

# THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY

THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publisher  
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The Omaha Bee is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the recognized authority on circulation audits, and The Omaha Bee's circulation is regularly audited by their organization.

Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1898, at Omaha postoffice, under act of March 3, 1879.

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## Omaha—Where the West is at its Best

### BUILD NEBRASKA BETTER.

The closed-door conferences of the committee that is handling the gasoline tax at Lincoln is indicative of a symptom of Nebraska's present trouble. With general agreement as to the need of the tax, many ways of applying it have been suggested. With that factor out of the way, the problem still is complicated by divergent views as to how the money is to be distributed.

Nebraska has builded well in the past. Its present is secure. Only for the future is it necessary to plan. And plans for the future must comprehend a larger, more populous and a busier Nebraska than now exists. Not larger in area, but in the sense that the present area will be more efficiently used. Two blades of grass to grow where one grows now. Many more tons of produce can be carried over the highways. More and easier communication between the communities of the state. A greater commerce because of greater production.

Unless a change is made in certain practices, this vision of the future for Nebraska can not be realized. The parochial system of administration must be modified. Road districts, for example, have their special problems, which deserve consideration and must have solution. Yet the district must be made subsidiary to the state as a whole. If Nebraska is to have a general highway system, one that will serve every portion of the state and every citizen, then a start will have to be made somewhere.

It is of small interest whether this start be made at Dakota City or at Holdrege, at Nebraska City or Chadron, so long as it is made, and in the end leads to a unified system of roads. Some points must come first, and some last, but the roads must be built on a general plan that eventually will constitute a system to serve the whole state. Piecemeal, haphazard building, regard for local interests, will not bring about the result aimed at.

The legislature is perplexed by clash between subdivisions. This should be disregarded. Legislators should awaken to the fact that the state is bigger than any section. Centralize the roadbuilding work. Put it under the governor and the state engineer, where it belongs. Give consideration to the well-digested plan evolved by the Good Roads association. Instead of trying to harmonize the conflict that is now going on, the legislature should take the bull by the horns, and plan to build a better Nebraska.

### "MINES AND MINING" IN NEBRASKA.

In the good old days, when Squatter Governor Pearman was a power in the land, the list of committees of the Nebraska legislature had one on "mines and mining." It had its purpose, too. While Nebraska had no mines, nor prospect of any, the legislature usually contained a few lonesome but ornamental democrats. These had to have something to do, so they were grouped on the committee on mines and mining.

Longer than half a century ago a bonus was offered for the discovery of coal in the state, the vein or seam to be not less than 26 inches thick. Many attempts have been made to secure the reward. Many shafts, tunnels, adits and winzes, to use mining terms, have been driven in the quest of coal. Many a drill has been sent deep into the earth, but nothing like a 26-inch vein of coal has been located.

Now from Rulo come the news that a seam 24 inches thick is being worked there. A carload of coal has been "gophered" out. Hope is high that the long sought mine has been discovered. It will be a welcome addition to the state's resources if it holds out. The prospect of turning Nebraska's wheels with Nebraska fuel is alluring.

Yet the report of the committee on mines and mining to the house in 1909 still holds the greatest encouragement. In that it was set forth that Nebraska mines millions of pounds of things to eat each year. That its soil is the source of endless wealth, and its sunshine makes possible a bounteous yield each year. Gold and silver come into the state in exchange for the products of the soil. "Mines and mining" in Nebraska may be a figure of speech, but the soil brings every year more of material wealth than the gold from all the mines in the world amounts to in a year.

### BACK TO FIRST PRINCIPLES.

Remember the time, any of you, when a blacksmith's skill was tested by his ability to turn a horseshoe? Lots of folks still live who got a thrill when Joe Murphy, in "Kerry Gow," played a tune on the anvil with his hammer while he pretended to fashion a horseshoe. It was a real stunt. Then came the iron man, which could make horseshoes faster and more accurately than human blacksmiths ever thought of doing. Not only did the machine turn the shoe, but it fashioned the heel calks and the toe calk, and in time left nothing for the man to work on, save driving the nails. The machine actually sharpened the calks. Then there came the patented shoe, into which the calks were screwed, and could be replaced or adjusted.

Now a little bit of information that is regrettable. United States Steel will no longer make horseshoes. Business in this line has dwindled to where only about 18,000 tons of steel annually were used for the purpose, and the concern feels it can use the

space to better advantage making something else. This is a tribute to the supremacy of the automobile. Other concerns will continue making horseshoes, though, and if need be, the blacksmith can revive that portion of his art. Even if horses should quit wearing shoes, a demand still exists. How will the great summer game be carried on otherwise? What will the retired millionaires at Los Angeles do for amusement, if horseshoes vanish?

