

THE OMAHA BEE

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

"I WANNA BE HAPPY, BUT I WON'T BE HAPPY."

An abundant snow covered the field of Nebraska the same day that wheat sold for above \$2 a bushel at Chicago. In the harbinger of a great crop for another harvest almost everybody rejoiced. We say almost advisedly. Some faces were stretched even longer. Some countenances were more than commonly lugubrious in expression. Those of the devoted democrats, who can not divorce themselves from the idol of free trade, refuse to be comforted.

President Coolidge sent to congress at that time the report of his agricultural commission. Recommending that certain suggestions be enacted into law without delay. Chiefly the president asks that the home market be preserved for the home producer. That Americans buy and consume such stuff as America brings forth. When the process has gone on a little longer, the home market will take care of the farm.

There arises the doleful chant of a small but persistent chorus. "I wanna be happy, but I won't be happy, till I can make Europe happy too!" If these could only be assured that the factories of the Old World were dumping their product into the markets of the New World; that Nebraska farmers had a free and unrestricted chute to carry the grain from their fields to England, France and Germany, there to trade it for manufactured wares, how joyous all would be.

The sight of an American farmer with an American-made jack-knife in his pocket is too much for these. Somewhere in the Ruhr a German workman is out of a job because an American is employed. Of course this is wrong. If we were not wholly selfish, we would break down the wall that now protects the American factory, put out its fires, stop its wheels, and rejoice that across the ocean prosperity was restored by a simple act of sacrifice on our part. However, charity still begins at home. Americans would like to see Europe happy, and believe the day will come. But the free traders ask too much.

OVER-CHARGING THE MELTING POT.

Baron Shidehara, minister of foreign affairs for Japan, lectures the United States indirectly because of its exclusion of the Japanese. A nation that holds itself aloof, he says, can not endure. Japanese history is proof of this statement. Yet Minister Shidehara has too narrow a view of the situation. He looks at the case through Japanese glasses, and fails to note some aspects of the problem that are even more important than the admission of emigrants from the empire of the Rising Sun.

Census of 1920 totals disclose the presence in the United States of 13,929,692 foreign-born residents. The total of foreign white stock, that is adding to the foreign-born, those born here, one of whose parents at least was born abroad, is 36,396,958. Every nation known is represented in the list. And in that fact lies the problem that is ever present to perplex American statesmen.

From Europe came the original stock of Americans. From Europe have come millions of others. From the ends of the earth have gathered representatives of all the tribes of man. Mingling together in daily intercourse, moved by common impulse to the betterment of their own conditions and so contributing to the betterment of conditions for all, these make up the citizenry of the greatest nation on earth. Proof in plenty is available of the devotion of these citizens to the land in which they live.

Yet proof in plenty is present that our melting pot has not as yet done its perfect work. We are heterogeneous, not homogenous. Slowly the process of assimilation is being carried on, but age-old race roots are not easily obliterated. So long as the love of America is first in the minds of all, this is well. Mother land is not to be forgotten. Home land should and does come first, but centuries of training and tradition do not vanish with the setting of the first day's sun in the new world.

In time the solution will be worked out. Just as the original Bulgarian tribes became Greek, the Gothic and Vandals were transmuted into Italians, the Norse rovers into French, and the Angles, Danes, Saxons and Normans evolved into English, so will an American race in time appear. Just now we are not holding aloof from the world, but are enfolding all the world in our national life. Shidehara and those who think as he does ought to consider the problem a little more in detail.

LITTLE ITEMS IN A BIG BILL.

When folks talk about America these days they glibly speak of a land whose wealth is in the neighborhood of \$350,000,000,000. Not one in a hundred think of what that means. \$50,000 in a million has any conception of what \$350,000,000,000 million dollar piles would amount to. We just say a billion and let it go at that. If Adam had started work at \$5 a day when he left the Garden of Eden and had kept steadily on until now, his earnings still would be short of a billion dollars.

But Americans are making use of the enormous sum of wealth that is theirs. Annual gross income of our people is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$70,000,000,000. How this is made up is interesting. Not all of it comes from the enormous wealth producing operations of the basic industries, such as agriculture, which adds a billion dollars a month to the total. The Census Bureau now and then dis-

closes some smaller contributor. Many of these look impressive standing by themselves.

