

THE OMAHA BEE
MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY
 THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Publishers
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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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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 organizations.

Entered as second-class matter May 25, 1898, at Omaha postoffice, under act of March 3, 1879.

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forthcoming. When the next general meeting of the club is held it will be to cheer for the accomplishment of the entire task.

Again, our congratulations to Roy Wilcox and to those who have made his job of saving the Athletic club a success.

PROFESSIONAL POLICEMEN.

Again it is a pleasure to commend the activity of Inspector Pzanowski of the Omaha police force. He is now instructing the men under his guidance in what he terms "Twenty-four Don'ts for Policemen." It is a move to procure greater efficiency and improved public service, by training the men in their duties. As a body the Omaha police will compare with any similar organization in the country. But the fundamental defects in the American police system are as noticeable here as elsewhere. The men lack careful training in the special duties they are expected to perform. Peculiar qualifications are required in a really good police officer. When these are discovered and developed, the public is in possession of a treasure that should be held to.

In Europe the policeman is a trained expert, a professional, just as truly as any thoroughly developed and tested expert in any line may become. He has taken up a life work, for his job is permanent as long as he remains true to his duties. In time he retires on a pension that at least secures his comfort in his old age. During his active life the public receives the benefit of his services. He is partisan only to law and order. Comparison of criminal statistics reflects in a large measure the difference between the European and the American policeman. Records do not disclose in any European city a parallel to the recent experience of Cincinnati, where forty-eight officers and men of the city's police department were indicted by a grand jury for crimes against the public.

Raymond B. Fosdick, in his work on "American Police Systems," says:

"To an American who has intimately studied the operation of European police systems, nothing can be more discouraging than a similar survey of the police of the United States. He recalls the unbroken record of rectitude which many of their forces maintain and their endeavor to create, with the aid of expert leadership, a maturing profession. He remembers the infinite pains with which the police administrators are trained and chosen, and the care with which the forces are shielded from political influence. Vivid in his mind is the recollection of the manner in which science and modern business methods are being applied to the detection of crime, so that on the whole the battle with the criminal is being fought with steadily increasing effectiveness."

Inspector Pzanowski's twenty-four don'ts may not result in the immediate attainment of an ideal police force. He is moving in the right direction, however. Some support must be given by the public. When the citizens come to realize all that is meant by a police force, and will help in creating and maintaining one, we may get the results. It is good to see an experienced police officer setting about to better the service.

A PINT OF LIQUOR MAKES A BOOTLEGGER.

One of the unusual manifestations of the modern era is the presence in parallel activities of the zeal of those who would make mankind good by statute, and the abandon of those who would throw off all restraint.

From these two streams of social conduct we hear constant complaint. The zeal of the reformer has turned into a determination as blind and as harsh as was the zeal of the old witch-finders. If the laws that govern conduct are not rigorous enough, make them more rigorous. If in turn that does not curb men's appetites then make the laws so rigorous that they will become terrible.

We have before us in Nebraska an example of such zeal—the passage of the pint of liquor law. To those who have any knowledge of the psychology of human behavior such a law is an absurdity. The net result of it will be to enlarge the ever-increasing army of men and women who are deliberately turning to jazz and the demand for the removal of restraints of all kinds.

From the beginning of human society, murder has been looked upon as a crime. Thus the law against carrying concealed weapons has the support of society behind it. From the beginning of civilization, too, robbery and burglary have been considered crimes. Society supports the arrest of men caught with burglars' tools. Yet the possession of a concealed weapon does not in and of itself prove a man a murderer. Nor does the possession of burglars' tools prove a man a burglar.

It has remained for the enforcers of the law against liquor, a law which is only a few years old, to resort to the ways of the inquisition. Under the terms of the Nebraska law, mere possession of a pint of liquor proves its possessor to be a bootlegger. It is an absurd law. One of those laws that defeats itself. It is regretted that Governor McMullen had neither the wisdom nor the courage to veto it.

UNIVERSITY AND THE LEGISLATURE.

The senate, by a close vote, defeated the appropriation for new buildings at the University of Nebraska and for the normal schools. No greater surprise has come out of Lincoln this session. When the appropriation was passed by the house, it was believed the measure would find comparatively smooth sailing in the upper body. The case for the university could not have been made stronger. Need for building is so plain that argument seemed unnecessary. Increase in the student body has so completely outrun the provisions for caring for the students that it was thought this alone would convince the members of the propriety of expending money on needed buildings.

If the sum requested had been such as on its face bore evidence of extravagance, reason for opposition might have been found. As a matter of fact, the amount requested was modest. Even less than the sum Omaha is expending to bring its city school system up to the needs of the community. A total of \$3,000,000 was asked for the university, to be extended over a period of ten years, or \$300,000 a year. This is the equivalent of 25 cents per capita per annum for the state's population, or less than one-half of 1 cent per year.

