THE OMAHA BEE

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KANSAS CITY SHOWING THE WAY.

Our friendly neighbor down the river is just now wrestling with the traffic problem after a fashion that may interest Omaha. The conditions are not exactly parallel. In Kansas City the tramway problem was vexed by politics. It was made a football, and the company was reduced to penury. Service was impossible and finally something like a truce was signed. While the tramway has not as yet recovered from the drastic treatment it received, a movement is on foot to charter a bus line. This will provide for competition, if not improvement, in the service. Omaha has not as yet reached that state of af-

fairs. Relations between the tramway and the community have been fairly satisfactory to both sides. This is said with due regard to the sporadic and not always well considered pot-shooting that has taken place. That will very likely go on, notwithstanding any arrangement that may be entered into. What is of moment to the community is this: Service must be had. A tramway is just as much of a necessity as water, light or gas for domestic uses. The company sets up that its patronage has been falling off materially and steadily for months, until limitations on service have been forced.

Would a division of the traffic between the tramway and a bus line better the situation? Is it not a place where a single properly regulated agency would be better than two? Competition under the circumstances would be ruinous, rather than beneficial. For this reason, it may be well to allow the tramway to supplement its service through a bus line addition. Exclusive franchises can not be granted, and at any time the community might give permission to another company to operate. Such permission, however, would merely serve to grant to the competing line the right to clutter up the streets, and without giving anything really worth while in re-

When the mayor says that to change a word in the pending bill would be in the interest of the street railway company, he is merely indulging in hyperbole. The fact that the measure was prepared by the city's corporation counsel does not remove it entirely from the examination of interested citizens. Several words might be changed without sacrificing anything that is in the city's right now or for the future. Full consideration of the measure, dispassionately and with a view to coming to a decision that is just for both sides, is what is needed.

WHY NOT CALL IT A TIE?

One of the little incidents of the senate last week, where the members are too busy talking to attending to legislation, Caraway of Arkansas and Heffin of Alabama indulged in a debate. It was a contest as to which is better qualified to speak for the common people of whom both are so fond. "I was born in a two-room house, with a dirt

floor," said Caraway. "When I grew up I worked on a farm for \$3 a week." Heffin told how he cut cotton on a farm until he was 19 years old, and still loves the farmer. The senator from Alabama was put out of action when the senator from Arkansas retorted that the farmers he knows do not wear white vests and swallow-tailed coats.

In such a contest, why not call it a tie, and split the pot? The honorable senators are not the first to rise from lowly to lofty positions. Nor does their jumping off place entitle them to speak with any more authority for the humble of the land. Some really worth while service has been achieved by men who started with every advantage. In a great democracy like ours, wealth nor the lack of it has much to do with determining success in life.

Mental equipment and moral character always have controlled, and probably always will. In the makeup of the successful individual is something that is lacking in the failure. Just what it is can not be easily defined. Many names have been given it, but whatever else it is, its most essential elements are grit and gumption. Given these, the rest can be acquired.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S MARRIAGES.

At this distance, and from here to Los Angeles is far enough to furnish a fair perspective, it looks as if Charlie Chaplin were having an experience that is not uncommon. He thought he was marrying a little girl, and finds out he married her whole darned family. Not only the mother-in-law that goes with any well regulated matrimonial venture. A grandma is always a handy thing to have about the house or the neighborhood. But Chaplin also married a fatherin-law, some brothers-in-law, and at least one unclein-law.

The latter also happens to be a lawyer. As Hamlet said, "there's the rub." It would be easier, should a marital difference come up for hearing, to have something in writing. A little document showing how much money the comedian was willing to settle on his wife would be a very nice thing as Exhibit A. Here was a movie plot, and with no chance to throw a custard pie or do a funny fall.

When Mr. Chaplin is not acting before the camera he is not a fool. Something of a smart business man he is rated by those who come in close relations with him. So now we get the news that, after several days of talk about divorce, separation and the like, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chaplin are happy in their little home nest. Mrs. Chaplin's mother has

moved into a home of her own. Also resolved to have nothing more to do with lawyers. One inference is that Charlie won. At that he may have lost. But he has found out that in-laws sometimes are expensive and bothersome things to have around.

THREE CREIGHTONS AND OMAHA.

