

The eye of a Master will  
do more work than his  
hand.

March of Events

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## THE OMAHA GUIDE

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## EDITORIAL

## NATION NEEDS REAL TEMPERANCE

In a recent statement to the press, Selon Porter, President of National Distillers' Products Corporation, said that his organization would stand for temperance as opposed to excess, and added, "We clearly recognize that the American people are not voting liquor in; they are voting prohibition out."

The eighteenth amendment was not repealed in order to provide the means for a legal national drunk—it was repealed because the great bulk of American citizens had come to believe that it was inimical to the cause of temperance. They had seen political corruption arise under it, which was as bad and often worse than that of the old days. They had seen an unprecedented increase in crime, made possible by the vast amounts of money that illegal liquor brought into underworld pockets. They had seen the speakeasy flourish, to the point where, in most large cities, it ran almost as openly as the legal saloon once did, and was even less subject to social control.

The National Distillers have been running newspaper advertisements asking the public to cooperate with the manufacturers and sellers of liquor to prevent rowdiness and to promote common sense. If the public fails in that, or if the liquor manufacturers and sellers fail in their duty of keeping the goal of temperance everlastingly in mind, repeal of prohibition will be a poor victory indeed. The solid citizens of this country demand that the age-old alliance between politics and liquor be broken, that the law control the liquor business and not the liquor business the law. Every patriotic and thoughtful manufacturer should be the first to echo those demands—every retailer should work to keep his end of the business above reproach.

The United States has tried "wide open" liquor policies, and they have failed. It has tried absolute prohibition, and it has failed. Now it is attempting to steer a middle course that avoids excess on the one hand and fanaticism on the other. Whether it is to fail or succeed depends on the public, which decides all great questions.

## VOTERS SHOW CONSERVATISM

The recent municipal elections settled one question that has been extensively debated of late—whether there was overwhelming public sentiment in favor of government owned and operated electric plants. And the answer was No. In brief, the result was very much as it had been in similar elections for many years—each town has its own ideas on the matter, and nothing that can be described as a national wave of enthusiasm for public power developed where the voters had a chance to express themselves.

The American people have grown weary of municipal waste, graft and inefficiency. The Mayorality elections, in which long-seated, once powerful political machines were overthrown, are proof of that. The voters demand honest, effective and economical government. And it's been the fruit of experience that the best way to get away from that is to put the city government into business—any kind of business. Waste almost inevitably results. While there may be no graft, the red tape of bureaucracy stifles progress, pours money to the winds and hands the taxpayers a heavy deficit to pay out of taxes.

The American people, as a whole, realize that this is a very poor time indeed to tamper with the springs whence come jobs, salaries, dividends and taxes.

## A HEALTHY TREND

During October, according to the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau, the general trend of life insurance sales was upward. In every section of the country the monthly experience was better than the average for the year up to that time. Where, in the first ten months of 1933, sales averaged 85 per cent of those in the same period last year, October sales were 94 per cent of the record for October, 1932.

It would be interesting to chart life insurance sales in relation to general purchasing power and the various business indexes. It is likely that past experience would pretty closely follow rises and falls in the business cycle, while now it would probably be discovered that life insurance has the better of it. October business conditions, for example, were somewhat worse than those obtaining during the summer, yet life insurance sales were more favorable.

This can best be explained by a change in the public's ideas about systematic saving and investment security—a trend that has been gradually making itself felt. There is an increasing respect for the merits of life insurance by the average person—and an increasing knowledge of what it can do for him. Thousands of people who carried none in the past are making a place for it in their budgets—thousands of others are using a large share of the family income to buy more of it.

That's an excellent augury for the future. It has been wisely said that a completely insured people would be virtually a depression-proof people.

## WINTER BUILDING—A TONIC FOR BUSINESS

The Administration's objective to place 4,000,000 additional men at work this winter, insofar as construction is concerned, is entirely in keeping

ing with engineering possibilities, according to Edward J. Mehren, President of the Portland Cement Association.

"Building in winter is definitely practicable," said Mr. Mehren. "Some years ago construction engineers and builders exploded the centuries-old myth that construction, like the bear, should go into hiding with the first nip of fall. Methods have been in common use for years which permit of building in winter with rapidity and safety.

"A survey recently conducted by the CConstruction League of the United States revealed that normally one of every ten workers in the country has a job in construction or in an industry dependent upon construction. Further, one of every five loaded railroad cars contains materials or equipment for construction. Therefore, when construction hits a snag such as winter, all industry and business, and practically all people, suffer a drop in income and many workers get no income at all."

The Federal government and many of the states, are doing all that is in their power to live up to the pledge that there shall not be another winter like the last. To produce the greatest results—their efforts must have the cooperation of the private citizen. By building and repairing this winter he will get bargains in construction values—and he will be demonstrating his faith in the axiom that investment and employment are better and cheaper than charity.

Once when Henry Ward Beecher was told that he used bad grammar in a sermon, he said: "Did I? Well, all I have to say is—God help grammar if it gets in my way when I'm preaching."

