventions. The number of these delegates shall be one at large and one for each 20 delegates attending and voting at the county convention.

While I "am a golfer" I want to point out a thing in which our election law is decidedly lame. Probably 90 per cent of the voters go to the polling place without knowing who are candidates for half of the offices to be filled. They find half a dozen sample ballots nailed up on the walls of the polling room, but they cannot, by merely glancing over these, qualify themselves to cast an intelligent ballot. Why not require a sample ballot of the same form as the official one but reduced in size to be published in one issue of every newspaper of general circulation in the state not less than three nor more than 10 days before election?
The people will not kick about the expense of such publication, as it will be true service to the electorate.
J. E. BAGGSTROM.

RADIANT COAL

Smokeless Semi-Anthracite
LUMP \$13.50 MINE RUN \$11.50 SLACK \$8.50
Phone WA lant 0300

UPDIKE LUMBER & COAL CO.

See Samples of This Coal at Hayden's Grocery Dept.

DO YOU GET UP WITH A LAME BACK?

Have You Rheumatism, Kidney, Liver or Bladder Trouble?

Pain or dull ache in the back is often evidence of kidney trouble. It is Nature's timely warning to show you that the track of health is not clear.

Danger Signals.
If these danger signals are unheeded more serious results are sure to follow; kidney trouble in its worst form may steal upon you.

Thousands of people have testified that the mild and immediate effect of Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder medicine is soon realized—that it stands the highest for its remarkable curative effect in the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine, you should have the best.

Lame Back.
Lame back is only one of many symptoms of kidney trouble. Other symptoms showing that you may need Swamp-Root are, being subject to embarrassing and frequent bladder troubles day and night, irritation, sediment, etc.

Lack of control, smarting, uric acid rheumatism, bloating, may be loss of flesh, sallow complexion.

Prevalency of Kidney Disease.
Most people do not realize the alarming increase and remarkable prevalence of kidney disease. While kidney disorders are among the most common diseases that prevail, they are often the last recognized by patients, who content themselves with doctoring the effects, while the original disease constantly undermines the system.

Regular medium and large size bottles at all drug stores.

Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., which you will find on every bottle.

SPECIAL NOTE.—You may obtain a sample size bottle of Swamp-Root by enclosing ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. This gives you the opportunity to prove the remarkable merit of this medicine. They will also send you a book of valuable information, containing many of the thousands of grateful letters received from men and women who say they found Swamp-Root to be just the remedy needed in kidney, liver and bladder troubles. The value and success of Swamp-Root are so well known that our readers are advised to send for a sample size bottle. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing be sure and mention this paper.

SUNNY SIDE UP

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

Ole Buck renders thanks to Hank Leggett for an annual contribution of Ole's favorite smoking tobacco. It must be good, for Hank had us secure three or four pounds of mullen-stalk for him the last time we were down in Missouri. He said he wanted to blend it with some Nebraska burdock leaves and sandburrs preparatory to making Ole feel good.

Coming Throux.
A frisky young buck from the Sioux
An Indian maid tried to wioxx.
But her father, the brute,
Tried to shutte the galute.
Said the Sioux, "I am throux." And he floxx.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

But a little bit later the Sioux
Took courage and said, O Ploux, ploux!
I'll elope with the maid
To some beautiful glade
And continue to make eyes gloxx, gloxx.
—Macon Telegraph.

And later, we're told that the Sioux
Sat down in aness of fresh gloxx.
And when he got a chance
To look at his pance
He found he had torn them in thioxx.
—Houston (Tex.) Dispatch.

Then a war whoop went up from the Sioux.
And he cried out: "Now what'll I doxx?"
He sat and he thought,
Then blanzets he bought:
Then said: "With the city I'm throux."
—Hastings (Neb.) Tribune.

When colyxmists feel sad and blioxx,
And scarcely know what they shall doxx,
They clip out this verse
And write one that is wese,
And then their day's tolling is thioxx.

Next week we expect to mingle to a greater or lesser extent with the legislators-to-be down Lincoln way. This announcement is made to avoid the embarrassment of being mistaken for one of the prospective lawmakers. We have postponed being a candidate for the legislature until we have completed the List of Laws We Want to Pass. It is a bigger job than we thought it was when we started compiling the Laws Greatly Needed, and pestiferous reformers are daily adding to the list.

Several hundred friends guessed the missing word in our recent "Missing Word" contest, and two or three supplied it. We hope this paragraph meets the eagle eye of O. J. Hyde Sweet of the Nebraska City Press.

After sitting and suffering for an hour we are prepared to say that some dynamite fails to explode, and some lightning doesn't produce even a slight disturbance of the atmosphere.

The pipe business doesn't seem to be what it used to be. The cigaret seems to have slowed up the pipe game. But what old smoker would trade his favorite pipe and brand of tobacco for all the cigarets in the world?

Discussion raging about city editor's desk. Is a deceased husband survived by his wife or his widow? Surviving party not heard and deceased party not interested.

What is there funny about the spectacle of a rotund man slipping on a glare of ice and sprawling all over the surrounding territory? If you see a horse slip and fall your sympathy is at once aroused. But if you see a man fall you chortle with glee. Why the difference?
WILL M. MAUPIN.

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

BEE WANT ADS BRING RESULTS.

Every Cold Is Dangerous—Begin Taking Father John's Medicine at once No Dangerous Drugs

Cheerio! the New Year

The New Year ushers in a promise of the greatest era of prosperity we have known in many years; a re-newed confidence born of untiring effort and experience.

1925 will bring rewards to those who express their confidence in American business by continuous, constructive advertising. To give beauty, charm, and sales value to advertising through clean, sharp "cuts" is the mission of this department.

Phone AT lantic 1000

ENGRAVING DEPARTMENT

OMAHA BEE

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