The Civil War made necessary means for speedy communication between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Pony express riders had notably shortened the time between the Missouri river and the Golden Gate, but still days were required for a message to cover the distance. A telegraph line was decided upon, as well as a railroad. The wire line was built first. To build it a contractor was needed, and this brought Edward Creighton to Omaha. With him came his wife, Lucretia, and his brother, John A.

Many thousands of people live here now, enjoying the fruits of the harvest the Creightons sowed, and knowing little of them. Out of the generosity of Mrs. Creighton's heart came the big St. Joseph's hospital, familiarly called by old-timers, "Creighton Memorial." The next beneficence was Creighton University. Neither of the founders lived long enough to see this become what it now is. Their vision, maybe, saw its colleges grow in stature. At any rate, their dreams are partially realized. A great nonsectarian school is carrying on well the mission of education. Like the hospital, it has grown far beyond the first beginnings. Just because the city has grown, and the liberal endowment made by the founders has enhanced in wealth until bigger things can be done in a better way.

"Founders' Day" was observed by religious ceremony, and many citizens took part in the proceedings. On other institutions than the school and the hospital the name of Creighton rests, a memorial to the husband, the wife and the brother, who deserve so well to be recalled with gratitude by Omahans.

MAKING THE LAW RIDICULOUS.

Nebraska was bone dry before the Eighteenth amendment was passed. Our statute to enforce prohibition, enacted by the legislature in the winter of 1917 and enforced since May 1 of that year, is more drastic in some of its provisions than the Volstead act. Why, then, is it necessary to add more teeth to the double and triple rows that already give terror to

The passage by the house of a bill designed to give further power to the law seems an entirely useless gesture. If prohibition were to be made effective by enactment of laws, the country would have been drier than Sahara long ago. Will not the "pint" measure have directly the opposite effect to that which is intended?

The great difficulty so far encountered by the enforcement officers has been the lack of healthy public sentiment in their support. A vast majority of the American people are apathetic on the question of prohibition. They are not inclined to ascribe to it the importance given the policy by the extremists on either side. So long as this state of mind exists, that long the law will lack the regard it should have.

Efforts of the drys to add further terror by grafting new penalties on the law will avail but little. Bootleggers and their patrons will not be frightened by more law on the question. If steps were taken to make the law more effective by its reasonable enforcement, without the sometimes sensational and sometimes silly proceedings that mark the record now being made, much of the difficulty would disap-Enough of the law already exists to govern the situation. If it is not effective, the remedy should be sought somewhere else, and not in the enactment of still more law that will be flouted just as are those

DRYING OUT THE LOW GROUND.

Nebraska presents some interesting physical problems. One has to do with drainage, or rather, distribution of water supply. From the Missouri river the state gradually rises over 4,000 feet to its west you ask several questions, 1. e.: end. This steady uplift is scarcely perceptible to one who just crosses the state on a train. It is noticeable, arouse the authorities to action?" though, in the swift current of the running streams. One of the effects it produces is that out west the farmers are looking for more water for their acres while along the river they have to scheme how to get rid of some of the surplus.

While Phelps, Kearney and Adams counties are planning for the tricounty supplementary irrigation ditch, farmers in Burt county have just let a contract for a drainage ditch that will cost \$200,000. It will take care of the outfall of five little creek systems. Water that now runs down the hillsides and sours the ground along the creeks will be given a straight and narrow course to the Missouri. By this means a great many acres that now languish because they are water-soaked will be made the more productive.

This drainage method has nothing to do with the harmful and often wasteful methods of reclamation, such as were practiced in northern Minnesota, where peat bogs were drained and fire traps instead of good farming land were established. Man is learning a great many lessons from nature, and one is that disturbing the balance frequently does a lot of damage.

"The wealth of the country is gradually flow-ing into fewer and fewer hands," says the Grand Island Independent. Is this a covert way of saying that the bootlegging business is growing greater?

February 7 was a great disappointment to those who were hopeful that the midnight before would obviate the necessity of filling out their income tax

The Stone that some of the senators would have rejected has become the head of the corner.

The prince danced with a blind girl, but the item doesn't say if he opened her eyes.

Those Collins cave promoters got the publicity, f that is what they were after.