## VISION PLUS CONTINUITY EQUALS RESULTS

The difficulties experienced by the government in formulating various agricultural codes—such as that which is designed to control the dairy business in the New York milkshed—are having one very interesting result. They are demonstrating to the farmer that government aid, no matter how well intentioned or how expertly administered, can be of but limited and temporary benefit, and that for a solution to most of his problems he is best able to work through farm cooperative organizations.

The cooperatives have the great virtue of permanence. They are there to stay and are undisturbed by shifts in national, state or local administrations. They are immune to the usual red-tape and log-rolling of political parties. They are free from diverse sectional influences. They are able to devote their every effort to forwarding the interests of the farmers who make up their membership.

Government experiments in farm relief, even when the best of motives lie behind them, are very apt to be influenced by partisan politics. They are influenced as well by a multitude of different warring viewpoints, and by the exigencies of the hour. Of necessity, they depend mainly on getting immediate results, rather than on building a sound foundation for the future. And most of them, in the past, for such reasons, have ended in whole or partial failure.

Cooperatives are going forward and doing more for agriculture than most farmers realize. Fruit of their work appears now, but their full achievement belongs to the future.

## TAXES KEEP THE RATES UP

The November Index, a publication of the New York Trust Company, contains an interesting table on the relation of taxes to gross revenue of the electric industry.

Few industries have ever had so difficult a time with the tax collector. In 1902, the electric utilities paid 3.4 cents out of each dollar of consumer revenue for taxes. In 1922, they paid 8.4 cents. In 1929, when business of all kinds were at their peak, they paid 9.7 cents. In 1932, when the absolute bottom of the depression was touched, they paid 11.8. All during depression taxes rose constantly, exactly as they did in normal times.

The Index did not show relation of taxes to net income. However, the Edison Electric Institute estimates that total taxes for 1933 will equal 25 per cent of the net before deduction of taxes, interest and amortization, as compared with 19.6 per cent in 1929. In the case of individual electric companies, taxes often run far beyond this proportion, and leave hardly any net income at all.

In spite of such taxation, electric rates have gone down steadily since before the war. But greater reductions, which could be made because of constantly increasing efficiency, are prevented by ever rising taxes. Tax-free publicly-owned electric plants, subsidized by public "debt certificates" (commonly called bonds), occasionally offer rates below the private utility level, but at what a price to the taxpayer. If the average private utility were suddenly made tax-free, it would be able to make drastic cuts in rates, but what would happen to the public treasuries? The hundreds of millions in utility taxes they would lose would have to be replaced through higher taxes on other property. These are facts that those who continually attack the electric industry's rate structure usually fail to mention.

## BUILT TO BURN

It is probable that thousands of rural and agricultural communities in which the fire loss is extremely high because of lack of adequate protection, do not remedy the matter because they believe they can't afford to. They feel they are unable to make the appropriations that would build and maintain a good fire department, situated at a central point where it could serve a wide surrounding area.

As a matter of fact, they can't afford not to. Farm fire loss is a national disgrace. On a proportionate basis, it is a great deal larger, so far as both lives and commodities are concerned, than in cities. Crops and livestock and other property, valued at millions, go up in smoke each year—because the nearest fire department is too far away, because it is inefficient, or because there is no fire department at all within calling distance, and because farm buildings are built to burn.

A number of states, notably Wisconsin, have showed how rural fire prevention may be achieved. They have developed first-class departments, with the best of apparatus and equipment, manned by a trained personnel under the command of an experienced marshal. They have put money in the pockets of all the home owners and farmers they serve—they are helping keep taxes and insurance rates down, and are saving irreplaceable lives and property. Their example should be followed.

## LEVEL HEADS IN AN EMERGENCY

Of late, an interesting change is noted in the editorial comment in thousands of American newspapers, particularly country weeklies and smaller city dailies.

Editors are questioning and opposing radical and experimental changes in our social and industrial structure. An excellent example is afforded by their remarks on the many proposals designed to hamper private development of electric utilities, and to start subsidized public plants to compete with them.

Editors are observing that the dangers inherent in such a program are greater than promised benefits.

The utility industry has provided the public with excellent service at a very reasonable price under public regulation. Hundreds of editors are outspoken in saying the industry is entitled to a fair deal, as distinct from political hamstringing.

The editors do not offer these opinions because of any mere desire to favor private utility companies or other interests. They have a belief, born of observation and analysis, that the old American system in which private initiative and enterprise has always been of paramount importance, is the best, the soundest and the most workable system to encourage individual ambition and service, the world has yet known. They feel that changes in it should be made gradually, and only after a great deal of careful investigation—and that the changes, when made, should deal with details, and not with fundamental principles.

The future safety and protection of American institutions rests on the ability of American editors to maintain level heads in a time of stress and excitement.

## NOT SPECIAL PRIVILEGE—JUST EQUAL RIGHTS

The position of the railroad industry on transport legislation might be expressed thus: "We want no special favors—we do want equal rights."