### NO NEED TO RUB IT IN.

Editor Thorpe of "The Nation's Business" shows how the wheat growers of the United States lost \$100,000,000 on last season's crop by listening to the call of politics. Senator Shipstead of Minnesota warned the farmers that the advance in selling price of wheat was but a device of the devil to catch their votes. Wall Street was back of the movement to boost prices. The obviously smart thing for the farmer to do was to hurry his wheat to market, and then vote for La Follette.

Whether the second part of the suggestion was carried out does not matter. The first part was. Wheat was rushed to market. Election came. La-Follette was beaten, and the price of wheat kept right on going up.

As a farmer, Shipstead is a corking good dentist. What he does not know about the world market conditions would make a pretty fair-sized book. That is not the point. Wheat farmers long ago found out all about the loss they had to take because of marketing their grain too early. Nothing is gained by rubbing it in on them now. In fact, some of them are so sore they are almost raw.

However, we hope the farmer will come to regard himself as more of a business man and less of a politician in the future. To give to his farm the same careful attention the banker gives to his bank, or the storekeeper to his store. And incline his ear less to the voice of the man who explains to him how he can get something for nothing. The La Follette lesson will not be entirely lost if the farmer recognizes himself as part of, and not outside and separate from the great industrial and commercial life of the nation.

### CASH CAPTURED FROM THE SMOKESTACK.

One of the challenges to modern thought is the use of fuel. In no other phase of industry is the waste so apparent and appalling. One of the big items in transportation cost is fuel. More than 80 per cent of the money spent for fuel by the railroads goes up the smokestack of the locomotive, unused.

Yet the railroad managers have succeeded in recapturing some of the dollars that have been escaping after a fashion. Among the economies practiced of late has been the conservation of fuel. Enginemen and others have been trained in special methods of handling trains and engines at the least possible expenditure of fuel. One most gratifying result is that in 1924 the fuel used by the locomotives of the United States was less than in 1923 by 319,816 tons. To handle that amount of coal would require 7,108 cars, a string 61 miles in length. These cars would make 142 trains of 50 cars each.

In addition to this saving, the management is studying other methods for cutting down the fuel cost, to get more power out of the fuel consumed. For example, the Missouri Pacific line is trying out a three-cylinder locomotive. It has one passenger and one freight engine using three instead of two cylinders, and expects to effect several notable savings through using the device. Tests will tell, but the heads of the company are sanguine of the outcome.

Less money spent for coal means more money available for other needs. Folks along the right-of-way are not the only ones who grumble about the billows of black smoke emitted by the iron horse. The man who directs the operation of the road also worries about the smoke, for he knows it stands for money he needs for other uses.

The mayor may be shocked that the cruiser Omaha has no memento from the city it is named for, but this is not the fault of the newspapers, for ample publicity was given the matter long ago.

Nebraska and Iowa have provided some mighty good secretaries for the Department of Agriculture, and the supply of available men is not yet exhausted.

That road to Jarvis Offutt Field is a most tenacious argument for the need of getting Nebraska out of the mud.

The senator or member of congress who is not either being guarded or dogged by detectives must feel lonesome.

Mother Earth is a kindly old dame, but she sometimes appears to be cruel to those who try to discover her secrets.

Whether it is a new court or a commission, something should be done to relieve the supreme court docket.

Mount Etna seems to have caught the hint from Mussolini. At any rate, it is getting ready to erupt again.

Dempsey says marriage will not interfere with his fight plans. He needs the money more than ever now.

Chadron rejects the city manager plan by a huge vote. Yet the idea still has its attractive features.

Hens have a justifiable complaint, for as soon as they go to work the price of eggs goes down.

Hardware dealers are advised to follow the Golden Rule. Some folks find that hard to do.

It seems the poisoning at the Ohio university was all an accident. Now to get the word to the victims.

