

# THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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## Omaha—Where the West is at its Best

### NATIONAL CONTROL OF ELECTIONS.

Considerable water has run under the bridge since the first president of the United States and the first congress were chosen by popular vote. Then the vote was "popular" in name only. The elect gathered at the tavern, where they openly discussed candidates, as well as the punch or toddy. When an elector had decided his course, he approached the judges and clerks and openly announced his selection, which was duly entered on the tally sheet. One feature of that custom contrasts strongly with present day usages. Then a man was not afraid to let all know his political leanings and his personal preferences among candidates. Today the latter is one of the most securely guarded of secrets.

Other things have changed. Senator Borah has just reported to the senate the findings of the special investigating committee of which he was chairman. Chief of his recommendations is that congress should give serious consideration to the practice of collecting money in one state for use in the elections in another. On the surface this would seem to be a simple thing. Voters in one state have no right to intervene in the political affairs of another. Each is sovereign over its own affairs, and should have untrammeled control of its own elections.

Looked for a moment at the broader aspect of the question. New York is deeply concerned in how Nebraska may react to any policy or candidate proposed. Because what Nebraska does may profoundly affect the material interests of New York, so far as national relations are involved. The same is true among all the states. We have in our national development long since passed the point where one state is absolutely independent of any or all of the others. Mutuality of interest is the sustaining influence that holds us together as a unified people.

Congress is concerned, because its members are chosen from the several states by popular vote. Uniform practices and regulations are essential in this matter. These regulations need not interfere with the conduct of purely state or local elections. Generally states have sought to make their elections conform in all regards to the national laws. Under this condition, it does not appear to be an unreasonable thing to raise money in one state to be expended in another for the legitimate expenses of carrying on a common enterprise, such as a general election.

Citizens generally will support any effort at making our elections less costly and more expressive of public desire. So long as the ballot boxes disclose the regrettable fact that fully half the qualified voters of the nation voluntarily disfranchise themselves, the expenditure of money appears to have been largely waste, rather than a menace. Congress may affix a schedule of rates beyond which its members will not be permitted to go in pursuit of their campaigns. So far so good. Yet experience has taught that national control of elections can not be effectively set up, nor does the amount of money put out in an effort to arouse the voters always succeed in getting them to the polls.

Our nation's greatest menace just now is the indifference of its citizens on election day. The voter who neglects his duty is the one who needs attention. He needs it much more than the one who might be influenced directly or indirectly by money. The diligent voter takes a bribe of his own interest, ease or convenience, and nothing can be more unworthy of a citizen than that.

### KANSAS BOOTLEGGERS.

It is illegal to sell cigarettes in Kansas. But, of course, cigarettes are sold in the Sunflower state. About as many, per capita, perhaps, as in states where the sale is legal.

A bill repealing the anti-cigarette law has been introduced in the Kansas legislature. Two classes are fighting repeal, those who abhor cigarettes and those who sell them. Cigarettes are bootlegged in Kansas, just as liquor is. And, like illicit liquor, illicit cigarettes command a premium. The cigarettes that cost 15 cents a package in Nebraska cost 25 cents a package in Kansas. The Kansas bootleggers of cigarettes claim that they must charge 66 per cent above the normal price in order to guarantee them against loss through fines and "seeing" enforcement officers. That's the same sort of plea the liquor bootlegger puts up.

The Kansas bootleggers of cigarettes are merely taking advantage of a situation. In this way they are like bootleggers of liquor. The law insisted upon by reformers merely gives the cigaret dispensers an opportunity to wrest huge profits, and it is no wonder that the dispensers join with the reformers in opposing repeal.

It is an interesting situation. Also it is an interesting commentary on the ways of modern society.

### GUN TOTERS.

It is a violation of law to carry concealed weapons. A concealed weapon may be a pistol, revolver, dirk dagger, knuckles, billy or even a pocket-knife with a blade of unusual length.

In some states it is against the law to sell firearms without first obtaining a permit, and then selling only to those who are able to show a permit to purchase the same. It is a fine law, but like so many of our laws it fails to work in the forward motion. It deters law-abiding citizens from purchasing weapons for defense, while every thug, thief, burglar,

porch climber, highwayman, dip and safe-blower can secure weapons for offensive purposes without the least bit of trouble.

