

# EDITORIALS.

## THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good.

All News Copy of Churches and all Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

### SURVEYS THAT SAVE LIFE AND MONEY

Few people know that there is an organization, with headquarters in New York City, that sends its engineers to cities throughout America for the purpose of making surveys that save lives and property—and yet, does not make a charge for this service. This organization is the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Each one of the engineers sent out to a city is an acknowledged expert in that part of the survey in which he engages. These engineers inspect buildings, groups of buildings and whole blocks to ascertain the possibility of a sweeping fire, and are thus able to bring the "inflammation breeders" to the attention of the authorities. They inspect and test the fire apparatus in all stations and gauge the efficiency of the personnel of the firemen. Also, the supply and pressure of water are inspected and tested, as well as the number and availability of hydrants.

A completed survey gives an accurate picture of just how safe a city is from the menace of fire, and a detailed report on the condition found is made, along with definite recommendations for improvement. Written copies are placed in the hands of city officials. And when these recommendations are accepted and acted upon, the town becomes a safer place in which to live and work.

Thousands of cities have been visited by the engineers for these surveys—some of them several times—and it takes little imagination to visualize the number of lives that have been spared and the property that has escaped destruction by fire as a result.

### EDITORS VIEW SOCIALISTIC ISSUE

The Industrial News Review recently asked country newspaper editors for their opinion on various phases of the "power question." With around 1,200 replies now tabulated, some extremely interesting facts are being produced.

Only 42 of the editors said that the utility industry is not giving good service—while 1,111 feel that service is good. Only 295 editors favor municipal ownership of power plants, while 863 are against it. While 250 editors believe that Federal electric developments are justified as a national necessity, over 900 think they are unjustified. Contrasted with 891 editors who opposed the wholesale death sentence for holding companies, only 210 approve it.

Most important of all, perhaps, only 157 editors believe that government or municipal ownership of the electric industry would give more progressive, efficient and cheaper service—taxes and public subsidies considered, against 947 who feel otherwise.

It is very probable that these percentages showing an overwhelming opposition to any socialistic trend that would put the government into business to the injury or destruction of private enterprise, represent the general feeling of informed citizens. It was not accidental that in the last election voters turned thumbs down on proposed local measures to put various states into business. The American people, for example, realize that the private electric industry, under public regulation, has been one of the most beneficial and progressive influences in our social and industrial life—and they likewise sense the manifold dangers that inevitably follow when bureaucrats are given control or management of an essential business.

These answers of editors provide an illuminating and valuable commentary on one of the most discussed questions of the time. They are encouraging to those who feel that private enterprise is better than socialism, and that the role of government in business is properly that of umpire and not a favored participant.

### EARNED SOCIAL SECURITY

It would seem that "social security" is destined to be a political issue for a long time to come. Within the parties there is considerable internal dissension as to what is the proper program to pursue.

In the meantime millions of American citizens are quietly and effectively achieving social security for themselves without benefit of government.

They are setting up trust funds and saving accounts. They are buying life insurance in unprecedented amounts—and more and more of the insurance is sold of the annuity type which provides old-age income as well as protection for dependents.

This is not an argument against government social security which is believed to be a compelling need of the time. It is, however, a tribute to that old type of American independence which guards against the future through individual thrift, foresight and good hard work.

### ANNOUNCE FEDERAL POLICY

The first statement of the president as to the future policies dealt with the problem of the Federal deficit. Mr. Roosevelt, in a brief announcement, said that he believed it would soon be possible to balance the budget and that he intended to do so at the earliest possible moment.

Various commentators, some of them close to the White House, anticipate that the budget will be balanced by the end of the 1937 fiscal year which starts next July.

It is doubtful if any act of the President and the Congress would do more to restore confidence in our government's financial structure, or to stimulate industry and investors. Once the budget is balanced—and kept balanced—we will know the Federal debt will grow no larger. And, with a balanced budget, we can apply ourselves to the tremendous task of reducing the debt to a more normal level. That, obviously, cannot be done so long as the government spends more than it receives and charges the difference against the future.

It has been Mr. Roosevelt's opinion that during a time of depression a country should spend far beyond what it receives and, once a reasonable amount of recovery is noted, reduce outgo and return to a business foundation. The current condition indicates that the time is here when business ought to make emergency spending unnecessary.

