

Smoke Evil Is Discussed by Leaders Here

Conference of Engineers, Civic Bodies, Coal Dealers Needed to Take Definite Action.

By SANFORD JARRELL.

Stirred up by the campaign conducted by The Omaha Bee, there is a healthy movement under way in Omaha for calling a conference on smoke abatement.

Such a conference of all persons intimately concerned—boiler plant owners, civic bodies, coal men, etc.—might lead to decisive action which would eventually abolish a nuisance which is universally regarded as a serious detriment to the city beautiful program for 1925.

A friendly discussion of the problem, it is believed, will go a long way in mitigating the evil. Every boiler engineer in Omaha admits that boiler men have temperaments, just as opera singers, and that each one must be cured in a manner all its own.

Property Owners Must Help.

The clouds of soot which darken the downtown business section can be eliminated only with the support of the property owners. The situation is not unlike that in Chicago, of which the smoke prevention department of that city says:

"The best way to handle the smoke problem is to have a strong backing of business men and to create a strong public sentiment in favor of smoke abatement, together with the cooperation of all plant owners. If the business and commercial interests do not support a smoke abatement campaign, little can be done, because the business interests are the ones who must spend the money and effort necessary to get the desired results."

Smoke Consumer No Cure-All

"The popular conception of a 'smoke consumer' is some sort of device that can be attached to boiler furnaces to consume smoke or in some manner eliminate it. There is no device or apparatus that can be applied indiscriminately to all furnaces as a cure for smoke. There are many articles on the market for which such claims are made, but it is a great blunder to recommend one medicine for all diseases of the smoke variety. Each smoky plant must be diagnosed and the proper treatment given it."

"Smoke prevention is a complex subject and smoke abatement devices can not be bought indiscriminately and attached to a boiler plant with any assurance of getting the desired results, unless the installation has received careful consideration by an unbiased engineer qualified to pass judgment."

Big Job Ahead.

It can readily be seen that Omaha's soot nuisance is not one that will vanish in thin air by the waving of a magic wand. It will take time, but what is more essential, co-operation is necessary before the nuisance is abated.

In some cases where volatile matter pours out of the chimneys in great volume, the remedy lies in burning smokeless coals. In other cases appliances may be fixed to the plant which will have the same result. Poor stoking is also held as one of the causes of the sooty atmosphere in downtown Omaha.

Sometimes the smoke is caused by throwing large masses of fresh fuel on top of the fire, cooling down the fire where a higher temperature is required. The products of distillation of fresh fuel do not get properly mixed with air until drawn up the chimney. Cold air, sucked up through the fire, cools it and carries out heat from where it is wanted.

Coal Contains Waste.

Coal is comprised of a small percentage of moisture and ash, a larger measure of volatile matter, a bit of sulphur and a varying quantity of carbon. Ash is an inorganic matter of no value as fuel. Carbon is the chief heat-producing constituent of coal. Volatile matter is, strictly speaking, that part of coal drawn off as a combustible gas when the fuel is heated.

If the plant owners of Omaha get their heads together around the conference table they will discuss all these things and it is quite possible that they will hit upon a solution of the problem.

BOYS LOSE GIFTS WHILE COASTING

Two small boys at the Nebraska children's home, 3549 Fontenelle boulevard, are broken-hearted because they have lost their Christmas presents.

The boys at the home don't get any presents, so they were in the seventh heaven of delight at Christmas when the Lions' club gave each of them a watch. Two of them, Murray Putnam, 11, and Earl Cox, 12, took the watches with them Thursday afternoon when they went coasting. The watches dropped out of their pockets and were lost.

WIFE'S BLACK EYE USED AS EVIDENCE

When Agnes L. Walker appeared in domestic relations court December 19 to secure a divorce from her husband, Frank, she offered in evidence a black eye supposed to have been given her by her husband on January 23.

She showed Judge Day the bruise which still dimly encircled the optic. She charged her husband with cruelty and testified that he threatened her with a revolver.

