

THE OMAHA BEE

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Omaha-Where the West is at its Best
SETTLE THE FRANCHISE FIRST.

Representatives of the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge company, accompanied by certain city officials, assured the senate committee at Lincoln that a pending bill is essential to the proper adjustment of relations between the city and the company.

Section 3719, Chapter 40, Article VII, Revised Statutes of Nebraska for 1922, sets out how franchises may be granted by cities of the metropolitan class. This is Omaha alone in Nebraska. The section complete reads:

"Any ordinance or resolution granting, extending, changing or modifying the terms and conditions of a franchise shall not be passed until at least four weeks shall have elapsed after its introduction or proposal, nor until such resolution or ordinance has been published daily for at least two weeks in the official paper of the city, nor shall such become effective or binding until submitted to the electors and approved by a majority vote thereof.

There is the clearly defined road to take in dealing with franchises. It is drawn specifically to protect public rights. However, it will permit the tramway company to apply for a new franchise, or for the extension of the one under which it operates. It needs no new legislation to make it operative.

What it will do is to permit the city council to grant the tramway company exclusive rights to operate omnibuses over the city streets in connection with tram cars. Probably no reasonable objection can be brought against this.

We believe that the best interests of the city will be served by not disturbing the conditions as established by the law herewith quoted. The tramway company deserves just and liberal treatment at the hands of the citizens.

The tramway question is now being considered piecemeal. The bill offered at Lincoln deals with busses. The hearing soon to be had in Omaha will take up the question of fares.

A clear way is open to approach the subject of a new franchise. This should not be blocked or obstructed by a new law that does not make its meaning clear. Let us have no by-passes in our blind alleys.

Brigadier General William Mitchell has been the champion of this idea, which is pretty general among the airmen. Secretary Weeks of the War department and Secretary Wilbur of the Navy are opposed to the unification plan.

All of which is very interesting in peace time. What Americans want to be assured is that the air service is not neglected, but that it will be kept to a point where it can meet any demand.

experience of the World War. Then the air service of the American army was a sorry joke. Simply because the extravagant promises made on behalf of our government turned out to be simply flabdoodle.

We do not believe that either the army or navy deliberately seeks to restrict the air service. Reasons for wanting to keep conditions of control as they are are clear and strong.

AMERICA'S WONDER-WOMAN.
America is yet a land of wonders. From Niagara's misty majesty to Mount McKinley's virgin summit, there stretches an unbroken line of marvels to amaze man.

Helen Keller was born a normal child. Early in her life she was over taken by a great calamity. As a result of a fever attack she was left blind, deaf, and without the power of speech.

It was a miracle of love. Of patience unsurpassed. Of a peculiar sympathy between the souls of a woman and a little girl. Annie Sullivan Macy found the way to reach the mind of the child who could neither see, hear nor speak.

Now Helen Keller is giving her life to smoothing the way for the other unfortunates whose eyes are sightless, or whose ears do not respond to external sounds.

WORLD COURT A LIVE ISSUE.
Senator Swanson, democrat, of Virginia, announces that there is no hope of consideration of the World Court plan at this session of congress.

Senator Borah, chairman of the senate foreign affairs committee, stands an implacable foe of the plan. He is supported by a sufficient number of members to make progress very difficult.

As long ago as when Grover Cleveland first was president, the matter came forward for discussion. A succession of presidents have given their approval.

Against this pressure, which would seem sufficient to prevail, the chairman of the senate committee on foreign affairs resolutely sets himself.

The Minneapolis minister who has just contracted sleeping sickness should have avoided coming in such close contact with the pew-holders.

"Mike" Endres bids fair to go out of office with one record. He will be sheriff when the legislature cuts off the prisoner feeding profit.

Another eastern business man predicts an era of prosperity. The fact is becoming apparent to everybody.

For some time to come Gaston B. will not serve on the ways and Means committee of any Washington lobby.

Homespun Verse
By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie
LONGING.
I do not crave the splendor
Of a mansion for my own,



THE HAUNTING FEAR OF EVERYONE WHO IS BLIND

Letters From Our Readers

Crime in Other Days.
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I was mighty well pleased to see the straight-from-the-shoulder statement of Elmer Thomas about drinking by young people.

Controlled or Commercialized Marriage.
Wausa, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: As was expected, strenuous efforts are being made to repeal the Nebraska marriage law.

These are crimes chronicled in one of the Omaha dailies for the two weeks. They cannot be laid to prohibition. In fact, it would seem that many of them were due to the open saloon.

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SUNNY SIDE UP
Take Comfort, nor forget,
That Sunrise never failed us yet.
Celia Chapter

Our old friend, Wilson Trout, who edits the North Platte Tribune, makes a semi-apology for announcing in his columns that his daughter, Rebecca, is a member of a Colorado Springs orchestra that recently broadcasted a fine program.

Like of John Sweet of the Nebraska City Tribune, we are perfectly willing to assist in building a home for disabled saxophone players providing we are licensed to put 'em in shape to accept the benefits of the home.

We'll bet a cookie that Eugene Schreier of Otoe county will never be caught in a position where he'll have to "never" had a chance. Eugene is 12 years old and a pupil in School District No. 17.

Stammering about town recently we saw something in a candy store window that brought back youthful memories. Nothing more nor less than a pile of those little candy heart notices that were in such high favor with us boys and girls.

"We Ought to Pass a Law" was the subject of Merle Thorpe's address before the Chamber of Commerce Friday noon. We welcome Mr. Thorpe to membership in our Uplift Club.

A welcome letter from T. K. Sudborough, one-time resident of Omaha, now recuperating in the government hospital at Hot Springs, Ark. Tom recalls some old-time incidents to which we purpose referring in the not distant future.

Much as we deplore the fact we will be unable to adopt the college youth style of investiture proclaimed by the Nebraska Clothiers. Owing to our equatorial expansion we can not follow the waist lines decreed.

Talk about the world growing worse—'tain't so. That it has grown better is evidenced by the fact that the atrocious comic valentine of other days has just about disappeared.

When in Omaha
Hotel Conant
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THE CHURCH
For where two or three are gathered together in My name, then am I in the midst of them.
—Matt. 18-20

THE history of the church begins with the creation of man in the image, and for the glory of God, and comes down to the present as its relative goal, but will go on till the final settlement of all the affairs of men.

The history of the church is the history of Christianity from the birth of Christ down to the present time. Church history verifies on every hand the promise of the Savior to be with His people always, and to build His church on the rock against which the "gates of hell cannot prevail."

Select a Church and Then Support It by Your Attendance
In a wider appeal to religion and to religious faith is to be found the answer to the growing tendency toward law violations which we see on every hand.

This is the judgment of a group of Omaha men and institutions, who have arranged for a program of appeals for church attendance. The appeal published herewith is first of the series.

Nothing's ever said about th' lives th' average autoist saves durin' a little spin around town. Prosperity an' economy are supposed to work hand in glove th' comin' four years, but watch 'em split up when prosperity appears from around th' corner.

Abe Martin



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