### PRESIDENT TO SOUTH AMERICA

At this writing President Roosevelt is on the way to the Inter-American peace conference at Buenos Aires, where he will make a speech the first day and then return. He was preceded south by an imposing American delegation headed by Secretary of State Hull—implacable fighter for better commercial and diplomatic relations between countries.

There has been considerable discussion concerning the value or the futility of the conference. Some point out with truth, that there is no danger of a war arising in North or South America, that Europe and the East are the danger spots.

However, it is the President's belief—which is shared by many—that if nations of the Western Hemisphere show Europe that a round-table discussion can lead to friendly settlements and agreements, some progress toward world peace will be made. And it is likewise believed that if the President takes a forthright and aggressive stand for peace and throws his prestige against armed conflict, powers which are now close to war may think again before giving the command to open hostilities.

The President's trip to Buenos Aires is in the nature of a resture in a world which was never nearer to armed chaos. As a matter of fact, in recent months there have been occurrences more contributory to war than there were in 1912 and 1913.

Everyone hopes that the gesture will be productive of good. In the meantime, it seems that every seasoned commentator and every old-time war correspondent, is certain that war in Asia and Europe is inevitable—one of the leading correspondents recently stated, on departing for Europe, that he was going to cover the next war.

The Italo-German recognition of Spanish rebels has further widened the cleavage between these powers and France and Russia. The greatest force existing today in both Europe and Asia is hatred.

The old bogey, "The cost of living" is again in the headlines. Some industries are considering plans whereby the cost of living index will be used as a basis for wage increase or cut. An advance in the index is forecast for the near future.

### PROVERBS AND PARABLES

By A. B. Mann

Perhaps people do not realize what they are saying when they use the expression "He is a chip off the old block." This has reference to heredity and means that it is as natural for the offspring to be like the parent as it is for the chip to be like the block from which it has been cut.

Recognition of this fact should win tolerance for those who are of unfortunate vicious heredity. In all such cases justice demands sympathy and tolerance in judging guilt and in fixing moral responsibility. More than this and in advance of it, the matter suggests necessity for caution in selecting the block from which the human chip is to come.

### DRINK AND DEGRADATION

By R. A. Adams

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

The degradation to which drink will drag one down and its influence in and on crime have been brought to us again in the murder of the lawyer Dicken by Ferris in Detroit, Michigan. This man came from one of the best families in America, but drink ruined him.

He offered to buy drinks for strangers. He took these strangers to his own hotel room to drink with him. Drink changed these women into female demons and made them capable of this terrible crime. Drink caused the man to seek association with these dissolute characters. Drink made him forgetful and careless on that fatal ride, and drink dehumanized the murders and made their terrible deed possible.

At the door of this demon may be laid thousands of such crimes, and yet the people of this nation voted to unleash his terrible thing. And this is only a small part of the penalty to be paid for their folly.

### ALTA VESTA

A GIRL'S PROBLEMS

By Videtta Ish

Dear Alta Vesta: In your last letter you mentioned a matter of great concern, and this affords me the opportunity to say some of the things which long I have desired to say.

All work of reaching people, interesting them in Christianity and persuading them to accept it as the rule of their lives, is evangelism, and every worker thus engaged is an evangelist, or messenger.

What we now call an evangelistic campaign was, in earlier days, called a "revival" and the evangelist of those other days was called a "revivalist." This has been the method of spreading Christianity and winning men to Jesus Christ. It is estimated that three-fourths of all persons who have become Christians have been reached and won by means of these revivals and revivalists.

I have an engagement now, and must close. Will tell you more about it in my next letter. Love to you and Aunt Cornelia.

Your loving Father

### MAXIE MILLER WRITES

(For the Literary Service Bureau) (For advice, write to Maxie Miller, care of Literary Service Bureau, 516 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, Kans. For personal reply send self-addressed stamped envelope.)

Maxie Miller: I am a boy twenty years old and I love a girl twenty years old, too. My folks do not rank up with her folks and I ain't educated like she is. But we love one another and want to get married. I can't marry the girl anyhow, but hate to make her folks mad that way. I don't want to hurt her folks, but love is love, I say, and we love a whole lot, too. Answer, please, Sammy.