Unfortunately the law does not operate against those whose activities are most in need of curbing. The citizen who might find a gun a handy thing is deterred from doing so because it would be a violation of law. The criminal, active or potential, who should be barred from ownership or handling of a pistol always has one in his possession.

The law prohibiting gun-toting is a dead letter. Either it should be repealed that honest citizens may be legally entitled to carry pistols for self-protection against the growing horde of highwaymen, or it should be enforced rigidly. The knowledge that citizens are prepared to defend themselves and their property might serve to curb the crime wave.

### GOOD JOB WELL STARTED.

A really worth while piece of work was done by the house at Lincoln on Wednesday. A bill was passed which will make available for new buildings for the University of Nebraska \$3,700,000. This is extended over a period of 10 years. Only one real criticism can be lodged against the action. The sum is not enough.

When it is recalled that enrollment at the university has more than doubled since the last building was erected, and that the several colleges are now trying to take care of more four-year students than the total number of all, short course as well as full course, students in 1919, the need for new buildings will be appreciated. The tax is insignificant when compared to the good that will be accomplished.

The bill will be well received in the senate. At least the men who have been working for its passage are so assured. Needs of the state's great educational institute have been explained to the members in a way that convinces them. Opposition in the house was slight, once the subject was thoroughly opened up. A similar experience is anticipated in the senate. A good job has been well started.

### PUTTING THE SERVE IN SERVICE.

One of the well understood maxims of modern business practice is that customers come to him who goes after them. And there are many ways of going after the customer. The best-known way is that of newspaper advertising. Public service corporations have come to appreciate the necessity as well as the value of spreading before the people the qualities of the service they have to offer. J. E. Davidson, general manager of the Nebraska Power company, gives us this information:

"The value placed upon advertising by public utility companies is shown by increased expenditure during 1924. A total of \$11,000,000 will be spent by these companies in the United States. This is an increase of \$3,000,000 over 1923.

"The electric light and power industry spent \$4,500,000, an increase of 50 per cent; electric railways spent \$2,500,000, an increase of 25 per cent; the gas industry \$2,500,000, an increase of about 20 per cent; the telephone industry \$1,500,000, an increase of 50 per cent.

"During the present year, it is believed, these appropriations will be materially increased." Please notice that each of the various utilities increased its advertising expenditure in 1924. No better proof could be asked in support of the proposition that the money first expended for advertising was a good investment. It produced returns, or the increase would not have been made.

The modern newspaper literally puts the "serve" in "service." It is the great forum through which all the multifarious and complex needs of the race are satisfied. The show window in which are displayed all the forms and varieties of use and beauty designed to aid life in every way, esthetic as well as material. And commerce and industry alike recognize this fact and act accordingly, as the statement made by Dr. Davis amply attests.

If possession of one pint of liquor is to be punished by two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$2,000, the possession of a quart surely deserves destruction, and possession of three pints burning at the stake.

The Treasury department is trying to promote the circulation of silver dollars by telling us that paper money is a great transmitter of disease germs. The sight of greenbacks often gives a man the itch.

It appears that it did not take Judge Gary nearly so long to work up sympathy for the Japanese as it did for him to show a bit of it for the 12-hour shift workers in his steel plants.

Minting of marks in Germany is being held up because monarchists and republicans can not agree upon a motto. How would "Honesty is the Best Policy" do?

Americans consumed 10,000,000,000 bottles of carbonated drinks in 1924. Surely such a saturnalia of imbibing demands the immediate Passage of a Law.

The world's greatest authority on daffodils committed suicide in New York the other day. Probably studied daffodils until he went daffy.

If Dad follows the fashion, in due time daughter can make a couple of voluminous skirts out of Dad's pantaloons.

Speaking of things humorous, there is the serious way in which George W. Harvey takes himself.

