

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

GO OUT AND GET THEM ALL.

No shortsighted policy should be allowed to stand in the way of Omaha's growth. If this community ever takes on the garments of a real city it must do it as a leader among the commercial and industrial communities of the world. To accomplish that every possible obstacle of personal or selfish interest must be removed. All hands must pull together for the good of all.

News dispatches advise that there will shortly be offered to Omaha a chance to get a branch of the great mail order house of Sears, Roebuck & Co. of Chicago. This firm is looking for a location through which its business may be extended. Kansas City is bidding for the site.

If news dispatches are correct, Omaha has a chance to secure it. Such an institution will be a real value to the city. If it is the means of bringing no other benefit, it will have the effect of extending the local retail trade.

Arguments that a mail order house is a detriment, because of its interference with the retail trade of interior communities rest on too narrow a foundation. These houses have existed for many years. They have developed enormous traffic. Yet country stores have gone on about the same as ever. We must keep in mind the fact that Sears, Roebuck & Co. will continue to operate whether the new extensions are made or not. We must keep in mind, too, that it will continue to trade in Nebraska, whether the branch is located in Kansas City or Omaha.

The more retail establishments a market center has, the greater the chance for profitable trading by the customer. Omaha will thrive just as it offers inducements to people to come here to buy as well as to sell. It is one of the great primary grain markets of the world. It is the second livestock market. It is a manufacturing and jobbing center of importance. Why not make it also a really great retail town?

This is not said in disparagement of the stores already here. The city has many splendid emporiums, where the richest offerings of the world are presented to customers. Our retail merchants are enterprising, and fully abreast the times. They welcome any who will come. A chance to bring an institution whose business runs into the millions each year does not come every day. It ought to be seized when offered. If Omaha is going to be really great, the rule should be, Go out and get them all. The slogan for Omaha in 1925 is, Greater Nebraska—Straight Ahead.

MORTGAGE ON THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

One little bit of time-honored romance cannot be put on in Nebraska. The daughter of the household may be turned out into the winter night for marrying an actor, but the prodigal son cannot gallop up just in time to prevent the old folks from being dispossessed through foreclosure of the mortgage. Because, "there ain't no such animal."

More than one-half the farms in Nebraska, 52 per cent to be exact, were unburdened by mortgage at the close of the year. Of the other 48 per cent, the incumbrance is so slight as average less than half the actual value of the property. The debt ranges from 30 to 60 per cent of the total valuation.

Secretary J. H. Roper of the Federal Farm Loan association of Dodge county paints this picture: "The combined value of wheat and corn crops alone will be approximately \$275,000,000 or an average of \$2,000 for every farm in the state. Add the other crops, oats, rye, barley, sugar beets, hay, potatoes, fruit and vegetables with their combined value of about \$200,000,000. Then add \$250,000,000 more for cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry and dairy products. The total value of all the agricultural products for Nebraska this year, statisticians tell us, will be nearly \$750,000,000 or an average of over \$5,700 per farm."

And the farmer is sitting pretty, all prepared for another season of productive effort. Nebraska is prosperous, because its farmers are industrious, thrifty, farsighted. That is the whole story.

PITTSBURGH-PLUS IN TAXATION.

An experiment that will interest the whole country is being tried out in Pittsburgh. It practically amounts to the application of the Henry George theory of single tax. Instead of assessing land and buildings as a unit, the values are separated. The rate of taxation on buildings is only half that resting on the land. No tax is laid on stocks of goods or personal belongings of any sort. Presumably, the law has worked satisfactorily, for it is now proposed to adopt a rule whereunder the tax laid on the buildings will be but 1 per cent of that put on the land.

Some question is raised as to the working out of this plan. In St. Paul, for example, where a careful inquiry has been made by the Dispatch, it is found that the rule will generally tend to increase the combined valuation of the land and building.

The editor of that paper shows that, whereas the present valuation of buildings is in round numbers, \$200,000,000, and of land alone \$134,000,000, under the Pittsburgh plan buildings would be reduced to \$100,000,000 and that of land increased to \$234,000,000. In a downtown business ward the rule would produce a net increase of \$28,000,000, or 40 per cent in valuation. Such an increase, the Dispatch editor contends, would put a burden on the business of the community that could only be met by a rise in selling price of commodities or a reduction in wages. Either would be disastrous. On the other hand, the plan would produce a slight reduction in the amount of taxes paid by the home owners.

A comparison for Omaha would be interesting. Whatever it might show, it would be a contribution to the never-ending debate over taxes. The search for some painless method of taking money away from those who have it to be used to defray expenses of the government has not been ended. Maybe the "Pittsburgh-plus" plan has in it something that deserves study.

EVERYBODY IN ON THIS.

