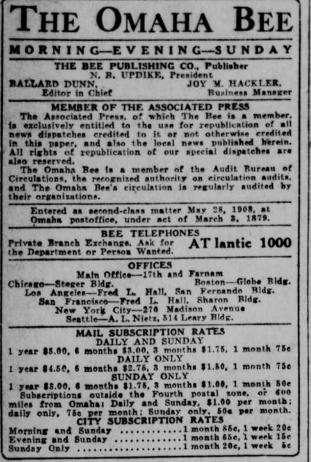
THE OMAHA BEE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1925.



Omaha-Where the West is at its Best

MORE LIGHT ON RATE QUESTION.

Hale Holden may be regarded as a representative of the great business of hauling people and things from one place to another in this country. His address in Omaha is so full of genuine merit, of arguments that appeal to reason rather than passion or prejudice it should be carefully studied by all who are giving any consideration to the problems of transportation.

For the moment only two of his statements will be considered. First, the matter of capital employed in the operation of the railroads. When the government turned the properties back to their owners after 27 months of federal control and operation, the physical plant had greatly deteriorated. Demands upon the railroads exceeded those of any peace time period. It was necessary to secure large sums of cash to provide for repairs, new equipment and other physical betterments. This money could not, except in a small way, be secured by the sale of new stock. It was borrowed, and at a high rate of interest. The railroads were compelled to greatly extend their indebtedness, and to do it at a greater cost than ever.

To meet this has been one of the greatest of managerial problems. Revenue must be had, and that can only come through collections for service rendered.

His second outstanding point is that railroad rates averaged but 37 per cent higher than in 1913. Farm prices are 56.4 per cent and wholesale prices 57 per cent higher than in 1913. This fact often escapes the mind of the critic of the rate schedules. Railroads have been compelled to resort to other methods for meeting the advancing costs than by relying solely on increase of rates.

Public service is more essential than cost of service. But the railroad managers have effected pnomies in operation. They have increased the efficiency of their organization and improved the uses of their plants. Railroad service is now furnished at a relatively lower charge than ever. On these points mainly Mr. Holden rests his case. They fairly represent the situation from the railroad man's point of view. His plea that the people do not permit selfish politicians to break down the transportation system is good. The companies should have a fair show. They should be nermitted to earn a reasonable income. Otherwise, the great business of hauling persons and things from here to there and back again in the United States will break down. In which event the public will lose more than the railroads.

a beautiful woman. She admits that she can not hope long to remain a screen favorite, for younger women are coming on, while she is doomed by the inexorable hand of fate to fade. "Children can compensate for the lost plaudits of the crowd," says the Marquise. "I may be a vamp on the screen, but I am a mother at heart."

So is every real woman a mother at heart. A pity it is that all such are not privileged to become mothers in fact. If in the fullness of time the Marquise De LaFalaise achieves her announced ambition, her triumphs on the silver screen will not be comparable to her triumphs as a wife and mother.

READ 'EM AND SMILE.

Wheat went above the \$2 mark at Chicago. As the news came over the wire we thought we heard the faint echo of the wail sent up last summer. Then the La Folletteites advised the farmer to sell his wheat as soon as he could. The price would go down as soon as Coolidge was elected. It was only being boosted by republican plotters. All the big interests had pooled to give a fictitious value to wheat in order to delude the farmer once more. Some farmers may have been deluded, but not the one who held his wheat for a higher price. . What has been the effect on the farmer's condi-

tion? No one can say exactly, but straws show which way the wind blows. Passengers on the overland trains go through Dawson county without paying much attention to the landscape. It has no rugged grandeur of mountains, no ever-changing panorama of forest and stream. It just lays out of doors, a great stretch of rich farming land. It has some historical interest for Nebraskans, at least those who can recall the days when Spotted Tail and his Brule Sioux roamed up and down Plum creek. The Plum Creek massacre is a sad item in the tale of the pioneer days. But Plum Creek has been swrflowed up in Lexington, and forgotten by all but the old folks. Dawson county was credited by the census of 1920 with 16,004 inhabitants. At the last election its people cast 6,008 votes.