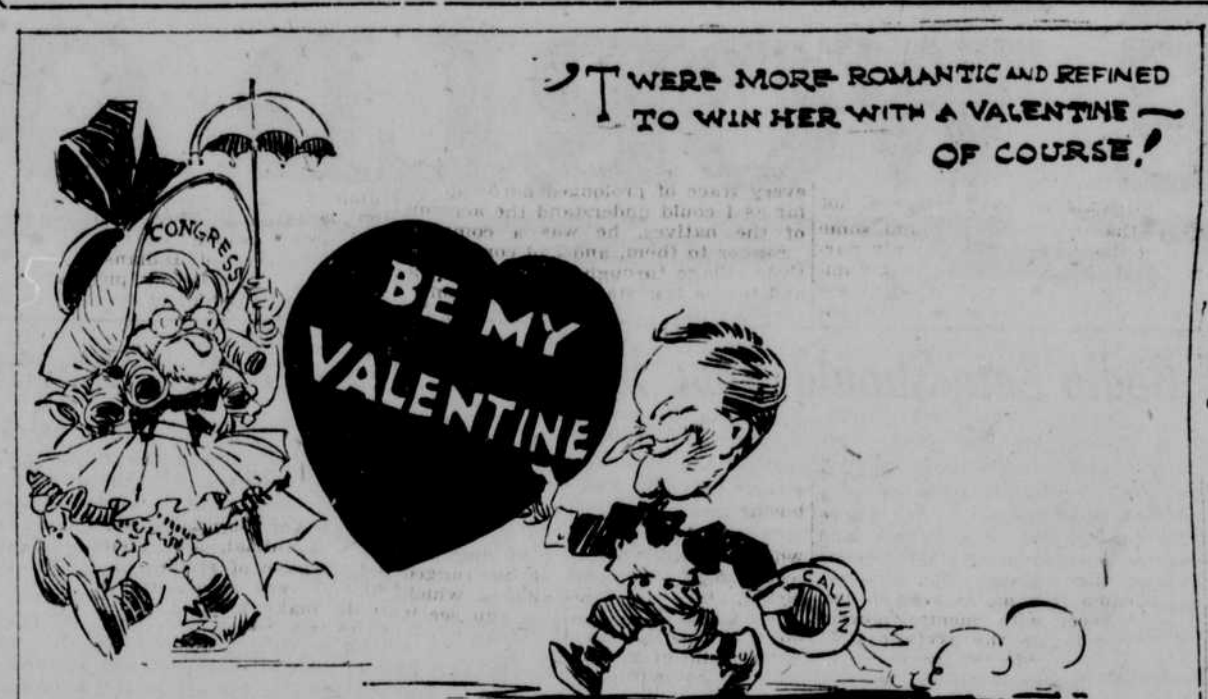
We'll never become ecstatic about radio until the static is ex-static.

### Homespun Verse

By Omaha's Own Poet—  
Robert Worthington Davie

HE WANTS HIS DAD AT HOME.  
My son declares that I should not go forth to work each day;  
He thinks that I at home with him should always, always stay;  
He wants his daddy all the while to toss him to the skies,  
And tell him tales of Fairyland,  
And hold him when he cries.  
At night when I reach home he waits to greet me with a grin—  
His eyes are flashing with delight  
When I go marching in;  
I hardly get inside the house  
And turn to close the door,  
Until he tells his mother that  
To work I'll go no more.  
While evening swiftly glides along,  
And daytime strife is lost  
Within the circle that makes home  
Worth three its care and cost—  
I venture far from things that are,  
And with true feeling know  
The reason why my sonny cries  
When I to work must go.

## One Simply Must Have Someone to Help With the Housework



## 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.

**Why It Doesn't Work Well.**  
Red Oak, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: One of the principal reasons for the apparent ineffectiveness of prohibition is the fact that the newspapers of the country, including your own otherwise estimable organ, are forever making light of the Eighteenth amendment, scoffing at the attempts made to enforce it, making great capital of the deplorable fact that there are people, high and low, who wantonly, flagrantly and in utter disregard for a bonafide law sell, buy, consume and encourage the traffic in booze. Any man so doing is just as much a criminal as he who breaks other laws legally written into our statutes or constitution.  
It is a crying shame that such out-laws are given the moral support of such influences as the public press, the jokesmiths and cartoonists, the vaudeville stage and other agencies whose wholly unfounded and often malicious and pernicious misrepresentation of conditions encourages the criminally inclined in their brazen activities. The same attitude toward the purer put over, the means of all the narcotic law, or any other law designed to protect the innocent, would make such a law difficult of enforcement.  
The outrageous claims of the unscrupulous distillery and brewery interests are disgustingly exaggerated. In their extremity they overlap their hand. While through their unlawful activities much harm is done to the cause which, in spite of them, has lifted millions of people from the depths of penurious misery to self-respecting independence, it is but a moment of time till their claws will be clipped, and enforcement of the Eighteenth amendment will be approximated as well as most laws for the protection of home, children and freeds happiness. Prohibition is here to stay. A sane, sober people will take care of that. It has proven the greatest boon to humanity this country ever put over, the means of all the bootleggers and their tacit backers—the newspapers and other influences which should by all means be in bigger, nobler business.  
W. E. WELLS.