Homespun Verse By Omaha's Own Poet-Robert Worthington Davie

DIVORCE.

Divorce is the worst of all evils! We'd better be childless, I say, Than bound by the law of mere mortals To travel a separate way.

Love can not endure if it's shackled. And driven by legalized force; There's cheapness enough without adding A law that will nourish remorse.

Compared with the unwelcome one Who comes to the house that deplores him, And wishes him henceward anon. The babes in the cradles need mothers

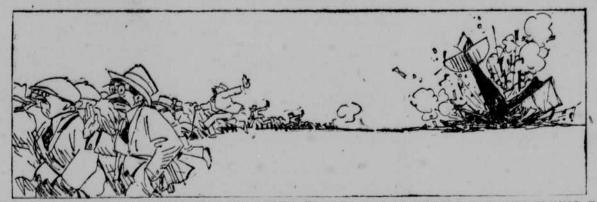
The orphan is rich in life's goodness

Whose love is a yellow brocade,-Whose courage and conscience is sacred-And mothers are born and not made.

One Lesson We Can't Seem to Learn



LET ONE MAN EAT AN OYSTER AND GET TYPHOID FEVER AND WERE OFF OYSTERS FOR



AND ONE ACCIDENT IN TWO MILLION MILES TRAVEL MAKES PEOPLE PUT OFF FLYING FOR



AND THE MERE RUMOR OF ONE SHARK WILL DEPOPULATE THE BATHING BEACHES FOR A WHOLE SEASON.



BUT THE MORE FAKE INVESTMENTS THERE ARE EXPOSED THE MORE PEOPLE SEEM TO

with bootlegging, but they buy their

This letter is not intended to be

cause I do not see how we can legis-

late people's tastes and desires except the fundamental code of decency

which is necessary to uphold law

order and propriety, but until there is a concerted effort to clean up the

situation such as exists in Herrin and Chicago, there will still be such ques-

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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.

The Omaha Bee: Although I am not matters in Chicago, Herrin and other subscriber to The Omaha Bee, 1 places in the United States is a conhave read many articles and editorhave read many articles and editor-ials from your paper and have always understood that The Omaha Bee was one of the representative western newspapers.

In last Saturday's Boston Transcript and such communities as Herrin. The here appeared a reprint from The so-called good citizens are afraid to Omaha Bee, entitled, "Challenge to make any move because they will be civilization," which referred particularly to Bloody Williamson county. bootlegging. I do not mean that they in the last paragraph of the editorial have any real connection financially

1. "Does Illinois have no citizen liquor from bootleggers, and this is with sufficient 'political influence' to a club that is held over their heads. 2. "Can murderous gangs run wild temperance advocate. I am in no in Herrin or Chicago, settling affairs way interested in the prohibition according to their own code of murder amendment except as it is a law, be and rapine? The biggest funeral parade that ever passed in Chicago was that which followed Dion O'Bannion. dead gangster, to the grave. But no report is made of any arrest for his killing

"How long can civilization endure if these crimes go unpunished? It is surprising to me that there can be any question formulated, especially by a representative newspaper t seems to me that the answer to all these questions should be obvious, not only to the man in the street, but to newspapers who should have the very best source of information on political nd public questions. With the state of politics in Illinois,

such as it is when people will elect a man like Len Small for governor, the itizens who would have any political up your body, the best thing you can nfluence in the state of Illinois would do to get back your health and be people like Umbrella Mike Royle strength quick, is to start right in and others of his henchmen, whom Mr. Small pardoned from jail sen-

No. 2 says: "Can murderous gangs un wild in Herrin or Chicago, settling affairs according to their own code of

The Torrio shooting and the O'Ban nion killing was the result of nothing more or less than a bootleggers' war. The whole thing can be cleaned up if the newspapers of this country will support law and order and hold up a ligh standard. The answer to your third question

is civilization cannot endure very long

Abe Martin



"He ought t' be back now, he jest stepped out a moment t' git a character witness," said Bootlegger lke Lark's wife t' a caller this mornin'. Movie censorin' should begin at home.

(Convright, 1926.)

tions asked as those contained in your editorial. R. G. WATSON, 41 North Market Street. The Ananias Club.

always get a kick out of hearing you Boston, Mass.-To the Editor of reason underlying the state of such enjoy them."-Cincinnati Enquirer.