Several weeks of unfavorable weather have driven many of the automobile users to riding on the tram cars. These have been edited, or at least have had the opportunity for being edited, by numerous posters displayed by the Omaha Council of Safety. All of these posters bear impressive warnings, the text supported by appropriate pictures. Even the most casual can not fail to get some suggestion from them.

One that seems most timely of all carries this: "Play Fair With Traffic. Await your turn." No other phase of the complicated traffic problem is more general than this. Not a jam at a street crossing but some ambitious driver gets out of line, hoping to and generally succeeding in getting ahead of everybody else. Not a crowd waits for the coming street car but notes a struggle on part of somebody to get aboard first. At the elevator, someone struggles to get into the car ahead of everybody in line. An impetuous person will rush wildly through a revolving door, and then stand on the sidewalk and look up and down street long enough to waste several times the amount of time he gained by running over other people whose right to go through the door was equal to his and who were there before he was.

Await your turn. It will not take very long, and will show a decent regard for the rights of others. Of course, your time is valuable, but so is that of other people. And more time is wasted in traffic jams because some deluded mortal tries to beat all the rest to the opening than would have been lost had the whole procession moved in order. Think of the other fellow once in a while. No matter how urgent your mission, it does not warrant the disregard of others who may be bent on business just as important.

SPORT, OR JUST BUSINESS?

A so-called national association of prize fight impresarios tells a gasping world it will not recognize any titles awarded by the New York state boxing commission. A boxer may be a champion in New York, but he will just be a name on the program anywhere else. Not that we care so much as three whoops at the North Pole, but who is going to determine the championship?

Once there was a rule by which this matter was easily settled. The holder of the honor faced in the ring the man who coveted the crown. The one who came out was champion. Simplicity. No argument or contention, no letter writing, berating of crossed referees, or prejudiced commissioners. Nor did the champion in those good old days live long. He was not permitted to choose his "set ups." A challenger appeared, and the contest followed, as soon as such arrangements could be made as would permit the meeting without interference from police authorities.

Nowadays, more palaver is required to get a champion into the ring than might end a world war. After he gets in, few can tell just what happened. We get referee's decisions, newspaper decisions, and no decisions. About the only thing that has not been tried is a general referendum. A boxer may be the champion in one part of the land, and a nit in another.

The business men who are handling the money end of the game are growing more grasping than shrewd. If they awake to their own interests, they would try to adjust their affairs so the public would be able to know what it is getting when it buys a ticket to see a "championship" melee. Otherwise, the day is not so far off when organized boxing will cease to be regarded as a sport, and be forced to take its place among the business enterprises of the land. Then it will land just about where professional wrestling now lies, flat on its back.

Producer Brady says the radio now menaces the theater. All right. Now let the theater get back to its proper sphere, and it need not fear radio or anything else.

Among others who will be missed at the opening of the session will be Squatter Governor Pearson and Joe Burns. Used to be that a Nebraska legislature could not run without one of these.

Four more Ohio men have demonstrated that it is disastrous to tie a locomotive in a race for a crossing. But this will not keep others from trying.

Attorney General Stone is showing the boys that when he asks for a resignation, he means for an officeholder to get out.

Four thousand persons actually attended the Coolidge New Year's reception, but 110,000,000 wished them the best of luck.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Post—
Robert Worthington Davis

TWO QUEENS.

Two Queens there were in days of old—
One with brocade of gems and gold,—
And one a common woman who
Rocked babies to sleep, and lived her life
As many, many mothers do.
Each who is just a poor man's wife.

Two Queens there were, as I have said,—
And one of them has long been dead.
The other one will live until
The last rose sadly withered lies,
While Space replaces vale and hill,
And every living object dies.

She who was Queen of greater Isles
Than Power and Wealth and Grand Styles
Is Queen of Virtue, and she reigns
Through the innumerable spans of life—
The royal blood of peasant veins
Makes her the Queens—a poor man's wife.

Admirable days have passed:
The hands of toil deserve renown,
And in a calyx there is cast
The regal richness of the crown.

Two Can Play at That Game



I SAID—ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME TO TALK OVER THE LITTLE MATTER OF YOUR DEBT?

WHY NO I CAN'T SAY THAT I'D NOTICED THE SEASON WAS PARTICULARLY WET. ON THE CONTRARY I WAS THINKING THE WEATHER WAS UNUSUALLY FINE.



THINK OF THAT! WELL NOW I AM SURPRISED I ALWAYS THOUGHT WATER-MELLONS GREW ON PUMPKIN VINES.

HOW ABOUT LOANING A LITTLE MORE MONEY, SAY ABOUT TWO OR THREE HUNDRED MILLION?

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.

