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ERA OF BIG THINGS.

Senator Howell's resolution for an investigation of certain railroad mergers brings to the front a question that must be given a definite answer. Is the proper and desirable development of industry in America to be controlled by the natural laws, or will statutory enactment continue to hamper the growth and limit the usefulness of institutions of service?

Specifically, the inquiry is aimed at the so-called van Swearingen mergers. This combination may not be in accord with the letter of the transportation act as it exists, but certainly is in harmony with its spirit. The law calls for the grouping of railroads into systems for both service and administration. That is all the van Swearingens have done. Their achievement has taken on some of the elements of the spectacular, because it brought together into a unified organization a number of railroads that were laying around loose, of little benefit to anybody. United they make a factor in the great general problem of transportation that will be helpful to the entire country.

Why should this be regarded as inimical to public interests? The day has long since passed when Americans need to be frightened at the sudden appearance of a giant among industries. We note the presents of giants on all sides. We have become familiar with giants. More giants must be born. Our well-known Sherman anti-trust law is a relic of a day when people did not so well understand or appreciate the possibilities of America.

Big concerns serve the public in every way. In the 35 years since the Sherman anti-trust law was enacted the population of the United States has been increased by more than two-thirds. Industry has multiplied many times. Much of this growth has been in spite of the restrictions laid down by that all but obsolete statute. Demands have increased, as well as production to supply them. We are at the dawn of an era of still bigger things, when the work of giants must be done with the tools of giants.

Investigate the merger engineered by the van Swearingens. It will but emphasize the need for such proceedings. But do not try to fit America of today to the lines of 1890. We have grown beyond what looked ample in that far-away period.

AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"By reason of strength," Elihu Root has reached the age of four-score. Standing at the point 10 years beyond the span allotted to man's age, this leader of thought and doer of deeds can look back on a record unsurpassed in its service.

He served as secretary of war in President McKinley's cabinet, and as secretary of state under President Roosevelt. He was chairman of the New York constitutional convention, senator of the United States from New York, temporary chairman of a republican national convention, member of the permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague from 1910 on, member of the commission that established the permanent Court of International Justice, and active in so many other ways that a catalogue would be too lengthy.

Secretary Hughes, summing up the services of this distinguished American, says his greatest triumph was the establishment of the permanent Court of International Justice. That is a service to humanity. As in the case of Henry Cabot Lodge, Elihu Root might have pursued a life of ease, or at least have devoted himself to pursuit of private interests. He preferred to give his talent to his country, and through his country to the world.

At 80 he asks to be allowed to withdraw. Some years ago he made a similar request, saying he wished to pass a short time at his home. He has earned his furlough. He may take it feeling that it is not grudged. His strength has not been "labor and sorrow," but useful to a world that sorely needed the solid sense of Elihu Root.

ever deeply versed, can at any given moment say just what the law is. Yet readers of the "Letters From Our Readers" daily are told how easy it is to enforce any particular law, or all the laws in general. Some day another Theseus may solve the riddle of the labyrinth of law we are building for ourselves. Until then we will have to content ourselves by laughing with and at the lawmakers.

STORY OF THE PRISONER'S FOOD.
We are in receipt of a letter from a citizen who asks that his name be not published, but who takes occasion to say:

"I would like to ask the people of Douglas county if they have ever, in the history of this state, seen all the newspapers as antagonistic to an officer of the law as the papers of Omaha are at the present time to our sheriff. Why? Is it because the only paper which was against the gang has been muzzled by the gangsters? The hidden power that prevents justice to our sheriff through the press is the same that has presented the legislative feeding bill in the legislature at Lincoln. Mr. Mike Clark had six years of feeding privileges and it can be proven that he charged a much higher mileage rate than the present sheriff, and not a word from this same source."

The letter contains much more language than that quoted. However, enough is here given to show its import. Assuming that by "legislature feeding bill" the writer means the bill to regulate charges for feeding prisoners, we can go ahead.

Beginning with the days when "Billy" Coburn was sheriff, and coming down to the present, there has not been a time when the fees of the sheriff's office have not been under debate. Principally the outrageous charges for feeding prisoners has been the subject of attack. Boyd, Bennett, Power, McDonald, Brailey, McShane, Clark, and now Endres, all have had their turn at the profits of the boarding house. Omaha papers have been active all the time in denouncing the practice. This fact is easily established by a little investigation.

Because the practice has gone on for so long does not make it immune. A wrong can never gain the color of right by reason of continuance. Many other abuses of the office have been cleared away, and now a determined effort is being made to remove the greatest. If any "gang" is helping, whatever its other activities may be, it is doing a patriotic service in this. The fight is not on Endres as sheriff, but on the custom that allows a sheriff to enrich himself by feeding prisoners.

WHO OWNS THE NATION'S WEALTH?
A news item challenges the mind. It tells that Omaha employees of the Western Union Telegraph company will share to the extent of \$30,000 in the distribution of the company's earnings for last year.

