

# THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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## Omaha Where the West is at its Best

### DON'T OVERPLAY THE HAND.

Advice from the Department of Agriculture to the farmer on the general subject of crops deserves careful attention at any time. Just now it should be heeded more attentively than ever. Finding the outlook as a whole favorable to the farmer, the department authorities sound a note of warning. Especially does this apply to the wheat-raising region. It is not to press the production unduly. Just at this time the market is in favor of the farmer, but an overproduction of grain will have the effect of plunging prices down once more.

Surveying the world condition, the department concludes that the home situation in 1925 may not be as good as in 1924. This will mean a decrease in the domestic demand. Europe, however, is gaining steadily in the process of recovery, and will continue to buy liberally from the United States. Based on this examination of the entire situation, the department says increased acreages of the major farm crops are not advisable this year.

In addition to the restricted acreage, the farmer can further control the situation by marketing carefully. Pressing need for cash compelled the early sale of a considerable part of the 1924 crop, so that the producer did not share as he might in the advance in price. He will not be in the same predicament in 1925, and when his harvest is over he will do well to "feed" the market as he would his cattle, just what is required and not enough to gorge it.

Perusal of the report of the president's agricultural commission, also just made public, may lead the farmer to some further advantage. One point is especially emphasized, and that is the detrimental effect of rivalry between the several associations of farmers. Co-operative or controlled marketing will be beneficial only as it is intelligently directed. So long as the competition between farmers' associations is keen to the point of being destructive, that long will the farmer be deprived of any real good from his efforts.

Nebraska farmers in 1924 increased their acreage of fall wheat by 14 per cent over 1923. The preliminary report of the Department of Agriculture for December 1 gives the Nebraska winter wheat sown area for 1924 as 3,353,000 acres, as against a revised report for 1923 of 2,941,000. In bushels, based on the last year's crop, this will mean an increase of only 7,627,000 bushels. No menace of overproduction is noted in this. For the United States as a whole, the increase in winter wheat acreage is but 6.5 per cent.

### JUSTICE'S IRON HAND.

One day last week, in widely separated parts of the country, we had proof that Justice is not entirely asleep in the United States. Gaston B. Means, notorious for many crimes and escapades, was sentenced to serve two years in a federal prison. Charles R. Forbes was convicted of conspiracy and fraud against the United States. Steven G. Clow, editor of a New York chronicle of gossip and scandal, was sentenced to the penitentiary for blackmail. Keith Collins was again convicted of robbing the mails.

"Justice travels with a leaden heel, but strikes with an iron hand." No one rejoices in the downfall of any of these convicts, but all will find some comfort in the fact that the penalty of their crimes has come home. At least four juries have not been swayed from a sense of duty to the public by sentimental pleas or specious arguments. It is a good sign, and we may hear of other juries taking a similar course.

Not in terror does the law hover over the land, but in its inexorable majesty. When courts cease to split hairs, when juries no longer succumb to maudlin pleadings, when a criminal can not longer get by on mawkish sentiment, a definite check will have been given to crime.

### CLEAN MINDS IN CLEAN BODIES.

Charles Russ Richards, president of Lehigh university, has set tongues wagging once more. Addressing a group of college authorities, he declared that college athletics are corrupt and college men are dissipated. Both alumni and undergraduates, he said, indulge in "wet parties," defy authorities who seek to break up the practices so detrimental to the cause of education.

Such charges have been made at times in the past. Especially that which reflects on the honesty of college sports. Not so many years ago a great scandal was caused by the discovery that certain football teams carried salaried players. Even at Lincoln, at one time, it was disclosed that a fund existed, subscribed to by graduates and business men, which was used to procure desirable material for the teams.

To win games, President Richards says, is the prime object now. Once the purpose of college athletics was the physical training of all students. To this end gymnasiums are built, stadiums erected, and the physical instructor employed. "Mens sana in corpore sano," an aged and potent maxim, still applies. Yet the public looks for something more from the great schools.

Clean minds and clean bodies are as much to be coveted as sane minds and strong bodies. Morals as well as ethics should be fostered at schools of higher learning. Men of science do not wink at peccadilloes in their investigations and discoveries.

They must be exact. The world has as good reason to expect exactitude of behavior as well as of information. Let youth have its day, enjoy to the utmost the good things of life. Through it all, though, preserve the decency of behavior that leads to self-respect.

### ONE WAY TO GET GOOD ROADS.

Autoists who have visited Minnesota come back to Nebraska singing the praises of the Gopher state's highways. Just at present some debate is going on before the Minnesota legislature on the subject. A gasoline tax is proposed, and this in addition to the regular motor license tax. Objections to the plan are answered by the Minneapolis Tribune after this fashion:

"It has been mistakenly said by some that the legislature would be breaking faith with the voters who approved the gasoline tax amendment last November if it should impose a gasoline tax to stop the present license charges. The cold fact is that if the legislature fails to add a gasoline tax to the license charges, it will be breaking faith with the electorate that adopted the good roads amendment at the polls in November, 1920.