Fight for the Amendment.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It appears that the enemies of the child labor amendment will win by default of its friends. Such apathy upon the part of the well-wishers shows a decided lack of understanding of the meaning, or of the importance, of the amendment, and the forces contending against its ratification.

I happen to have "A Description of the Evils of Child Labor" (Congressional Record, Volume 41, Part 2, page 1553) before the senate, January 23, 1917. This may be considered old, but the struggle against the damnable system that coils the blood of infants into profits is far older than that. Our Puritan fathers, a hundred years ago, lamented the sight of young people, 8 and 9 years of age, gambling on the green instead of being usefully employed in the factories. Yes, the struggle is old and shows that in America we move slowly, very slowly, when profits are endangered.

This senate report showed 1,500,178 children, 10 to 15 years of age, were employed as breadwinners in 1909. One out of every four boys, and one out of every five girls, of that age in the United States. This does not tell the whole story, for many were not reported in the census, while those of 5, 6 and 7 had their age misrepresented. Breaker boys at the coal mines, 12 to 14 years of age, worked 14 hours a day for 60 cents. Some mines worked nine hours, with 20 minutes off for lunch. The torture undergone by these children was really indescribable.

The textile mills are always the worst offenders against the children. Little tots of 6 and 7 are employed for 9 and 10 hours a day—exhausting their bodies, stunting their growth and swelling the percentage of illiterates. Some textile mills work night shift, the report says, "and the little children are called on to endure the strain of all-night work, and are sometimes kept awake by the vigilant superintendent with cold water dash ed into their faces." One little fellow, 6 years of age, had worked nights for a year. In answer to a query, the child said he could hardly sleep in the daytime. This is in America, the land of the free-thinking profiteers.

Who is responsible for this? A silk mill owner says: "I deplore this business (silk) industry in a race for a crossing, and so long as the system exists I must run my mills as other mills are run." The mill owners say: "There you have it!"

Abe Martin



Th' ole-time brilliant-hued, sunrise-on-th'-coast of Mexico Christmas neckties we used 't throw away wuz right in style this year, which helped once. 'Bout th' only time a marriage hain't lapsed is when the ole movie 'ar marries another. (Copyright, 1924.)

cannot or will not abolish child labor, the individual state would cripple its industries if acting alone. The attempt to penalize child labor with a tax failed because it was discriminatory. It is a national, federal question—social and economical. The strength of the children is being sapped, their life blasted and body broken, and the future of the race imperilled mentally and physically, because these 48 state governments, afraid of each other, and who are dominated over by numerous groups of child labor exploiters and their stockholders and retainers. One senator said at this investigation: "If they were our children, we should forget lunch and not sit up nights contriving arguments to show that the constitution won't let us rescue them."

Just two more short items from this report: "In one mill site in the south a doctor told a friend that he had personally amputated more than 100 babies' fingers mangled in the mill." "Child labor has increased beyond all proportion to labor of men and women, and while dividends average 35 per cent, and sometimes rise as high as 80 or 90 per cent, (this in 1900, that is under?) the average wage is steadily dropping."

Only through the ratification of the child labor amendment can congress be enabled to curtail this horrible traffic by the enactment of a law, applicable to the entire nation and with no discrimination against any state or group of states, regulating the labor of children under 18 years of age. The amendment will merely give congress power to do this—we will still have to carry on the struggle for the protection of the child.

In spite of all misrepresentations to the contrary, the child labor amendment will not prohibit children doing chores around the house or on the farm, nor of selling papers and doing other after-school tasks in the city.

Fight for the ratification of the amendment. Abolish child labor and demand full maintenance of all poor children under 18 years of age by the state and nation.

The only animal that lives off its young is the human. Help raise America to the plane of civilization. DAVID COURTS, 206 Crouse block.

In Regard to Mr. Hanson.

Silver Creek, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Mr. J. F. Hanson raps the child labor bill. Being a rich land owner he no doubt made all his got off of child labor. Next he says, "The amendment will merely give congress power to do this—we will still have to carry on the struggle for the protection of the child." The amendment will merely give congress power to do this—we will still have to carry on the struggle for the protection of the child.

Again Jerry Protests.

Omaha.—To the Editor of the Omaha Bee: I entreat your indulgence for a few remarks on those hired propagandists who are sent to the United States by the spirit of imperialistic internationalism. Capt. Francis McCullagh of the English army arrived recently, and is one of the most active of British agents. He was born in Ireland and is a Catholic of the caliber of the Anglo-Saxon Irish group of pen-and-ink crusaders in America who spread English propaganda through a certain section of the press. Anglo-Saxonism is gradually penetrating the ranks of a large element of the American people of Irish extraction. Evidence of this fact is not far to seek. The appointment of Prof. Henry Jones Ford, Woodrow Wilson's successor at Princeton university, an American, as an ambassador to the Anglo-Saxon embassy, to be succeeded by Anglo-Saxon leaders, Dave

SUNNY SIDE UP

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

At Lincoln—Mingling with the members-elect of the legislature one gets a good cross section of Nebraska. Usually the political pot boils merrily while the legislators are gathering, but this time one hears little of politics and a lot about prosperity. We haven't heard a single word of woe since we came down here to look around and listen. On the contrary we hear nothing but good news—everybody happy and hopeful. And, do you know that helps a lot?