Judge Day granted her petition for divorce Friday.

MORE RABBITS

The Omaha chapter, American Red Cross, Friday distributed, gratis, 174 freshly killed rabbits, which were sent to the Omaha chapter for distribution by A. B. Persinger, treasurer of the Lodge Pole, Nebraska Red Cross. They were sent to Omaha free of freight through the courtesy of Mr. C. J. Lane, general freight agent of the Union Pacific railroad.

AT THE THEATERS

"How did I happen to produce 'Sancho Panza' because I happened to be in London three years ago and read a review of the piece as produced in Budapest, the home of its author, Melchior Lengyel, and I immediately telegraphed for the manuscript—had it translated—and bought it at once."

So spoke Russell Janney, producer of the new Skinner spectacular play that closes its Omaha engagement at the Brandeis with the two performances today, matinee and night with Mr. Otto Skinner as the star.

"I knew very little about Don Quixote when I first read the piece," continued Mr. Janney. "I did read it through at once, however, after finding this play, and I regretted that I hadn't discovered it before. For happiness, for philosophy, for just plain entertainment, I recommend 'Cervantes' 'Don Quixote de la Mancha' to you. If you want a short cut, go to it, come and see Mr. Skinner. You will go home and read it then surely, to learn more about two of the biggest, most human characters in all literature—the windmill-charging Don and the rotund Sancho."

"Spooks," sensational mystery play, is the offering at the Empress starting today. All song numbers during this play will be given between acts so as not to interfere with the action of the story. The mystery is not solved until the very last moment so the theater management requests that its patrons be seated at the beginning of the play in order to enjoy the performance at its best.

"Flashes of Melody and Dance," with cast of five, and Harvard, Winifred and Bruce in a sensational novelty along new lines are the twin headliners of the six-act vaudeville bill opening at the World today. The bill is one that will provide much laughable entertainment and promises to prove exceedingly popular.

Foster and Peggy at the Orpheum this week present an original and decided novelty. "Peggy" is a highly intellectual dog. A bell apparatus is utilized, the dog striking the bell to register numbers, etc. For instance, when Foster goes into the audience and asks Peggy to indicate how many rows from the stage is a given seat, etc., the dog unfailingly gives the exact number on the bell. Peggy also assists Foster in playing a tune on a set of bells—Foster playing the hand bells and Peggy getting in on the melody. The climax of the act is when Peggy plays with the orchestra—she leads the time and the orchestra accompanies.

Grace Leon, the charming prima donna with "Talk of the Town" at the Gayety, is adding to her wardrobe while here and speaks in high praise of the local shops. One particularly striking outfit which Miss Leon is wearing and which she purchased here is a white crepe de chine dress with plaited skirt and a brilliant orange jacket. This she wears with an orange-colored sport hat and tan sandals with white hose. Her stay at the Gayety terminates tonight.

Fun, fast and furious, and a scenic equipment above the average, are outstanding features of Brandell & Travers' "Best Show in Town," at the Gayety starting tomorrow matinee. Frank Hunter, star comedian of the show, has also staged it. A well balanced cast headed by Mr. Hunter includes Walter (Boob) McManus, Inez de Verdier, Rosa Bernard, Mae Percival, Lydia Harris, Nancy Martin, the Six Sunshower Girls, George Mack and Harry Kilby. Featured among the special settings are one showing a bungalow being constructed by the girls of the chorus and another picturing a mammoth purse from which issue the girls in gorgeous costumes.

MATE LURES HER WHEN OUT OF JOB

Two days after Clara and Harry J. Holmes were married on March 16, 1920, Harry left home and did not return for a month, the wife testified in domestic relations court Friday morning.

Then he came back and stayed three days before going to Michigan, she said. Later he wrote her and told her he was earning \$1,000 a month and asked her to sell out her rooming house and come to him.

This she did, Mrs. Holmes declared, but found when she joined her husband that he was out of a job. She testified that he frequently asked her for money and cursed her when she refused to grant his demands.