Not so populous a bailiwick. But Dawson county is valued for tax purposes at \$42,467,766. That makes it look a little better. Here is another item. On December 31, 1924, the sixteen banks in Dawson county held on deposit \$6,445,375, an increase in deposits for the year of \$1,071.844.

Does not that spell something like prosperity? Sixteen thousand Dawson county people with six and a half millions dollars on deposit? There may be somebody out there singing the blues, but the figures justify the claim made by the Lexington Pioneer that Dawson county is the best in Nebraska, just as Nebraska'is the best in the union. Yet, whichever way you look in Nebraska these days you see the same thing. Signs of the times. Read them and smile.

NO LICENSE, NO DRIVING.

Measures looking to the licensing of auto drivers are bobbing up in many of the state legislatures. The latest one reported is Minnesota, where the proposed measure provides:

"Every driver must be 16 or more years old.

"Every person operating a mortor vehicle must have a state license or be accompanied by a licensed driver.

"All licenses shall be issued by or in the name of the Minnesota secretary of state. "A driver must carry his license at all times.

"Sworn application for licenses must be filed prior to July 1, 1926, and after that date all applications for licenses other than renewals will be approved only after practical demonstrations of driv-

ing ability. 'License fees of 50 cents each shall be charged nd the funds thus collected would be employed in administering the act. Nonresident automobiles may be driven in Minnesota as under the present law." Some sort of regulation is needed. Safety of the drivers as well as of the public is involved. When the matter was proposed in Omaha a couple of years ago opposition came from unexpected sources, and prevailed. Yet even the dropping of the plan at the time did not do away with the evil it is intended to correct. Measures to a similar end are now pending at Lincoln, and it is likely some extensive discussion of the subject will be heard before the session is at an end. The object is to secure greater safety for all who use the highways. Elimination of careless or incompetent drivers may not be achieved all at once, but a thorough test of competency before permission is given to drive ought to help some.



SUNNY SIDE UP Jake Comfort nor forget. That Sunrise never failed us yet: Celia Thaxter

For many days to come the witty sayings of Charley Lane will be recalled by friends who gather here and there and speak of him. A few years ago Lane and his superior officer, John H. Munroe, made a trip together over the system. Upon their return they filed their expense accounts with the auditor. It so happened that Lane's account was almost twice as big as

that of Mr. Munroe. The auditor called Lane in and said: "Lane, you and Munroe were out together and came back together. You visited the same towns. But your expense account is twice as big as Munroe's. There's something wrong somewhere."

'I should say there is," said Lane. "Munroe never spent that much money

President Hale Holden of the Burlington was not always & railroad man, nor was his first visit to Omaha in the capacity of a railroad employe or official. President Holden started out of a railroad employe of oncial. President Posts he was con-in business life as a lawyer. In the early '30s he was con-nected with a law firm at Kansas City. He was given a big bunch of mortgages to look up for the receiver of a Kansas City bank, among them being several given by Nebraskans. He went to Hastings and brought suit, and in some manner the cases were transferred to the federal court at Omaha. President Holden employed a Hastings lawyer to assist him before Judge Dundy. The cases were called for trial a day ahead of schedule time, and the Hastings attorney was in-capacitated, there being saloons in Omaha in those days. The young lawyer from Kansas City arose and stated that his as-sociate was not feeling well and asked permission to go after him, which was granted. As he was leaving the court room he heard Judge Dundy ask of his clerk:

"Who is that young fellow? He's never been admitted to practice in this court." "I hadn't, either," said President Holden, "and Dundy

frightened me nearly to death. But I got my associate into court. We lost the case."

P. S. Eustis, passenger traffic manager of the Burlington, was located in Omaha in the early days. Thursday's visit to Omaha in company with other Burlington officials reminded him of his first purchase here.

"I had to buy a stove to heat my room, and I had no money. So I went over to Milton Rogers' store and asked for the boss. Mr. Rogers asked me what I wanted, and I told him the boss. Mr. Rogers asked me what I wanted, and I bok I wanted to buy a stove, paying \$2 down and \$2 a month. After some questions Mr. Rogers agreed. He showed me a stove costing \$27.50, but that was too expensive. I finally bought one that cost \$8. I used it for three years, and then sold it for \$10. Years later I told Rogers about it and all he said was: 'I'm glad you didn't buy the expensive stove; you would have for \$10. been paying for it yet."