Heavy snows are reported from all sections of the state, and lots of snow means a big wheat crop next summer. It also means a good corn crop so far as early conditions are concerned. Stock feeders from the western part of the state are more hopeful than they have been for the last six years, and the sheep men are especially jubilant. The sheep men have made a "killing" this year.

One good feature, apparent from the start, is that there will be very little "ripper" legislation proposed during this session. Nobody seems to have a knife out for the big corporations, and the old pastime of introducing hold up or "come-on" bills went out of fashion several years ago. That used to be a fine game, and profitable. Some fellow would slip around and induce some new and inexperienced member to introduce a bill, innocent enough on its surface, but one that really meant trouble and expense to the railroads, or the telephone or the light and power men. Then the fellow would slip around and intimate that for a consideration he could have the bill suppressed in committee, or wait until it was reported out, and then promise to have it killed if there was enough in it to pay him for the trouble.

That sort of thing became a great game, but one day, George W. Holdrege rebelled. When approached with offers of help to kill certain vicious bills aimed at the railroads Holdrege said: "Not this time. We have made up our minds that it will be cheaper to obey the law than to have it killed." And that position proved so wise that the "come-on" bill business quickly died out. Now the railroad representatives engage quarrels, register as lobbyists, and depend upon argument and facts to protect their interests. Everything is done in the open. The same policy is pursued by other corporate interests. The railroads practically retired from politics as it used to be played when the railroad pass went out of existence.

The creation of the state board of control took a lot of heat out of politics because it took about 1,500 small political plums out of the game. Formerly the governor appointed all the heads of state institutions, and it was a wearisome and annoying task. Now the state board of control has absolute charge of all the state institutions, and there are mighty few changes made, and none unless for real cause or in case of vacancies created by death or resignation. The best feature of that law is that it means that the state institutions are run for the benefit of the state's wards, not for the plibbers.

Those timber braces in the east end of the old state house will be allowed to remain until the workmen get to work. Putting them in was a monumental bluff, pulled by the fellow who was promoting the new capitol. They were a powerful argument, too, in favor of an appropriation for a new state-house. When the old building looked as if it was going to fall down on the devoted heads of the lawmakers, it was easy to line 'em up for a new building. The old building would have outlasted the timber braces.

Old timers will remember that the dome of the statehouse used to be gilded with gold paint. It shone abroad in great shape. When the populists secured control they wouldn't stand for any gold foolishness, so the dome took on a silver polish. That was when Uncle Jake Wolfe, land commissioner, pastured sheep on the statehouse grounds, and Secretary of State "Bill" Porter butchered hogs in his back yard in defiance of city ordinance. That was th' good of days.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

The information that cold baths prolong life fails to interest the editor of the Sutton Register. He complains that long life only means more cold baths.

Fletcher Merwin of the Heavens City Times-Tribune claims that a cook in that town can fry anything but a soup bone and make a fruit salad out of anything but carrots. But can the aforesaid cook boil cabbage without the neighbors knowing it?

Carey Nevin has just completed a quarter of a century as editor and publisher of the Laurel Advocate, with profit to himself and even greater profit to his home town.

The Scotia Register man announces that the day is rapidly approaching when he will begin breaking his good resolutions.

If You Are Seeking HEALTH

Investigate Chiropractic. No matter what your disease may be, you can investigate with safety, as no qualified practitioner will accept a case he cannot help. Hours, 9 A. M. to 8 P. M. Members "Omaha Atlas Club"

THE THOMAS CHIROPRACTIC OFFICES

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For the Same Reason That the Wise Fellow Buys His Coal in the Summer

The supply is greater than the demand. Someone, of necessity must sell, there is a scarcity of buyers. Therefore someone gets a Real Bargain.

Read the real estate for sale ads every day until you choose your home.

Gargle Throat With Aspirin

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Prepare a harmless and effective gargle by dissolving two Bayer Tablets of Aspirin in four tablespoonfuls of water. Gargle throat thoroughly. Repeat in two hours if necessary.

Be sure you use only the genuine Bayer Tablets of Aspirin, marked with the Bayer Cross, which can be had in tin boxes of twelve tablets for few cents.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of October, 1924

W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

The OMAHA BEE

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