Yet even this insignificant sum is denied by the senators to the university. That great institution, already hampered by lack of physical equipment, will be compelled to shorten its stride. To limp along as best it can for the next two years. The tax would have amounted to 1 1/2 cents per acre on the cultivated lands of the state, had it all been laid on the farms alone. On the assessment roll of 1924, less than three-fifths of the tax would have been laid on farm lands. Or less than 1 cent per acre. So the burden would not have affected the farmer seriously, nor will its absence materially lighten his load of taxes. It will, though, seriously affect the University of Nebraska.

Nebraska's Place in History

John Lee Webster Reviews the Story of the State From Earliest Days, and Tells How Its Sturdy Pioneers Gave Life to Visions and Developed an Empire From Desert.

By JOHN LEE WEBSTER.

Nebraska is a land which rose up from the ashes of the west and stands among the states—a land richer in its beautiful prairies than if it had mountains filled with mines of gold and silver.

Everywhere these rich and rolling prairies, which had lain for unnumbered centuries as blank leaves in nature's history, are now being written upon by the hand of toil, commerce and trade, as pages in the world's progress.

Nebraska stands unique in American history. It has been closely associated with the great epoch in our country's development. It traces its beginning back to the Louisiana Purchase, which was the first great acquisition to United States territory, and demonstrated the power of the nation to indulge in expansion—not an acquisition by greed or conquest, but essential to meet the needs of an expanding republic.

There followed after the debate on the Nebraska bill of 1854 an agitation in favor of universal freedom that swept like a whirlwind over all of the northern states, and which was followed by four years of civil war, but which resulted in a happier and better and greater nation than ever before.

It was that same Nebraska bill which Charles Sumner, one of the greatest scholars, statesmen and philanthropists of the age, in a speech delivered in the United States senate at the hour of midnight on May 25, 1854, said:

"Sir, the bill you are about to pass is at once the worst and the best at the same time. Yes, sir, the worst and the best at the same time."

"It is the best bill which congress ever acted for; it answers all past compromises with slavery, and makes any future compromise impossible."

"More clearly than ever before, I now penetrate that great future when slavery must disappear. Proudly, I discern the flag of my country, as it ripples in every breeze, at last in reality, as in name, the flag of freedom—undoubtedly, pure and irresistible. Am I not right then in calling this bill the best on which congress ever acted? Sorrowfully I bend before the wrong you commit. Joyfully I welcome the promise of the future."

It may well be said of the Nebraska bill of 1854, that the star of individual destiny of Stephen A. Douglas lay in the light of that sun of liberty which rose to its zenith after the tumult and strife of war which swept the country with iron hand and deluged it with blood, but it opened the pathway over the rough and hazardous road to freedom for 4,000,000 of bondsmen, and to the immortal glory of Abraham Lincoln, America's chief idol of humanity.

Nebraska sustains a very unique position in the history of the United States from other standpoints. This western region was entirely unknown to the people of Boston when they threw the tea into the harbor and when the battle of Bunker Hill was fought. It was not until the American Declaration of Independence, nor while Washington waged the extended War of the Revolution. John Adams, the firebrand of independence, knew nothing of any lands west of the Alleghanies. The framers of the Federal Constitution of 1787 had no reason to anticipate that these western prairies and plains would ever become a part of United States territory or subject to its sovereignty. It was only through one of the most marvelous chains of adventures and discoveries, and of numerous transfers of national sovereignty, that we became a part of the great republic and the opportunity arose by which Nebraska might be admitted into the union as a state.

Looking backward to 1852, we can see, as if it were a vision, the daring, intrepid and venturesome LaSalle penetrating his way through vast wildernesses to the mouth of the Mississippi.

We now read from the pages of history how LaSalle, this great discoverer and the first great pioneer, pointing the way to civilization to enter these regions, proclaiming in a voice, that may not have been heard more than 100 yards from where he stood, that, by virtue of his discovery of a tremendous territory, he gave all the Mississippi valley and the regions north to British America, and westward to the crest of the Rocky mountains, to the sovereignty of the king of France.

In 1763, we see another vision of the transfer of sovereignty to the Catholic king of Spain and the Indies and, for more than a quarter of a century, laws were administered by Spanish rulers and treaties were made in the name of the king of Spain with the chiefs of Indian tribes throughout these regions.