**"Obeying" Laws.**  
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Every so often we hear some one ask: "Why isn't the law properly enforced?" and some one else will have an excuse which is a mere makeshift. A voice comes from far Boston, a Mr. R. G. Watson, who tells us what are the reasons, which are that we are most of us law-breakers because we have "contempt" for law. He, like most people with a remedy, does not tell us why we have a contempt for law. Long before the dry act became a law we had whole-

sale killings similar to the Torrico case, and also similar to the Heggins case, which is nothing more nor less than a case of class hatred and bootlegging, has been but a trivial excuse to camouflage the real cause. The Torrico case is more or less political, which naturally includes the liquor business, as it always has before. Now no sensible person will deny that we are a pretty law-abiding nation, with one or two exceptions, chief of which is the so-called prohibition law. If we take time to think a little, every law we have is a prohibition law, even to the laws governing indemnity and insurance. The indemnity laws says you must not hurt this man; if you do you must pay the damage. The insurance law means the same. We have many laws that interfere with our movements and ideas, but we overlook that part and try our best to conform to what we are led to think is best for us. We obey laws in general until one appears that affronts our sense of right and justice; then we rebel. Laws should be put on the statute books only after the milk-queen has been thoroughly gone

into: "Will this law work effectively? Can it be enforced at a minimum expense?" If this were done to every law, there would be many a wiped out as being impractical. Don't worry about civilization, but make laws that are workable, that we can obey without losing our self-respect.  
JAMES WELCH.

**LISTENING IN**  
On the Nebraska Press  
Editor Hall of the Merna Messenger has applied for membership in the Bedstat Club. He urges application earlier in life.  
The Potter Review vouches for an almost unbelievable story. It says the Potter High school basket ball team lost two games, but "feel good about it."  
Chester Krebs, who is editing the Scotia Register for the time being, noticed that a Los Angeles newspaper claims to be the biggest in the world. "Mebbe," says Chester, "but Scotia has the goldingdest."  
The Ord Quiz tells of a Valley county man whose wife is so ill and frail that he has to hold her on the milk-stool twice a day so that she can

milk six cows. Being very tender-hearted, the Quiz editor expresses due sympathy for the unfortunate man.  
Chadron voted down the city manager plan by a 2 to 1 vote, and Editor Snow announces that he can stand it if the rest of 'em can.  
"The man who called it 'mean' temperature certainly knew his stuff," growls Editor Stone of the Hartington Herald.  
The Blair Pilot tells of an Omaha doctor who was called to see a sick boy "only to discover that the boy was 76 years old, the call having been put in by his father, 97 years old." The father said his son's groans disturbed grandpa, 119 years old, if the Pilot wants the whole truth of the matter.

**NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION**  
For JANUARY, 1925  
THE OMAHA BEE  
Daily ..... 74,002  
Sunday ..... 77,234  
Does not include returns, left-overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales or free circulation of any kind.  
V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24 day of February, 1925.  
W. H. QUEVEY,  
(Seal) Notary Public

## CHRISTIANITY

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

THE religion of those who accept Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, that is the Christ, promised of old to Israel. It is now the dominant religion in Europe, in North and South America and in Australia, Southern Africa and many islands, and is making steady progress in other parts of the earth. It exists in the form of a large number of particular churches, sects and denominations, which may be classified in three large groups: The Protestant, the Roman Catholic, and the Oriental churches, including the Greek Church. The aggregate nominally Christian population of the earth exceeds 400,000,000.

Christians hold that God, in addition to His providential manifestation of Himself in nature and in human history, makes a spiritual illumination in and guidance for individuals, the methods of which are revealed in the Bible.

The truth of Christianity is supported by many different evidences, independent, but mutually corroborative.

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 second of the series.