For example, it is now disclosed that in 1923 the value of manufactured gas and by-products in the United States was \$480,090,822. Products of the chemical industry that year were valued at \$630,493,969. Canned fruit, vegetables and pickles that year added \$515,510,492 to the total. So it goes with other items. Each industry is making something that is to be counted in the general sum, and when all are assembled the aggregate total is enormous.

And most of this enormous total is used at home. We have the greatest consuming market the world ever knew. It is not because Americans are extravagant or self-indulgent. It is because they have the ability to produce and the means to provide for their creature wants. So they exercise their capacity and enjoy the good things that are within their reach.

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT.

For the information of a number of inquiring readers, we print herewith the text of the joint resolution submitting the Twentieth amendment to the legislatures of the several states:

Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled (two-thirds of each house concurring therein): That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, shall be valid in all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution:

Article . . . Section 1. The congress shall have power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age.

Sec. 2. The power of the several states is unimpaired by this article, except that the operation of state laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the congress.

The most effective opposition to the proposed amendment has been directed to the first section. A decided unwillingness to give any more power to congress is generally manifest. Particularly power that would enable congress to "limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age." These objections are not to be answered by speech congress may be trusted. Senator Reed, in a speaking to the Nebraska Bar association in Omaha not many days ago, said: "There are misers of everything but power."

Ample and not altogether pleasant experience has shown that congress is not miserly of power. The amendment is defeated at present, but the movement to do away with the industrial abuses that flow from child labor will not be checked. The process of education necessary may take longer, but it will be safer in the end.

DISCIPLINE THE FOUNDATION.

Action of the house republican leaders in withholding invitations to a party caucus from supporters of La Follette will excite anew the discussion that followed action of the senate along similar lines. It resolves itself into a question of party discipline. Regularly, if you want to call it that.

Twelve members of congress, elected as republicans, decided for themselves to oppose the party's candidate for president. In this act they were wholly within their rights. Any man may change his party affiliations at pleasure. But, when he has done so, and has labored to the extent of his ability to disrupt and destroy the party he has abjured, he has no right to participate further in the councils of that party.

It may be that the recreant members of the republican group in congress thought of this when they took their little flyer in insurgency last summer. The consequences are now to be impressed upon them. Whatever the future may hold for them in politics or otherwise, they have forfeited the right to consult as to the affairs of the republican party.

It would be the same with any party. In the case of the socialist party, from whom La Follette got his principal organized support, the member who opposes any of the party's nominees, or supports one not named by the socialists, is automatically dropped from membership. If our government is to continue as founded on the party system, parties to be fit for power must be responsible. In order to be responsible, they must have discipline. Republicans are simply enforcing discipline. The man who fights the party openly in a national campaign has no right to regard himself as a member of the party. If he is honest with himself, he will not seek to do so.

Roscoe Pound and Irving S. Cutter are not the only ones who were kicked upstairs from Nebraska. Colonel "Bill" Hayward is another notable instance.

Next time Senator Wheeler wants Gaston B. Means as a witness he will find him easily. Means will be near Atlanta, Ga., for the next two years.

Grand opera went \$400,000 in the hole in Chicago last season. Evidently there wasn't enough jazz in the program.

Seventeen conventions for February will take some of the sting out of Friday the 13th.

Speaking of sinecures, how would you like to be President Coolidge's private stenographer?

Prohibition of the cross-word puzzle is all that is needed to make it well nigh universal.

Why should any eligible ex-service man be without a Legion card and button?

Those senatorial uplifters are finding Attorney General Stone hard to break.

Mr. Bryan denies that he is out of politics. Who ever thought he was?

Wheat at \$2 promises anything but hard times in Nebraska.

Passing resolutions will not end war, nor cure crime.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

"MITIGATION."

I sometimes get to thinkin' like a feller sometimes will of them peculiar people with the mania to kill. They're alius smart an' healthy till they're caught an' shut up tight.—

But then some one discovers that they ain't exactly right.

They ain't, in plain words, crazy,—but they've symptoms of the kind.