Now, again, we see another vision, when the unscrupulous diplomat Talleyrand, ambitious to restore himself to the throne of France, captured the king and queen of Spain to recede all these regions to the new republic of France. But it was only a few years later

when that sagacious military genius perceived that it would be wiser to transfer all these regions to the United States than to permit them to be acquired by the military prowess of England, and so it came about in 1803 that these great western lands, with their vast wastes of forest verdure, with their bordering mountains, silent in primeval sleep, with their prairies which were oceans of wilderness mingling with the sky, practically an untamed continent, became a part of the expanding, developing, growing republic of the United States of America. "It was Napoleon, whatever his motive," Napoleon, in the name of the French people, who gave the United States the possibility of becoming a world power."

Grouping together these visions, from the first exploitation and discovery of an uninhabited country by the Frenchman LaSalle, and the changes of these lands from one national sovereignty to another, the mingling of different races of people, with their different languages and habits and tastes, the Frenchman, the Spaniard, the Indian, the black man, and finally the Anglo-Saxon with his English language, and our modern civilization—all united as we see them today under the new democracy—the history of Nebraska, in its great scope, seems like the history of the human race from the creation of man until this modern day of his greatest advancements and achievements.

The changes which have come over the great west, beginning at New Orleans in 1822 and spreading and expanding and developing it until it has reached this high degree of superlative excellence in the state of Nebraska, furnishes a theme for the historian more fascinating than that which the world has heretofore produced. In the language of Prof. Fluke, the only exceptions are "when Herodotus told the story of Greece and Persia, or when Gibbon's pages resounded with the marshaled hosts through a thousand years of change."

The true story of the western pioneers has never been written, and it never will be until a man shall come who can describe with a pen as clear and an imagination as vivid as that which Parkman told the story of the conspiracy of Pontiac and of the French Canadians, or until the coming of another genius like Prescott, who gave us that unforgettable and glowing description of the Spanish conquests in Peru, and the invasion of Mexico by Cortez, and that inimitable description of the Montezumas.

When these migrants first crossed the Missouri river, they entered upon a land which in prehistoric times had a brooding deathlike silence. They built their adobe houses upon barren prairies, and waste uplands, where were mute witnesses of some unknown and forgotten past. The drifting sands had filled up the footprints of unknown and unnumbered generations of primitive races of men who had perished from the earth. The tillable soil which they found had been enriched by the blood and fertilized by the decayed dead from many bloody Indian battlefields.

It is very properly said of these pioneers that they awakened the west from its primeval sleep of countless ages.

In their hours of solitude, they gazed at the stars until they learned to appreciate their beauty and mystery, and they listened to the wind and tried to guess its meaning. For want of libraries, they did not have opportunities of reading the philosophy of Emerson, nor the beautiful conceptions of life as witnessed by Ruskin, but they lived the life which these men taught. They did not have the volumes of poets, but, as said by another: "The true poetry of life is not found in the epic men have created, but in the sources that inspired them. In the glories of the earth and the air, in the stars and mountains, and forest and streams and fields, in man, in the birds and animals, in the turning of the soil with the plow and spade, and in the growing corn. These are the things which, before all else, add to the spiritual growth of man and inspire him to pray and hope, to sing and to love, and draw him close to the invisible world because they are a part of the life of men."

They lived as closely as possible to nature. They cultivated the soil, they watched the fruit and the flowers and the grain grow, and they wandered from ranch to ranch as the longing seized them. Out of this wilderness of nature, these pioneers helped to found a new state. The prairie which they plowed up and adapted its soil to agriculture seemed to welcome the ringing of industry of a new civilization.

For more than a hundred years the planters of Virginia and the Puritans of New England were European sentinels standing guard on the Atlantic seaboard for old England. Our pioneers have made the desert an epitaph on the tombstones of time, and began the creating of a new western democracy that is making its influence felt around the globe.

World Illiteracy

From the New York Times.

When Galotti, the shrewd astrologer in "Quentin Durward," told Louis XI of the changes that the new invention of printing must bring to the world, he foresaw a change that asked whether these changes would happen in his own time. Informed that they would not, he promptly lost interest. It is possible to ask King Louis' question with regard to the majority of the inhabitants of the earth. Literacy has spread slowly. But signs multiply that within the lives of persons living in the greater part of the human race will be found in the illiterate group.

The majority of the inhabitants in countries containing among them at least two-thirds of the population of the world cannot read a word. India and China alone contain half a billion illiterates. Russia has approximately another hundred million. Fully a hundred million in Africa cannot read, and in Latin America, possibly fifty million. The people of the East Indies and of Asia outside India and China number many millions of non-readers. The total of illiterates for all these lands approximates nine hundred million, to which must be added the considerable illiterate minorities of the United States and Europe.