"How do we make that out? Simply that the amendment of 1920 proposed that taxation of motor vehicles using the public highways of the state should be on a more onerous basis than any other personal property."

They understand up there that automobile owners use the roads more than other citizens. Consequently the owners should pay more to the building and upkeep of highways. Nothing inequitable in that. The tax on gasoline is one way of distributing the cost, so that those who use the roads most will pay the more.

Another item is a bond issue of \$20,000,000 in the name of the state, to take over a like amount of bonds issued by counties. Along with this goes state control and direction of the trunk-line road-building program. Minnesota people understand that good roads call for money to build. Also, that the proper plan is to have the roads built by the state and not by subdivisions. When Nebraskans take a similar view and act accordingly, drivers will be going back to Minnesota praising the Nebraska highways. Not before.

### FOUR NOBLE OLD OMAHANS.

Among the men who sat down at the dinner in honor of Hale Holden and his associates were four who would be a notable addition to any assemblage. Their combined ages will go beyond three centuries. They have experienced the birth and the growth, not of Omaha alone, but of the most remarkable age of the world's history. They can look over the greatest of man's achievements, and with the apostle say, "All of which I saw, and part of which I was."

John Lee Webster, Milton Barlow, George W. Holdrege and John R. Webster stand out in the annals of Omaha as among the builders. They not only had part in the projection of great schemes, but helped to bring them to fruition. Of Mr. Holdrege it may be said he actually built 2,800 miles of railroad track in Nebraska. John R. Webster was a moving spirit in schemes that brought at least two railroads to Omaha. No one here, except perhaps himself, can remember a time when "Milt" Barlow was not in the bank of which he was so long the head. John Lee Webster helped frame the state's constitution, and has been so prominent in public and civic affairs that he is universally known for his activities.

Best of all, each of these men is yet busy with the things of the world. Mr. Holdrege no longer carries the responsibilities of the Burlington, but has not slackened his interest in the transportation and other industries. Mr. Barlow still is at his desk at the bank every day. John Lee Webster attends to a law practice as assiduously now as he did when he hung out his shingle in Omaha, back in 1869. While John R. Webster keeps himself from rusting by a large variety of occupations, not the least of which is being regent of the University of Nebraska. Four of a kind, these noble Omahans.

### KEEP THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE CLEAN.

A question has arisen in connection with the bond issue intended to establish the Riverside Drive. Until satisfied that the issue is properly approved by the voters, the intending purchasers of the bonds will not complete the bargain. This is proper. Also it is in the interests of the city. Omaha wants the drive, and more than 50 per cent of the voters so expressed themselves at the election. It appears that under the ordinance 60 per cent should have given approval.

For the good of all concerned, the issue should be entirely cleared up. The city can not afford, for its own credit, to sell any issue of bonds regarding the validity of which there can be a doubt. As to the drive, it will be established and will be a thing of beauty for all the future. If not this year, then another. Should another election be found necessary, then it will be again up to the voters.

An improvement so desirable as the Riverside Drive will not fall of support.

If Dr. Wall succeeds in exploding the atom we hope he comes across the Atlantic and tries to explode some fallacious reform theories prevalent in this country.

Red tape is to be abolished at Washington. But white twine is to be substituted. We knew there was a string to the announcement.

The fact that Uncle Sam recognizes Russia is the paramount reason why Uncle Sam refuses to recognize Russia.

When a Los Angeles liar meets up with a Miami Munchausen, Truth takes to the woods.

## Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davis

### WHEN THE OPEN CALLS.

The bright lights of the city  
Grow dim; transparent walls  
Become as dark as dungeons  
Until the Open calls:  
The great, untarnished spaces,  
The far, unmeasured dome  
That roofs the rural regions  
Above the farmer's home.

Sometimes we, who must follow  
Industry's zigzag trail  
Are free to face the Open—  
The sky and hill and vale,  
And cast despair behind us,  
Forsake our drudgery toll,  
And be the sons and daughters  
Of God's prolific soil.

Always—may we be thankful  
Outdoor communion brings  
Us to endure with patience  
Life's few provoking things:  
Our weakened faith grows stronger,  
Our zest is born anew,  
Back to the mart we rally  
With courage strong and true.

## Wonder What Steel or Gasoline Would Sell for If Marketed Like Farm Products?



AND IT ISN'T LEGISLATION BUT CO-OPERATION THAT WILL SAVE THE FARMER.



## 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.

### In Favor of Dogs.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Taking occasion to speak for many dog owners and for the dogs as well, I should like to acknowledge with thanks the front-page publicity given to the collie "Laddie," who by giving an alarm saved 11 persons from probable death in the fire which destroyed three houses last week. Also thanks for presenting the picture of that faithful and efficient guardian.