Members of the We Knew Him When Club will kindly shove along and make room on the bench for Rev. Walter Run-din of Mitchell, Neb., pastor of the allied churches of Mitchell. president of the Nebraska Volunteer Firemen's association, civic worker and all-round good fellow. There is more ham in a rallroad restaurant sandwich than there is sectarianism in Parson Rundin's big heart. He is a man's man, and, knowing his fellows, he loves them and delights in serving them. He loves good stories and can tell them; he possesses the saving grace of humor in large quantities, and he knows how to be the clergyman without forgetting how to be just folks. The fire-men honored themselves when they honored Parson Rundin.

There is a little town in Seward county named in honor of this Great Family Journal and Guide to the Faithful. But we fear that Bee, Neb. is failing to live up to it. We note by the Seward Blade that the little town of Bee has shipped in a half-carload of raisins every other week, together with considerably more than its per capita allowance of sugar. There being no mention made of yeast, we take it for granted that raisin bread and fruit cake are favorite articles of diet in that community. Being somewhat partial to those things ourself, we shall visit Bee at the earliest opportunity. If we find our as-sumption correct, we shall write about it. If we find it otherwise, and that yeast is also shipped in copiously, we shall say nothing a tall about it.

A professor of paleontology at Harvard comes forward with the interesting information that in 40,000 years men will lose most of their teeth and hair, and some of their fingers and toes. In this connection we'll say that insofar as teeth are concerned we heat the professor to it by something like 40,025 years. we retain all of our hair and all of our toes and fingers save a rorrion of one little toe defily removed more than a half-century WILL M. MAUPIN. ago.

A. HOSPE CO.-

MONTH END SPECIALS

tea prices, the chairman said the

o Operative Wholesale society was te last to put up the price of tear

or four or five months it had re-

used to raise the price, during which

ime the co-operative movement and

the British public had been saved nearly f500,000 on tea alone. The

co-operative movement believes in the

RICHARD BUCKNOLE.

greatest good to the greatest number

Just About a Dry Land.

Missouri Valley, Ia .--- To the Editor

f The Omaha Bee: Mr. Woodruff

ou ever read or consider anything

in a bit of rhetorical ecstasy asks why

the country is not dry. Well, J. S., why don't you try to find out? Don't

on the other side of the question, of are you one of those gents to whom a

question has only one side and that is their own? Did you ever try to get hold of any real hot, nasty facts

They are just as good citizens as you

you allow that there's men just as

smart as yourself, who think differ

ently on this and other subjects and

who are not crooks, dollar chasers or

Abe Martin

After fightin' clean through th

orld war, eatin' at a resturint

three years, an' cashierin' in a bank

wo years, Benton Swallow wuz

Volstend law has spurred up

finally run down t'day an' killed by

a dray. Ever'thing's fer some good

Won'

ut what they can tell you?

A co-operative since 1867.

PEACE DOES HAVE ITS VICTORIES.

One of the most effective bits of drama ever enacted came in the third act of Augustus Thomas' "Alabama." The old southerner pointed to the cannon lodged in the broken gateway, as an evidence of the havoc of war. The man from the north lifted the vines that hid the muzzle of the dead weapon. and showed a robin's nest. Nature was showing the way to harmony without bitter memories.

Now we get another bit of evidence that shows how far away the days of '61 have drifted. The United States mint at Philadelphia is busy striking off coins that bear the heads of Robert E. Lee and Thomas James ("Stonewall") Jackson. Only forty years ago when Grover Cleveland signed an order to restore certain Confederate battle flags to the southern states, he received a baptism of vitriolic denunciation from Joseph Benson Foraker, then senator from Ohio. Today the federal government, representing a united country, permits the testimonial to the value and integrity of the men who followed those flags into the hell of the fiercest war ever fought. And the saddest!