These are only a few of the workers of the city who will get dividends from the company on whose payroll their names appear. Telephone stock, electric light stock, packing house stock, smelter stock, railroad stock, all manner of such investments have been made by the workers within the last few years.

In general terms, the estimated number of stockholders in the great concerns of the United States has increased from 4,000,000 in 1900 to more than 14,000,000 in 1923, and it is confidently expected that the figures for 1924, when available, will show a still greater increase. Another aspect of the case is equally encouraging. The average number of shares per holder has gone down from 140.1 per shareholder in 1900 to 49.7 in 1923. More American securities are in the hands of small investors than ever.

Only one conclusion can be drawn from this. Workers have taken advantage of good wages and made investment in the prosperity of the land. They have a stake in industry that goes beyond the job. Other proof of this interest is provided by the establishment of so-called "labor" banks. Capital provided by workers, for the carrying on of the business in which banks engage. Handling money, aiding in the employment of money, and that money largely the accumulated savings of workers.

Here is the realization of the phrase coined by Albert J. Beveridge, "Pass prosperity around!" It is being passed around. Also, an answer to the revolutionists. Orderly processes of evolution are making absolutely secure the material future of America. The people own the wealth of the nation. In their hands, also, is the solution of the cultural problems that confront us. From them will come the solution.

A Chicago youth who was welcomed as a prince at Hollywood is back home looking for a job in a steel mill. He says he is cured. It must be tough life in Hollywood if that of a steel worker is preferable.

The kingdom of Hedjaz is reported to be in ruins as a result of war that has been going on there for years. Simply continuing the record begun at least 125 centuries ago.

A boy just sent to the reformatory blames pool halls and not dance halls. A lot of other boys have escaped all three by just behaving themselves.

The "sommickers" of congress may have a lot of fun with the president's method of taking exercise, but they respect the results of his daily dozen.

It might help some if the air enthusiasts were to stick to demonstrated facts and not lay so much stress on future speculations.

Nebraska could have supplied a man to take the vacant portfolio in the cabinet, but congratulates Kansas on getting the honor.

"Bob" Simmons does not say much on the floor of the house, but he said a mouthful when he accused his colleagues of wasting time.

Well, here's to the Longworth baby!

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

PROSPERITY.
I. Prosperity isn't so much what is taken from earth as the brief years fade; It merely depends to a certain extent On the dollars through honesty made.
II. It is that portion of gain which is garnered, And prudently left to expand, And fashion and strengthen the lithoid foundations On which the necessities stand.
III. It is the thrift that is constantly practiced By those who are planning ahead, And bringing about (as many will shout) A family fight when they're dead.
IV. It is the power of will to place yearning After compulsion and price, It is the courage that faces with pleasure Crises and sacrifice.

If They'd Both Keep Still Awhile We'd Soon Have It Settled



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.

Against the Amendment.
Hammond, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: According to the 1920 census, there were 12,392,882 children in the United States from 10 to 15 years of age. Of this number 1,069,858, or approximately only one in every 12, were reported to be engaged in gainful occupation, working either for their parents, an outside employer or for themselves. Three-fifths of these workers under 16 were engaged in farming, and more than half of these worked on home farms. The remaining two-fifths were in manufacturing and mechanical industries, trades, etc. There remain only five states but what have some law regarding the employment of children, and certainly there are enough good people in those states that will see to it that the rights of their children will be well looked after, so there is no need of any such an amendment to the constitution.

Children should be encouraged to work rather than discouraged, and there is no question but what more children's lives are injured and wasted by being raised without enough work to do than by having too much. Friends of the amendment argue that children should let older men and women fill their places, and yet many children are working to help a widowed mother to support her family. It is encouraging that farmers' organizations are declaring against the child labor amendment. It does not seem right that the United States constitution would deny what few children that went to work the privilege of doing so except under such conditions as the United States congress should provide. We farmers think that the best place in the world to raise children so that they will grow up to be good, useful men and women is on the farm, and there is where we need more of them. The adoption of the amendment would require the appointment of a large number of officers, with headquarters at Washington, to look after the enforcement of the law. Let us hope that our Nebraska legislature will refuse to approve the amendment, and by so doing leave each state free to look after the well care of their own children without the United States congress telling them who may work and when.