Sammy: From your letter I can see that it would be very unfortunate if you'd "tie up" with a girl who is well educated. More, Sammy, I think if folks did not want me in their family I'd be too proud to beg myself in. Then, Sammy, unless you go to school and improve your education you can never make an educated woman happy and that means unhappiness to you. My advice is that you get into school somewhere, as soon as possible, and that for the present, at least, you cancel this matter of marriage.—Maxie Miller.

### SERMONETTE

By Arthur B. Rhinow

THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM

An old anecdote, not vouched for by documentary evidence or even reliable witnesses, tells of a man who had been under a severe nervous strain until his mind was affected and he had to be sent to a sanitarium. Careful treatment, however, and kind nursing soon effected encouragement improvement, so that after a few months the doctor congratulated the patient and told him he would be able to leave the institution in a week or two.

The patient was, of course, very happy to hear this, and he decided to send the good news to his family. He wrote the letter, perfectly coherent, and enclosed it in an envelope. When he wetted the stamp, however, it slipped out of his fingers and fluttered to the floor, where it landed, the printed side up, on the back of a roving roach, completely covering the insect, which was frightened and fled. The man bent over to pick up the lost article, but could not find it. As he looked up, however, he beheld the stamp slowly though irregularly ascending the wall. He was puzzled, then alarmed and horrified. He was "seeing things" again. With disgust and despair he tore up the letter, exclaiming, "What's the use! I'll never get out of here!"

A little investigation would have shown that his alarm was unfounded. Instead of the phantasm of diseased mind, the queer would have turned out to be just an unusual coincidence, something to laugh at instead of worrying over.

Things are not always what they seem, including our anxieties and fears. Examine them, before or after the event, and we often find that our misgivings were groundless. Face life fairly and squarely, with open mind and honest heart, and much that appeared to be wrong side up will prove to be right side up. And remember when all seems turmoil, there still is God.

### MRS. SCHUYLER SAYS

By Mrs. Josephine Schuyler

FOR THE CALVIN SERVICE

#### Where Was Man First Civilized?

The historians have long and solemnly assured us that the first civilization appeared in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia. The Aryans (there is really no such thing as an Aryan race, but since some Europeans insist on calling themselves this, we will humor them) painstakingly traced their ancestry back to these first urbanites of the Near East. One historian recently suggested that it was just possible that civilization began in Africa—but, of course, he added it was of Semitic origin. That linked it, however vaguely, with Europe and European history. But now, lo and behold! our American scientists are making undreamed-of discoveries of ancient cities in the Americas.

Up till now, as you may recall, the Americas have been referred to as the "New World." The Indians that the gold-hungry, blood-thirsty Spaniards found in Mexico, Central America and Peru were not at first rated civilized. For had they been how could the Spaniards have civilized them. The theory was that they were savage Mongolians who had crossed over the Aleutian Islands only a few centuries before the European got here. That left these two immense, fertile continents without human life for millions of years previous to this. A preposterous idea but accepted in the best circles as truth.

Now, some of our bright young scientists are uncovering all sorts of conflicting data. In Nebraska (where no one ever dreamed there

had been cities till the cowboys built them) they have been digging up one ancient layer of civilization after another. In New Mexico the same story. In New York State and North Carolina and Georgia new and disconcerting discoveries are popping up. And in Yucatan, the Maya tombs are giving up more and more evidence of astronomy, art and literature as enjoyed by Indians there thousands of years before the United Fruit Company decided to civilize them (by overwork and underpay on banana plantations).

#### Agriculture Basis of Civilization

Without well-developed agriculture, no civilization is possible. A very high form of 'culture' is possible but civilization, which merely means the living together of large numbers of people in communities, depends upon a staple food supply. Grain and vegetables must be raised in large quantities to provide enough food for a city of people. Meat is far too perishable and difficult to obtain (before the refrigerated era especially for great numbers of people ever to have lived on it entirely. This does not mean that grain is superior to meat as a food. It is by all scientific experiment, definitely inferior to both meat and vegetables. Civilization, because it depends by necessity upon a less 'vital' protecting source of food, has always bred disease which hunting folk never contracts. But the fact remains, hose folk who first cultivated, first built cities (May I disgress here o say that cities are probably the world's greatest blight. They have given us Arts and Sciences but they and their grain-raising supporters have already made great parts of the earth sterile. The grain-raisers of our Middle-West have in one century destroyed the fertility of one-third of the United States.)