## Homespun Verse

By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davis

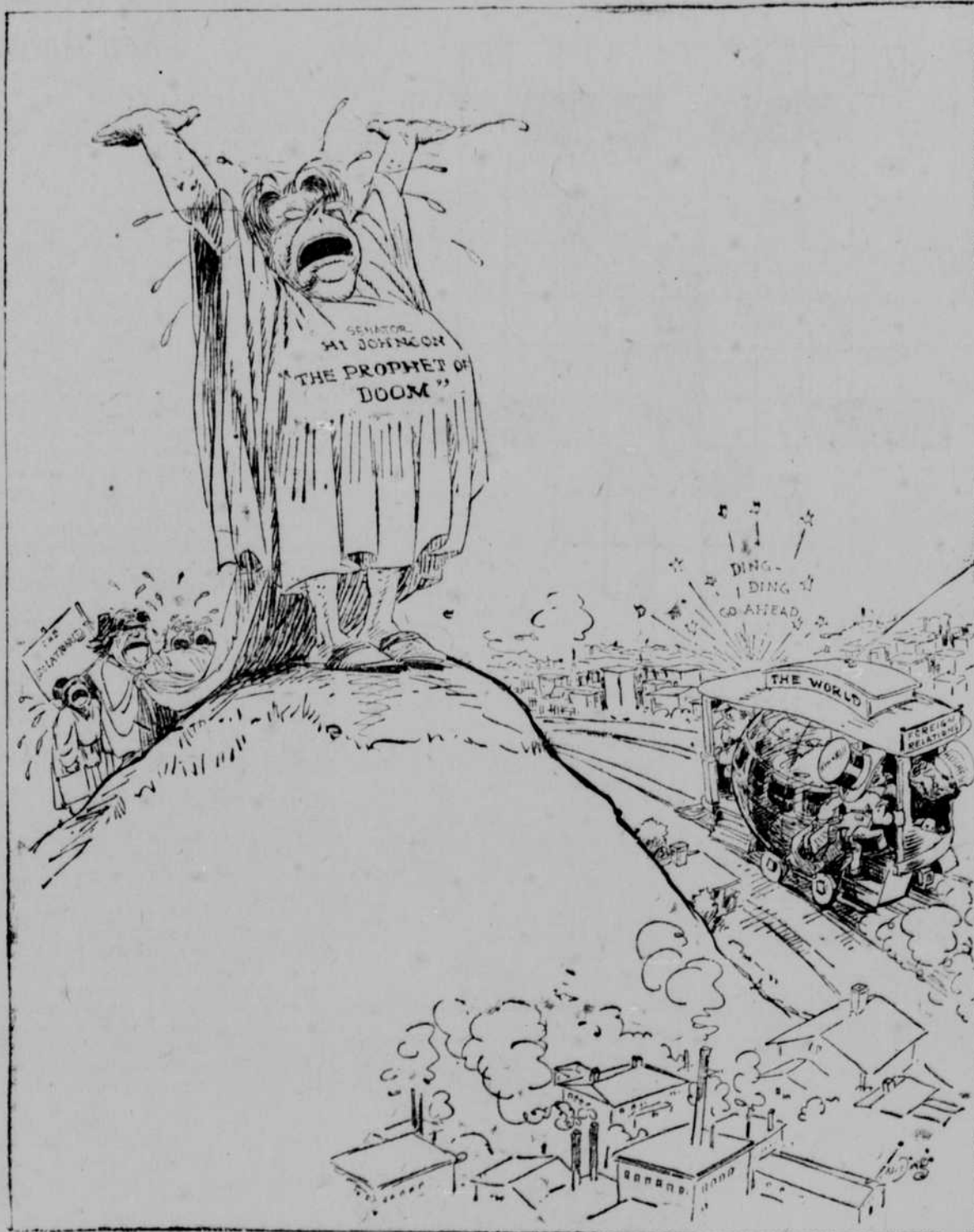
### SIR B. U. D'BLANK.

A man with means, a man with friends, was Sir B. U. DeBlank.—  
But he declared he'd never put one penny in the bank. His pockets bulged with notes and coin, his home was like a mint.—  
For many years he lived and failed to take the wise-man's hint.

One mucky night as he on sped along the lonely street, A hidgeon bumped him on the head, and knocked him off his feet.—  
When he awoke the eastern skies were showing signs of Dawn.—  
His head was sore, his hands were numb, and all his cash was gone.

B. U. DeBlank went wobbling home, resolving of he went To put his shekles in the bank, and save embarrassment.—  
And now he goes with little fear of thugs and highway-men, And every time he needs a dime he uses book and pen.

## Speaking of the End of the World and Direful Prophets



## 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.

**World Court Propaganda.**  
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Propagandists of the League of Nations are working constantly. The expressions of Presidents Harding and Coolidge favoring a World's Court not constituted by the League of Nations, with reservations, seems to have given new life to the league propagandists. Some of the men who attended the recent public meeting in the city hall know that the United States cannot enter the World's Court without automatically entering the League of Nations, respecting this all-important fact, the propagandists presume upon the ignorance of the people. Were there a dozen persons in the city hall meeting who knew enough to vote on the resolution?

When President Harding was elected the people threw the League of Nations into the discard, and they repeated such action in the last presidential election. Why was it necessary to vote the question down a second time? Simply because of the persistency of the league propagandists. What is the sinister influence which persists in working for the league in the face of two overwhelming verdicts of the entire electorate? David Jayne Hill has presented documentary proof that should this nation enter the World's Court it automatically would enter the League of Nations. Former Senator A. J. Beveridge concurs in this opinion. There is no doubt whatever about it.