They have some interference that just seems to block their mind.—

It generally has the fringes of a hifalutin' name. That sort of makes one wonder,—but they've got it just the same!

It's hardly thought contagious; ain't no need to quarantine.

Er case it up with bandy or the oil of wintergreen.—

It calls for "mitigation," that's the only counter-check.—

The only application that can save the slayer's neck.

(Copyright, 1923.)

Official Washington Will Have to Set Its Alarm Clock Ahead



should also be retired any year after that for the same conditions. A retirement should also be allowed for 25 years of service and more, even in good health, and graded according to the length of service. The compulsory retirement should be eliminated unless a living retirement allowance is granted.

AN EIGHTH GRADE MAN.

Preserve Individual Initiative.

From the Truck Republic.

Two many statutes that are enacted into state or municipal law embody in an offensive degree the pernicious idea of paternalism. The state or the municipality has not business to engage in a business that competes un-

fairly with private enterprises, unless of course there is reason to believe monopolies are controlling and exporting excessive profits. But the principle should be recognized that the state or municipality is invading a prohibited field and setting up so-

litical standards when the power of authority is used to compete with private capital and enterprise of less financial ability. Ex-Governor Bryan's coal yards and oil station, and the proposed municipal gas stations in Lincoln, are offensive in principle, because they are socialistic and paternal in their effect. We believe that this nation is a people of doers and its power among the nations is great because there is a field here for private enterprise and a disposition to hammer no one's ambitions to succeed.

RETURNS PLUS.

Some people after casting bread upon the waters are not satisfied unless it returns toasted and buttered and with a soft-boiled egg on top.—

Riddeford Journal.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

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.

Amendment and Platform.

David City, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: There seems to be a general misunderstanding concerning the purpose of the Child Labor Amendment. Many people have thought it would prevent parents from having their children work in their own homes or about the farms and gardens.

No one will deny that it is right and proper that children should be taught to work, to help their parents, and to make themselves generally useful within their strength and ability. The one big thought in the minds of those who promoted this measure was to prevent the exploitation of childhood in mines, mills, factories and fields. Whenever by their labor in any place they are denied the privileges of education and other natural heritages of childhood, their chances for successful citizenship in the future are being curtailed, if not actually blighted.

As a delegate to the republican state convention in August, 1923, the writer remembers distinctly that the convention went on record through its platform as being in favor of abolishing child labor, if need be by a constitutional amendment. The platform was adopted without a dissenting vote.

Surely the present legislature will not repudiate the stand taken by its party so short a time ago.

A FRIEND OF CHILDREN.

Mr. Thomas on Children's Parties.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The tone of your editorial of Tuesday, "Wet Spots in Childhood," is regrettable. Based upon the excuse of a mother, it is not founded upon facts. Drinking is not more prevalent among young people than it was when we had 400 licensed saloons and 600 houses of shame without licenses selling liquor to all comers, young and old. I have known the facts intimately for a third of a century.

Your conclusion that liquor is served at all parties and that young folks in particular are drinking more than they used to, takes no account of the vast mass of American citizens who do not and never did serve liquor in their homes. It took particular pains to inquire about high school parties at holiday time. These parties had an average of 300 guests, and young people who were present tell me that not more than six or eight young men had liquor or drank liquor at

these parties. This would have occurred at any time in the past. You say prohibition has not helped the young people. It has been their salvation. Wet newspapers make all they can out of any instance where a young man carries a flask. In the old days drinking by minors went unnoticed.

I do not mean to say that young people are not drinking at all, but I do say that conditions are immeasurably better in this country, and that only about one-fourth as many people are drinking as formerly did, whether they be young or old, and that the amount of liquor now consumed is not more than one-tenth as great as it was before prohibition.

ELMER E. THOMAS.

Retirement Pay for Teachers.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The editorial praise of the service of Miss Kathleen Heary, school teacher is commendable, and all will admit more than merited by her.

The underlying sentiment of your statement will indeed prove an inspiration to the school teachers, even though a sleeping public mind shall let it pass unnoticed. Few accord the teacher entitled for the devotional service aside from "reading," "riting" and "rithmetic." The unceasing, un-

dering watchful care of her charges so as the mind and heart is trained for usefulness, the building of character, the advancement of each little one, are some of the nerve racking duties of teachers which are generally lost sight of.