Art Exhibit.

there was to be any royalty at this affair."-Louisville Courier-Journal. When in Omaha bootlegging. I do not mean that the

250 Rooms-250 Baths-Rates \$2 to \$3

of all movie and theatrical attractions was prepared by some jokesters. Members of the legislature need not go far out of their ordinary way to make a joke of the whole session WILL M. MAUPIN.

we've been a guest.

"John," said his wife, "tell the

"Have you seen the Hungarian

"No: where is he? I didn't kno-Buy one of our guaranteed Typewriters or Adding Machines. Save one-half. Easy terms. LOWER RENTAL RATES

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A Sure Way to Prosperity

Jake Comfort nor forget, That Sunrise never failed us yet

The lower branch of the legislature has passed a bill making the possession of a pint or more of liquor prima facie evidence that the owner of the liquor is a bootlegger. The bill

dence that the owner of the liquor is a bootlegger. The bill now goes to the senate, where we shall use our personal influence to secure an amendment. The bill as it stands is not bread enough. We shall move to amend to make the possession of a deck of cards prima facie evidence that the owner is the keeper of a gambling house. Also that the ownership of a knife with a blade more than two inches long, or a revolver, shotten or ride rains facie evidence that the owner is meditating

gun or rifle prima facie evidence that the owner is meditating

murder in the first degree. When we Pass a Law let us make

Some bills introduced in legislatures—not in Nebraska, of course—are prima facie evidence that the introducers couldn't come within seven miles of passing a Binet test.

from Washington, and hiked to Washington to get it, a world cataclysm would result if she managed to catch the senator unawares. The sanctity of the senatorial lips must be pre-

Our own opinion of the prohibitory law may not be of general interest, but we make bold to express it. Prohibition is the law of the land and should be enforced. The purchaser or consumer of illicit liquor is as guilty, morally, as the vendor. But there is nothing sacred about the prohibition amendment or laws. One may appose without being guilty of a mortal sin.

One may not violate, however, and escape guilt. If prohibi-tion has any reason for being, that reason is economic. We have never been convinced that the drinking of liquor is im-

Governor "Ma" Ferguson, proposing a tax on cigarets and other forms of tobacco, says, "Men who smoke are usually the most liberal men in the community." Wise and clever politician

is "Ma." Most men smoke, and all men are susceptible to flat-tery. Were we a voter in Texas we'd vote for "Ma" spite'n inferno and the increased volume of water in the river.

private use in our new home will have a rag carpet on the floor. Not one of those fancy factory-made rag carpets, but a genuine hit-and-miss Missouri product, woven on a hand-and-

foot loom by an ancient female who smokes natural leaf in a

Our apologies to J. Hyde Sweet of the Nebraska City Press.
We never wrote it "Nebraska City Tribune." We have the copy to prove it. We have provided the boiling oil in which to plunge the erring linotyper. The proof reader being a perfect lady, we have let her go unscathed save for an admonition. Our accuracy is one of the things we proudest are of. And we'll bet the linotyper and the proof reader try to straighten out the preceding sentence.

Before we forget it, the room we are preparing for our

Our apologies to J. Hyde Sweet of the Nebraska City Press.

Again we have been overruled. The interstate commerce

commission rules that the surcharge on Pullman tickets, which we have condemned bitterly, is justifiable. The commission holds that when it is possible to reduce the cost of travel the

consequent having should be to the benefit of those who can not afford luxuries, but must "count the pennies." That may look

reasonable at first glance, but the second time it fades a bit. We don't have to count our pennies—we have to ask for them. Riding in a Pullman is not necessarily a luxury; it is often a

penalty. However, our opposition to the surcharge has been somewhat lessened by the fact that very frequently of late

Now we are informed that the bill proposing the closing

And we have yet to be shown that there is any scrip-

We commend the placing of a guard about the home of Senator Norris. If another southern miss should decide that life is not worth living without a kiss from the senior senator

it horse-high, bull-strong and pig-tight.

served at any cost.

tural warrant for prohibition.



Carnival Week proper begins on the evening of Thursday, February 19, and runs thru six days of fun and frolic-a season of merry-masking you'll never forget.

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