On this point Mr. Hill says:  
1. That the court derives its authority primarily from the covenant of the league and from legislation by the council and assembly of the league, by which its judges are chosen, paid and constituted a court.  
2. That the statute of the court does not embody the most important recommendations of the committee of jurists consulted by the league.  
3. That all the nations thus far participating in the court do so, without exception, explicitly in the terms of the protocol, as members of the league.  
4. That the covenant of the league, embodying a wholly new system of international relations, is the fundamental law for this court when the council or assembly meets the league.  
5. That the United States can have no part in the election of judges, unless its representatives sit for that purpose with the council and the assembly—that is, with the league.

Former Senator Beveridge recently said: "The World Court is created by the league, elected by the league."  
Abe Martin

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We don't know nothin' about C. Bascom Slem's deeds, but it'll be many a day before his name is forgotten. We hope th' silver dollar does come back so we kin slap it on th' counter an' git some service.  
(Copyright, 1925.)

for they are putting the proposition of permanent peace squarely up to the other nations. Greece has been frank enough to speak out as it feels. Other governments pretend to their citizens and to the nations that they are for world peace, when in reality they are not. If they were they would send every effort to arrive at a practical and effective plan. Up to the present time they have not done so. The World Court and League of Nations have no fixed rules or financial guarantees assuring the world of peace. Greece has spoken. Will the other nations show their sincerity by offering substantial guarantees? Disarmament is the right step as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough. The destruction of a few capital ships is insufficient while other cruisers, torpedo boats, etc., are secretly being built, and other implements of war, such as aeroplanes, bombing machines, poison gases, are being improved upon. The Grecian government foresees the uselessness of nations partially disarming, without guaranteeing to the world that there shall be no more war.

A careful study of my world peace plan, known as the "world peace bond," reveals the necessity of having a financial guarantee. Its features could be used effectively if the nations really wanted peace.  
OTTO LOUIS BREMERS.

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## SUNNY SIDE UP

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

It is not surprising that some of our grave and revered state senators want to look 'Gene Westervelt over before confirming him as a member of the state board of control. 'Gene is worth looking over. He is about six feet six in altitude. He was a pioneer of western Nebraska when some of the senators were in swaddling clothes, and others yet unborn. He was sheriff of Scotts Bluffs county when times were troublous. As a newspaper man he was holding aloft the torch while others were giving way to despair. Yes, the senators owe it to themselves to look 'Gene over. It may afford some of them inspiration to hustle out and do as much for Nebraska as 'Gene has during the last 40 years.

The recent joke of the Rowanites, who prepared for the end of the world, recalls a once popular novel based upon the millennium theory. Edward Eggleston, whose books were the best sellers about 50 years ago, wrote one called "The End of the World." It was a Hoosier novel and its theme was the belief of some people that the end of the world was at hand. Such people are always hobbling up. We can remember a half-dozen dates set for the annihilation of things in general. But are those who think they can set the date for the end of the world any more just as well come to an end? There are such people, and right here in Omaha, too.

Mentor Brown of the Kearney Hub comes to the front with a suggestion that meets with our hearty endorsement. He suggests that the bachelor member of the legislature who proposed the "Babies in three years" bill marry some spinster who already knows how to raise children, thus forming a combination that will teach by example rather than by precept. However, we hasten to express our sympathy for the progeny.

At last! We are about to have opportunity to wear the good old swallowtail. Not the hot-bellied, dinky little coat abbreviated at about the waistline, but the real old soup-and-fish, the Hereford suit. It will be at the Valentine day dance of Cornhusker Kennel no. 237, Ancient and Honorable Order of Yellow Dogs, at Lincoln. The Order of Yellow Dogs, believe you us, is some noble order. It is also select, however much you may be inclined to doubt it, judging by the name and by the added fact that we are a member. We are looking forward to the time of our young life.

**Nebraska Limerick.**  
There is a young fellow in Uehling  
Who wasted the hours of his schooling.  
With patches on pants  
He wails of "no change"  
And thinks other folk he is fueling.

Speaking of the "babies in three years or marriage annulled" bill now before the Nebraska legislature, sponsored by Dr. Pinto, the Chicago News suggests an amendment to the effect that the stork as an infant carrier be succeeded by the Pinto pony. We suggest as a further amendment that marriage licenses under the proposed law bear an embossed likeness of the animal with which Baalam had the argument.

Again the smoke nuisance: Every match in the vest pocket a toothpick.  
WILL M. MAUPIN.

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