In very truth we are coming to realize, "One Country, One Flag!" Only for convenience is there left a North or a South, an East or a West. Old Glory floats over a land where the inspiration of common institutions begets a common devotion. Where interests are one, despite the inevitable comnetition that arises from commerce and industry. No firmer bond could be knitted than that exemplified in the memorial coin, few of which will ever reach the north. They will be treasured as sacred by southern men and women, but their existence will be known and approved by those who will never see them.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

The Marquise De LaFalaise may mean it, as she may be talking for publicity purposes. Honest-togoodness folk, the bone-and-sinew-of-our-nation kind of folk, will prefere to believe that she means it. The cynical and the blase will insist that she is talking for the purpose of attracting more patrons to the box office. The Marquise De LaFalaise, be it remembered, was Gloria Swanson until a few days

"I want babies," the new Marquise is quoted as saving. "I have one of my own, aged 5, and one adopted, aged 2. I will not be content until I have eight, four more of my own and two more adopted."

Just a bit intimate, according to modern polite standards, but intensely human. And, at the same time, what ambition more laudable than to be the mother of stalwart sons and beautiful daughters? Gloria-beg pardon, the Marquise De LaFalaise-is

A noted theatrical producer says radio may give employment to a hundred actors, but when it does 10,000 actors will have to chop wood for a living." Probably true, and equally true that if they were no better as woodchoppers than they are as actors, the fuel supply would not be greatly increased.

The St. Paul Dispatch boasts that the celipse was not only the best of its kind but made in Minnesota. Yes, and so poorly made it will have to be done all over again in a few years.

Nurmi, the Finnish runner, is said to have a heart only half the usual size. What a wonderful success he might make as a pawnbroken when he gets too old to run.

Americans loaned more than a billion dollars to Europe during 1924. Yet there are those who say we have no interest in affairs over on the other side.

Men are using dogs and sledges to rush serum to diphtheria-stricken Nome. Yet there are some men so mean they scatter poison to kill dogs.

The thief who got away with 2,000 marks of an Omaha collector at least had some printed paperand that is about all.

We apprehend that some designer of cross-word puzzles is behind the proposition to prohibit them by law.

French voters who went on a strike present a novel idea in self-government, if nothing else.

Even the badness of an egg is a matter of relativity nowadays.



When I step forward with courage to face the microphone;

It's not despair exactly, it's neither grief nor fear .--It's just a great big yearning to meet the folks who hear

My words as they go flashing between the sky and loam To many a splendid mansion and many a modest h Where good folks, kind folks, listen while glide the

hours away. When long have been forsaken the toil and care of day.

I see them at the fireside:-grandparents, mother, dad, A little girl, a tiny tot, a happy half-grown lad-All listening while the message distinctly comes and

From that queer looking structure late christened Radio. th' accordion business.

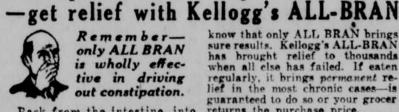
land, the largest hour mills in Eng. ability to tear your opinions inside Twas ever thus. It always seemed land, at a meeting a few weeks ago out and pick up a lot of information in reply to a delegate. Mr. Charter, it he same time. This may be "nut from out those happy, twinkling one of the directors, said, as one of ty" talk, but some of yours is a little over

the deputation that had recently re-turned from Canada and America, he wrong but h turned, from Canada and America, he might say that he had stood in the Chicago wheat market and had heard a thousand brokers calling out at each other in buying and selling wheat which they had never seen. He also stood in the Winnipeg mar-ket and had seen the entire field crom

ie also stood in the Winnipeg mar-et and had seen the entire field crop if anyone has some real stuff on this man of men he was indeed

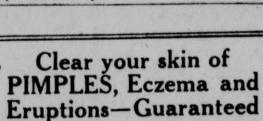
of Canada bought and sold twice over if anyone has some real stun in a week. Referring to the question subject, we want to hear it. To know him was to hold and prize Laws, people and human nature How we shall miss you, t are deep things to study. Just get We bid you now a long farewell busy and try to learn a little about A pleasant voyage and Godspeed We bld you now a long farewell; them, and you'll be so busy you won't have time to ask questions. Most of

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