Some will say not so, for do they not receive good wages. Yes, wages is right, for very few receive salaries. Come with me and tread the statute books of Nebraska, and learn the provisions for retirement of teachers who have served years in the service. Omaha allows a teacher to retire after 35 years of service as a teacher, and then only for a miserable pittance. Some may be retired after 25 years of service. This law is inadequate, and now is the proper time while the legislature is in session to do it.

School teachers should have at least an equal standing with city firemen and policemen, who retire after 20 and 21 years of service, respectively. A teacher should be permitted to retire after 20 years of service if she has reached a certain age, and her health be impaired, and

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.

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

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget, That Sunrise never failed us yet. Calia Thayer

A number of years ago, when there was less gray in our hair and not quite so many inches to our equatorial circumference, we invested in what Colonel Coffey of Chadrone calls a "Hereford suit." Others call it the "soup and fish," and older fashioned folk like myself call it a dress suit. The other evening I was invited to a formal dinner at which no ladies were to be present. In our ignorance we thought the swallowtail would be as fat and in vogue. But a social mentor advised us otherwise and said we must have a dinner coat. A dinner coat is a swallowtail minus the tail, a hobtail coat, so to speak.

Now we have never possessed a hobtailed dress coat, except a dinner coat. Time was short, and so were we. It was either miss the dinner or secure the dinnercoat, and we had instructions from above to attend the dinner. Hence, in our dilemma, and distress we were compelled to have recourse to the gentleman who assists others in the predicament that fronted us. Did we do so openly and flautingly? We did not. We walked by the door a couple of times, looking fearfully over first one shoulder then the other. Then we leaned nonchalantly against the building, evening passively with furtive glances. At the psychological moment we dodged inside, painfully apprehensive that the eyes of a thousand friends were upon us.

We were easily fitted from the many suits on the hangar. It was our first relief. Surely, thought we, there are many others in like fix, else why so many suits for hire? We stated our desires in halting language. "You must be going to the big dinner, too," remarked the purveyor of society garments. It appeared that we were not the only ones troubled with the necessity of wearing formal garments. But if getting into the place was a chore, getting out and home with the box was a task. It was a plain box, but we just knew everybody who saw us with it knew instinctively that we had just rented a formal outfit. Their x-ray eyes looked right through the box to the silk facings, the elaborated buttons and the wide curve of the vest opening.

The ride on the car seemed endless and the number of x-ray eyed passengers beyond computation. But we reached home at last. In due time we had donned the habitments of formality and high society. We looked not only like a million dollars, but we looked, as we afterwards ascertained, just like the head waiter. We joined the throng, conversing with bankers and lawyers and railroad men and merchants like we were one of the crowd. Then we turned to the head of the boat-tailed dinner coat. We do not mind wearing the swallowtailed outfit which we own in fee simple. But a swallowtail is enough why insist upon investment in an extra garment?

Our experience in returning the rented plumage was similar to the securing thereof. It was with a sigh of relief that we emerged from the rental agency, unburdened and with a clear conscience. Either we are going to purchase a dinner coat for our very own, or we are going to be secondarily ill on future evenings when we are assigned to cover formal dinner affairs. Not for worlds would we willingly undergo another trial like unto the one above described. We hereby pronounce anathema upon the head of the man who invented the boat-tailed dinner coat. We do not mind wearing the swallowtailed outfit which we own in fee simple. But a swallowtail is enough why insist upon investment in an extra garment?

For that matter, why the wide expanse of shirt front? The enlarged vest opening merely provides more room for the shirt bosom to bulge and bow, thereby providing a wider expanse upon which sauces, gravies and fruit juices may alight. The altitudinous neck investiture is annoying to one accustomed to the soft collar. Taken by and large we are opposed to the formal dress affair attended by men only. Our opposition is taking definite and concrete form. We are going to pass a law.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

20th Annual OMAHA AUTO SHOW FEB 16 to FEB 21 at the Auditorium

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Two decades ago the first Omaha Automobile Show was staged. Five dealers spread their few buggy-like creations out over the vast Auditorium floor, in an effort to fill it.

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