Such examples may well put to shame those people who talk about the "dog nuisance" and would like to exterminate the species if they could have their way. Incidentally, it would be gratifying to know why two dog taxes are exacted of an owner having but one dog. All such pets of value are listed in the income tax and so paid for. Why, then, a second tax in the city? It is claimed that the license collectors sometimes meet with scant courtesy; is this because they are a new and unexpected institution? or would it be perhaps that people resent having to pay twice for the same privilege? If any one can explain this point of the dog tax for one dog, will he not please do so for the benefit of an INQUIRER.

### Association and Their Objects.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Our main purpose should be to mould public opinion into a more perfect form. But in striving to do so we should exercise the greatest care to avoid error that is inevitable from being mistaken for the truth. It appears that erroneous ideas are more in evidence now through sheer misunderstanding of the issues involved. Policies and governments may change from time to time, but fundamental principles are constant and do not change. They are the props on which our civilization rests. We should be careful in our striving not to knock these props away. The economic sciences is by no means perfect. It will probably make an advance in the future, but it will certainly not be by the men and women who will support an erroneous theory to win their side of the case. The end never can justify the means. Working classes are more interested particularly than any other class in a just and proper solution of the economic problem; although they may not see the goal ahead of them they should be sure at least that they are on the right road. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that we should advocate a way for general acceptance, particularly among the masses of the people, for the reconstruction of society. The mischief that is done to society is due to the

false maxims that are built on the arguments used. No nation can secure success unless public and private opinion are guided by sane and salutary principles. If not, society must suffer. Unfettered erroneous public opinion brought about its own destruction in the French revolution, and history is repeating itself in the 20th century in the case of Russia. D. F. DOLAN.

### Heaven and Hell.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Somewhere beyond this universe or within some of our visible stars, exists there an eternal heaven of bliss for the righteous and an eternal place of burning for the wicked; science will not pretend to tell us, profane, secular, ancient or modern history furnish us no evidence regarding them; scientific research rather affirming that negating their existence, stop with saying that heaven is a place of torment and the abode of the devil and his angels. It is true that the idea of a literal hell is repugnant, but so is our capital punishment; but we find it necessary to deter murderers from killing at will. But is there a literal hell, and where in the scriptures is it used in a

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Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of February, 1925. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

### "THE CONSERVATIVE"

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The Best Place to Borrow Money

Safety for Savings The CONSERVATIVE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION Care for Home

### Abe Martin



After Constable Plum gets his war on speeders under way he ought to send a regiment after the folks that cross the streets according to their own sweet will. Where there's so many society queens there must be some smoke. (Copyright, 1924)

## SUNNY SIDE UP

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

There are many newspaper poets—Edgar Guest, Douglas Malloch, Jud Lewis, Frank Stanton, Berton Braley Strickland Gilliland—and Tom Daly. We want you to know Tom Daly. He is going to lecture in Omaha on February 10, appearing at the Fontenelle. If Tom faces the audience his talents merit there will not be standing room. He is a rollicking Irishman, full of wit and humor, and his verses reflect his sunny spirit. Irishman though he is, he has the Italian dialect down fine, and his poems in that vernacular have made him famous among Italians everywhere. Humorist that he is, he is also a sentimentalist, and listening to him, one finds tears close behind the laughter. He sings of home and children, because he has a household of kiddies of his own, and his homely philosophy is as refreshing as a well of cold water in the midst of a desert. Knowing Tom as we do we'll guarantee his lecture to be a welcome relief from uplifters and psychologists and such like.

A member of the Nebraska legislature has introduced a bill providing that the Ten Commandments be posted in every schoolroom. What for? To shoot paper wads at? Same old story of shifting responsibility. Post 'em in the schoolroom so Dad will have more time for golf and the evening paper, and mother more time for bridge and the latest society novel. Home is a good place to stay when the automobile is laid up for repairs and the movie house showing a picture already seen. Just Pass a Law and let it go at that.

Two things in which you should not put your trust, says three; the groundhog when he casteth a shadow, the promise of politicians and "it is real prewar stuff."

### After S. Baring-Gould.

Seated one day at the radio I was suffering twinges rheumatic, And working the dials incessant— My only reply was in static. I knew not what I was getting Except it came not well, But I got one series that evening That sounded to me like thunder.

### Our Daily Bedtime Story.

"I couldn't get home a moment earlier, my dear. It was an important business engagement."

### Answers to Correspondents.

"Agatha"—Medical science has made great strides, but chapped lips were neither contagious nor infectious when we were young. "Fearful Freddie"—If she invites you to dinner with her parents and then tells you she prepared the meal with her own hands, you are in danger, my boy.

### Political Note.

"Economy," remarked Senator Grassroot, "is trimming the other fellow's appropriation so there'll be money enough left for mine."

### Brain Leaks.

A child in the home is worth two on the streets. It takes more than one to spread gossip, but one can stop it before it begins. A brave man is afraid to do wrong. The loneliest man in the world is the one whose only friends are dollars. A lot of charity that begins at home never gets any farther. The world has too many men marking time and not enough men marching forward. Jealousy is looking for something you do not want to find. Too many neighbors are merely near-dwellers. WILL M. MAUPIN.

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