#### American Plants Oldest

Dr. E. D. Merrill, professor of Botany at Harvard university, has made a study of original American plants. He finds that corn, "Irish" potato, all varieties of beans, tomato, pepper, sunflower "Jerusalem" artichoke, squash, pumpkin, arrowroot, peanuts, tobacco, pineapple, avocado, and a score more of tropical fruits all originated in the Americas and were never known elsewhere until after the so-called "discovery" of America by Columbus. The Irish potato is really the "Inca" potato and was taken from Peru by the Spaniards to Ireland where it was so well liked that it became the staple food of the Isle and was named for it.

The most amazing thing about all this is that corn, tobacco and beans are "botanical orphans." They cannot be found anywhere in a wild, uncultivated state. This means that they've been cultivated for so many millenniums that all trace of their wild ancestors has disappeared. To have developed them into the size and quality which the Spaniards found on landing here, required, we now find, many more hundreds of years than we had thought Indian Civilization had lasted. The irony of this is that wheat, barley and rice which the other "older" continents cultivated can be found in a wild state still and their evolution reveals that human cultivation of them is not as old as that of the American plants. So our scientists conclude that civilization first started in America which leaves traditional European history high and dry.

#### First American; Not an Indian

The finding of a human skeleton in New Mexico beside that of a mammoth which had been wounded with an arrowpoint, upsets the theory of the first American being Mongolian. The mammoth lived here before the Ice Age and the shape of the human skull found indicates an indigenous American. Mongolians probably came here later and mixed with this original stock. Probably also, Africans crossed to South America (note how close they are and recall the daring, sea-faring West Coast Krus). Africa never crossed to Brazil in great numbers because there was no need to. There was plenty of room at home, Europe's situation in 1492, when Columbus sailed West, was different. It was over-populated and starving.

What one objects to in the European conquest is the cant and hypocrisy of the books written about it. The making up of the "racial superiority" theory to justify a Christian Civilization's cruel and bloody enslavement of Indian and African.

#### BE GAME

By R. A. Adams

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

If you have been unwise in dealing, However sad you may be feeling, Since your own folly was to blame, Just chuck your losses and be game.

Whatever might have been your losses, Whatever fate, or fortune tosses, Forbear excuses now to frame, But chuck your losses and be game.

What e'er may be your situation, And whatever your inclination, Be not a coward, to your shame, But 'face the music,' and be game.

#### EDITORIAL BACKS DAVIS FOR A. U. PREXY

New York, Dec 2 (C)—The leading editorial in The New York Age last week was headed "A New President For Atlanta University." The editorial closed with this paragraph:

"We feel that the Trustees of Atlanta university would be honoring themselves and their school by the selection of Dr. W. Davis as its next president."

#### BISHOP OXMAN SPEAKS ON GAMMON DAY

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 2 (C)—Dr. Willis J. King, president of Gammon Theological Seminary, announces December 15th as Gammon Day, with Bishop Oxman as the principal speaker, and a special memorial service in honor of the late Bishop Thirkield, Gammon founder.

#### CLARENCE WILLIAMS HAS NEW PROTEGEE

New York, Dec. 2 (C)—William Cooley, who recently came to New York from a CCC camp in Georgia, is fast coming to the top, according to announcement by Clarence Williams, Broadway song publisher who is sponsoring the young man. Cooley has a marvelous baritone voice, and has won every contest in which he has engaged over the radio, singing a work song especially written for him by Mr. Williams called "Song of the Extra Gang." Recently Cooley sang for Postmaster General Farley's beefsteak dinner to the President at the Biltmore hotel. One of the steaks was served to Cooley right in the Biltmore by the white waiters.

#### SEEK CHURCH AID FOR SHARECROPPERS

Philadelphia, Dec. 2 (C)—The Methodist Episcopal Board of Home Missions and Church Extension is urged to give "material and spiritual aid" to the southern sharecroppers.

### Trapping Season Is Here