Relatives Sought.

Relatives of David Fvard, 62, laborer, who died Thursday at Douglas county hospital of dropsy, are being sought. Fvard entered the hospital in October and gave his address at 2609 North Thirtieth street. He had been a resident of Omaha for 32 years. He is survived by two nephews, Ernest and Arthur Fvard. The body is at the Stack funeral home.

Shoots Average 305 Pounds.

Red Oak, Ia., Jan. 2.—Steve Sandholm, a farmer residing northeast of Red Oak, recently sold 34 head of spring shoots to Alex Sandell which averaged 305 pounds. They were farrowed between March 20 and April 1.

Two Nebraska Couples Got First Licenses to Wed in Council Bluffs

Walter F. O'Neil, 24, and Ann Tourak, 21, both of Omaha, were the first couple to obtain a marriage license in Council Bluffs in 1925. A few minutes after they had taken it out Thursday morning a license was issued to Thomas H. McHaley, 21, of Grand Island, Neb., and Pansy L. McKenney, 21, of Peru, Neb.

A count of the marriage licenses issued during 1924 showed an increase from 2,455 in 1923 to 3,862 in 1924. Marriage license bureau officials attribute most of this increase to the Nebraska law, which went into effect in August, 1923, requiring advance notice before the issuance of licenses in Nebraska.

Townsend, Dry Head, to Chicago

Move Launched Here to Make Robert P. Samardick Divisional Chief.

Robert P. Samardick, general prohibition agent and Nemesis of Omaha bootleggers, may leave Omaha.

After learning officially that Capt. A. C. Townsend, divisional chief, with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn., had been transferred to Chicago, Samardick's friends got busy and started a boom to have him promoted to Townsend's job that carries a bigger salary and authority in five states.

Maurice D. Silverman, mobile agent, who was instrumental in procuring the conviction and padlocking of dozens of Omaha soft drink parlors and the Dublin Inn three years ago, is made temporary chief.



Capt. A. C. Townsend.

Townsend, former Omaha boy, has been active in liquor enforcement for several years. He was active in arresting dozens of rum-running ships while assigned to the east coast.

Samardick stated that Townsend's transfer was not a surprise because divisional chiefs are usually changed. "Of course, the job is a bigger one and more money, but still I am very well satisfied," said Samardick. "No doubt there are a lot of people here that would like to see me go." He wouldn't deny that his friends were boosting him for the job.

VET, AUXILIARY INSTALLATION

Officers of Lee Forby camp No. 1, Spanish War Veterans, will be installed at Swedish auditorium Saturday, and at the same affair ladies of the auxiliary will install their officers.

Alfred Aldren will be installed as commander; Carl A. Anderson as senior vice commander; Charles Walker, jr., officer of the day; W. H. Woenner, officer of the guard; F. H. Bilger, trustee; Pat N. Burns, adjutant; Charles L. Cline, quartermaster; Walter E. Lane, chaplain; Bert Polly, patriotic instructor; E. J. Newton, historian; A. J. Russell, color sergeant; Frank Kohiert and Dewayne Sheppard, quartermaster sergeants; Robert Maroney, sergeant major; H. F. Rafensperger, chief musician.

STONE REMOVES U. S. ATTORNEY

Washington, Jan. 2.—Walter D. Van Ripper, the New Jersey assistant United States attorney who refused to resign at the demand of Attorney General Stone, was removed from office today.

Mr. Van Ripper's separation from the service is effective immediately, and was ordered by Mr. Stone within a few hours after he had received a letter from the outgoing assistant district attorney refusing to resign and attacking officials of the Department of Justice.

Wife Threatened Suicide.

The married life of Elizabeth and James A. Rogers, railway mail clerk, lasted but two months. During that time, Rogers testified in divorce court, she constantly nagged him and threatened to kill herself if he did not take her back to her home in Pennsylvania to live.

At the end of two months she left him, he declares.

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