Helping the Farmer Farm.
Waterloo, Ia.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The cartoon entitled, "Got the Whole Family Stumped," found in The Omaha Bee, is extremely suggestive. Note the question: Who can propose legislation that will help the farmer, and who can suggest something that the farmers themselves can agree upon? The answer to these queries is not so formidable as it at first looks, and can be completely solved by adopting a few elementary changes and recognizing those ethical and moral relationships which God has ordained shall hold in our economic and industrial life. If we formulate the channels of procedure such that an untutored, unorganized mass of humanity drifted into an organized co-operative unit for production and civilization, the questions are answered. Is there a farmer that would not agree to a plan that gives him the right to set the price of his own commodities under a system where no man can abuse the privilege? Is there a legislator that does not know how to formulate those channels by applying the mandates of God and the principles of Jesus Christ? I know that our trouble is not the knowledge of how to do it, but I believe the whole trouble lies in the willingness to apply what we know. The farm problem, like unemployment, prohibition enforcement, financial and tax problems, are all easily solved if approached in the spirit of fairness. But to solve them and at the same time retain attributes that portend inequality, injustice and favoritism, is as impossible as to make a force that can move an immovable object. Are our legislators and inventors trying to solve the problem? Judging from known entities we are ready to say not. How long will the people be blindfolded with this bunco game and when will the press of the country speak out like the liberator of old and unfold the process of doing those things which seem to baffle our statesmen? L. E. EICKELBERG.

Wants Streets Fixed.
Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Reading in your paper that the city commissioners are going to clean the streets for the anticipated guests this summer, I would like to call your attention to a part of Omaha badly neglected, that is the streets. From Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth and F to J on Twenty-eighth, and Twenty-fifth to I; no sidewalks, no pavement. If you can find any streets in Omaha that are more of a disgrace to our city than these, name them. And, to clean the climax, leave them in indigestible.

Food Bogies Get the K. O.
A Box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets Makes a Myth of the Old Time

Trying to make a horse of a human by feeding him bran and water won't go after he has discovered that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets enable him to take to the roughage of mince pie, baked beans, pickles, corned beef and cabbage, fried eggs and so on with impunity. If the man gets all the mineral salts, the vitamins, the iron, iodine and other elements of food from a wide range and what is of equal importance he adds the mental satisfaction of a good appetite, good company and a fearless stomach. By giving the stomach the alkaline effect of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets prevent as well as relieve heartburn, acid stomach, gasiness and other such familiar distresses due to indigestion. Get a 60 cent box today of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets and thus reach the menu card with new found delight.

NEDRIN
The safe remedy for colds-headaches rheumatism-pains.
Does not depress the heart like Aspirin
At Drug Stores a box

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

What a sly old fox is Will Gurley. Here he has been fooling us for the last 30 years, making up think he was a mere boy, when he was, according to a local contemporary a 18-year-old drummer boy in a civil war regiment. For years he has been making us believe that we were approaching middle age together, gracefully and contentedly, when in fact he ought to be depending on a cane, wearing a bronze button and thinking seriously about what is likely to happen to him. This is a sort of deception which we are going to cure by the passage of a law. Providence, and the Big Chief, permitting, we will spend the week end at Lincoln, foregathering with the brethren and sisters of the Nebraska press. This is an annual event to which we look forward with pleasurable anticipation for 11 months and 25 days. But one regret attaches to these meetings. Each succeeding year finds some familiar face missing, the face of one of the old-timers with whom we have been associating since 1886, but who has gone on ahead. But it is a mighty fine lot of youngsters who are coming along.

Nebraska Limerick.
A rather passe girl in Chadron Of real steady beaus never had one. Admitting fading wares She now loudly declares She'll take any kind, even a bad one.

Binks—"What did your wife say when you got in so late last night?"
Jinks—"I don't know yet. She hadn't finished when I left this morning."

A man I like Is Robert Rhone. When he sees I'm lousy He lets me alone.

In 1873 the Boston city council enacted an ordinance forbidding the smoking of cigars on the public streets. The ordinance imposed a fine. Some of the cigars smoked on Omaha streets are a felony, and the pipe Old Buck smokes at meetings of the Nebraska Press association is a capital offense.

Amusement Note.
"Was that a good picture you saw last night?"
"Didn't see it. Went to sleep before they finished running the animated advertisements and didn't wake up until the orchestra blared into the exit march."

The Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph informs us that the president of a great industrial concern, recently deceased, left \$1,200,000. We have a faint suspicion that he left everything else, too.

We are asked to celebrate next week because it is the 95th anniversary of the invention of the stiff detachable collar. But we shall do nothing of the kind. For us it will be a week of mourning. If you want us to celebrate anything in connection with the stiff detachable collar, give us the date of the demise of the inventor. WILL M. MAUPIN.

RADIANT COAL
Smokeless Semi-Anthracite
LUMP \$13.50 MINE RUN \$11.50 SLACK \$8.50

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UPDIKE LUMBER & COAL CO.

See Samples of This Coal at Hayden's Grocery Dept.

Cascarets advertisement featuring a cartoon character and the text: 'Sick? Upset? You're Bilious? Take a Cascaret! Breezy? Breath Bad? Clean the Bowels! THEY WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP'.

74,000 jammed the Yale Bowl to see the Yale-Harvard game.

It would take a bowl more than 13 times as large to seat all the Buick drivers in America. There are 1,000,000 Buicks in active daily service.

What's the answer? Buick Again Has First Place