The International Commission on the Removal of Illiteracy has plenty of work cut out for it. Yet there are prospects that a vast change in the educational field may be brought about. In 1911 in India only about 6 per cent of the inhabitants were reckoned as able to read. Eight years later the schools of India had over 7,000,000 pupils. Plans looking to Indian self-government depend for their eventual success so greatly on the spread of education as to offer a powerful incentive to the work of the schools.

Mexico has emerged from revolutions with a government relying on the support of the poor class, and has sought to strengthen its position by educating it. Mexico has a compulsory education law, and, what is more, set apart for educational purposes more than one-seventh of the total of the budget for 1923. Some 2,000 persons volunteered their services as teachers when the new educational policy started to function in 1921. Political change in Mexico has removed the class that kept itself in power by withholding knowledge from the bulk of the nation, and has installed a group that relies on the training of the popular understanding.

A similar reversal of the motives of the ruling class has occurred in Turkey, where a monarchy has given way to a government relying on parliamentary forms and the support of the intelligent Ottoman population. Several dark corners of Europe have felt a like stirring. Dependencies such as Poland, Slovakia and Bosnia have formerly alien domination found it

either impolitic or impossible to carry on popular education, have now come under forms of self-rule that offer a strong inducement to the governments to educate their supporters. It is no accident that Poland started at the earliest moment on a campaign of general schooling, and for 1922 reported 3,000,000, a number equal to one-tenth of its population, as attending the elementary schools.

If the great war had ended in a victory for military monarchies ruled from above, there would no doubt have been quite other results in the educational field than those observed today. At present governments seek to build up their foundations by reducing their illiterates, wherever political unity and financial means permit. A continuation of the educational movement now in progress would in the next 50 years turn the minority now able to read and write into a majority of the world's population.

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Playing Safe.
 Maid—I hope, ma'am, that you're not superstitious?
 Mistress—Not a bit, Mary. Why?
 Maid—with a sigh of relief—Because I've broken the large mirror in the hall.—London Humorist.

No Chance.
 Johnny—Why did you quit working for that memory expert?
 Willie (a baseball fan)—Cause he remembered that all my grandmothers died last year.—Legion Weekly.

SUNNY SIDE UP

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

Beloved, we turn to the book of Nehemiah this morning for our text, taking the fourth and fifth verses of the fifth chapter, as follows:

"Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed unto the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, if it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldst send me into Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it."

And now let us, for a moment, consider who this man, Nehemiah, was.

Nehemiah was a Jew. His people were under the domination of the Persians and Artaxerxes was king. He was a man of high position in the household of the king. None stood higher, for Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king. In good parlance he was the king's private secretary. He had wealth, power and position. His lines were cast in pleasant places. This rich and influential young Jew had things coming his way.

But was Nehemiah satisfied with a life of ease and indolence and power? He was not. His thoughts turned to Jerusalem, the city of his fathers. He mourned at its decadence, and he yearned for its restoration. But did Nehemiah figure on "George doing it"? He did not. He yearned only to be given opportunity to rebuild the walls and restore the ancient glories. And so Nehemiah was willing to turn his back on kingly favor, to give up a soft berth, to take up the hard task. And so, when the king, gave him permission, Nehemiah went forth, facing the hard task and willing to make the sacrifice.

Beloved, what the world needs today is more Nehemiahs—men who will sacrifice self for the common good; men who will devote their lives to the cause of common humanity, forgetful of self and thinking only of the good of all. Nehemiah did not ask the Passing of a Law. He did not stand back and Point the Way. He bravely led. He sacrificed position, and friends, and wealth, and power, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Nor was he sidetracked by the specious flatteries of Sanballat and his emissaries. He did not force men by legislative enactment to go his way. He issued his clarion call to conscience and to soul, and men responded. Slowly but surely the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt under his leadership, and it was the leadership that called to the hearts and minds of men.

Erethen, the world is sadly in need of Nehemiahs. Men who will turn in scorn from attempts to legislate morality into men, and will make appeal to conscience. It needs men to face forth, forgetful of self, to rebuild the walls of the American home; to arouse men and women to a sense of individual responsibility; to convict men of sin and point the way to righteousness. What the world needs is done. Nehemiah did not ask for laws; he asked for workers. He did not try to coerce men into doing their duty; he set them an example. And his workers toiled with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other.

Men and brethren, let us follow the example of this young man of Israel. Let us devote some time to the common good. Let us work earnestly to convince men of their duty, instead of trying to force men to do their duty. Let us build faith, and love and hope.

Standing, let us sing that good old song, "Work for the Night is Coming," and, singing, let us resolve to go forth and do, not say; work, not merely advise, and show by present and example the glory of working for the upbuilding of the Master's kingdom.

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