The strength of that stand is that it is so perfectly in accord with the public interest. Few industries have so direct an influence on business and agriculture, as transportation. None are more vital to the national economic and social welfare.

They have been plagued, on the one hand, by stern governmental regulation, which permitted them almost no leeway in making changes and in meeting competition, and on the other by the usurpation of much of their business by carriers which escaped Federal regulation and, in some instances, actually received governmental subsidies. The railroads survived only by cutting costs ruthlessly—by achieving higher standards of efficiency than any country's railroad system had ever known before. And, even then, they watched their profits drop and finally touch the vanishing point.

Today an army of railroad champions has sprung up, consisting of business men, large and small, of newspapers, of public officials ranging from representatives to President Roosevelt, of public service commissioners, and so on. The Federal Co-ordinator of Transportation, Mr. Eastman, has spoken persuasively in their behalf. There is a universal demand that Congress, when it convenes, pass necessary measures to equalize transport regulation, and make possible a balanced, economically run system in which each type of carrier performs the service to which it is best adapted.

If that is done, it will mean not only better transportation for goods and persons—it will mean the creation of thousands of new jobs and the unloading of tremendous sums of money into the channels of trade and industry.

Guide Platform  
Local

(1) We must have our pro-rata of employment in businesses to which we give our patronage, such as grocery stores, laundries, furniture stores, department stores and coal companies, in fact every concern which we support. We must give our citizens the chance to live respectably. We are tired of educating our children and permitting them to remain economic slaves and enter into lives of shame.

(2) Our pro-rata of employment for the patronage to our public corporations such as railroad companies, the street car company, the Nebraska Power Company, the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and other establishments which we are forced to support by right of franchise. Also our pro-rata of employment in return for the taxes we pay in our city, county state and federal government.

(4) A one hundred per cent department of our cit-

## CONFER ON FIRST DRAFT OF FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

New York, Dec. 8.—The first draft of the Federal anti-lynching bill which Senator Edward P. Costigan of Colorado has consented to introduce when congress meets next month was completed today and a conference upon it will be held next week by leading white and colored lawyers including nationally known experts in constitutional law, according to announcement of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

So many individuals and organizations have indicated their desire for a federal bill that the conference next week will endeavor not only to draft finally the strongest possible bill, but to co-ordinate all efforts behind a single bill so that there will be no confusion and division of action in the hard fight ahead in congress.

The bill now drafted will be scrutinized by the whole legal committee of the N A A C P and the general counsel of American Civil Liberties Union as well as by eminent attorneys known to both organizations.

Former Congressman L. C. Dyer of Missouri, father of the Dyer anti-lynching bill, has written Walter White, N A A C P secretary, offering to aid the new effort in any way, even to coming to New York and speaking and conferring on the new bill at his own expense.

The N A A C P asks all individuals clubs, churches, lodges and organizations to begin at once questioning all their congressmen and senators, seeking their support of the new federal bill.

"Voters should catch their representatives and senators now, BEFORE they leave for Washington," said Mr. White. "Wait upon them with small committees, write them or telegraph them, asking for a written statement of their position on a federal anti-lynching bill."

"This fight to get such a bill through the next congress will be a difficult one and will require a united and unceasing campaign. A greatly aroused public opinion is with us, but only by sustained effort in cooperation with other national groups who want such a bill can we finally put it through. I do not need to say that such a fight costs money. Colored people should be willing to put more money behind an anti-lynching fight than anyone else because they are the chief victims of lynch law. Contributions may be sent to 69 Fifth avenue, New York City."

## Sweetheart' Testimony Deals Crawford Defense Body Blow—Convicted To Die.

Leesburg, Va. — (CNS) — George Crawford, on trial for the murder of Mrs. Agnes V. Ilsey, wealthy sportswoman, is being hurried along the road to conviction by the testimony of Bertie DeNeal his sweetheart, and other Negroes. Over the vigorous objection of Dean Charles H. Houston, defense counsel, the unsigned confession of George Crawford, made in a cell in Boston, to John Galleher, Loudoun county attorney, was admitted into the record by Judge J. L. McLemore, December 15. Convicted and sentenced to die.

At 11 A. M. next Sunday morning, Dec. 24, Rev. E. W. Anthony, pastor of Salem Baptist Church will preach his Christmas sermon, subject "THE BELLS OF BETHLEHEM." Come one, come all and hear this wonderful sermon.

## CERTAIN NEGROES ON EASTERN SHORE BLAME BERNARD ADES FOR RIOTS

Has a Rabbit's Foot  
But good luck follows the lad around like a faithful and devoted dog. In Tampa, Florida, Charles Legters, wealthy insurance broker, in whose employ Stepin's mother has been for years, gave him a lift, only recently—an old automobile and funds with which to get to New York.  
In New York, so the story goes, Stepin ran into Winfield Sheehan on Broadway—Broadway runs all the way up to Harlem, although it is not

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