

COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

..EDITORIALS..

THE OMAHA GUIDE

Published Every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Phones: Webster 1517 or 1518

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927, at the Postoffice at Omaha, Neb., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 PER YEAR

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.

DECADE OF SERVICE

In March, 1927, The Omaha Guide was established as a news publication, dedicated to the fulfillment of certain ideals which the founders believed essential to the upbuilding of the community.

Today, after ten years of activity, replete with varied experiences, we pause to review our journalistic endeavors. During this period, we note, with a certain amount of gratification, that many of the obstacles which we viewed in the distance have been fully or partly overcome. We are apprehensive of the fact that these accomplishments are small in comparison with the progress that we should, and hope to make in the future. We have followed principles in preference to personalities. We have always been sincere in our efforts to assist in making our hometown a fine, wholesome, and prosperous community in which to live. There has never been any force or power, financial or otherwise, sufficiently enticing to beckon us away from the ideals embodied in our program for the upbuilding of this community, and we can say with complete confidence, that as long as the present management exists, the readers, subscribers, and boosters of this publication can rest assured that the policy followed by The Guide will always work toward the ideals of racial betterment. Our efforts have been prompted through the loyal cooperation of thousands of subscribers whom we wish to thank for their faith and support. This support has enabled us to establish the first complete Negro publishing plant in the state of Nebraska, making possible the employment of 15 race men and women. Although confronted at times with many discouragements, The Guide has never failed to publish, during the ten years of its existence. And now, with the signs of better times, becoming more apparent, the staff of The Omaha Guide, Nebraska's colored newspaper, is determined to give this community a weekly news publication second to none anywhere.

THE NEGRO GROUP

What the Annalist terms a "spectacular race between wages and prices," constitutes the most interesting and important recent business occurrence.

Wage increase has followed wage increase in a multitude of leading industries. In many cases, wages are above the boom-time level, and are at all-time peaks. However, labor heads are still far from satisfied. They are in some instances, demanding further wage boosts. In other instances they are demanding shorter working weeks without wage decreases which, constitute wage raises, inasmuch as industry's labor cost per unit produced would be lifted.

Higher wages naturally mean higher prices for all mass of commodities and services. This is where the race referred to by the Annalist, comes in. Will wages, on a percentage basis, outrun prices? Will the income of the public at large go ahead along with rises in the price index? Will the consumer accept higher prices and not cut down his buying? These are vital questions, which only time can answer.

In the meantime, the reader may consider it certain that prices will continue to go up all along the line. Most commentators also regard it as certain that shorter hours and higher wages are inevitably coming in most industries.

The Negro working groups in their various classifications, are subject to be the chief victims of the backwash unless they wage an unrelenting fight for the organization of Negro workers into bonafide union, free from race prejudice. There has been little or no gain made by the spurious labor unions foisted upon the group by soulless and prideless individuals seeking to make money out of the plight of the Negro masses.

KELLY MILLER SAYS

THE HARRISON-BLACK EDUCATION BILL

The Harrison-Black Education bill is but a revival of the Blair Education bill, which was intended to extend Federal aid to supplement local educational provisions in the most needy states.

The main purpose of this measure was to furnish better educational advantages for southern Negroes whose scholastic facilities at that time were lamentably inadequate. Since then the south has made remarkable strides in the improvement of its public schools. The Negro schools have participated largely in this advance. Comparison of that day with this day indicates the appalling state of ignorance among the black population of the south. Then, as now, the southern states operated a dual system of education for the two races. Because of the general poverty of this section the school system would rank far below that of the north and west had the system been unified.

Education provisions for the white child were far inferior to the national standard, while that for the Negro fell a little short of the scandalous. While the discrepancy between the two racial systems has been somewhat evened up by the more enlightened educational statesmanship of the south, yet the Negro schools still cry loudest for national aid.

No measure of that day received a larger share of public attention and interest than the Blair Education Bill. Senator Henry W. Blair of New Hampshire, author of the bill which bore his name, belonged to the old line of philanthropists who sought the uplift and reclamation of the Negro race through education. He advocated his measure with all the energy, ardor and enthusiasm of his nature. He was an eloquent and fluent speaker, and was so obsessed with the benevolent intent of his bill that he forced its consideration upon the Senate and the public in and out of season.

It was said that the Greeks became bored with the eloquence of Aristides, the just that he was banished from his country. The Senate became so fed up with the Blair Education Bill that it was rejected out of sheer weariness and the Senator's tiresome reiteration. It was said that the bill was talked to death by its over-ardent author.

After the defeat of his measure, Senator Blair was not returned to the Senate by the voters of his state, but his belief in the statesmanship and efficiency of his measure was not whit abated.

The Southern states opposed the

Calvin's Digest

By Floyd J. Calvin

Southern Economics

We note an article in the current Virginia Quarterly Review, published at the University of Virginia, on "The South's Unbalanced Budget," by David Cushman Coyle, in which these interesting observations are made:

"The south is losing money. The editor of a leading southern newspaper makes a rough guess that the south is paying out a billion dollars a year beyond its yearly income. Where does it get the billion dollars? By selling its property to investors in other parts of the country, by borrowing money

Blair Education bill on the ground that it was outside meddling with purely local affairs. The doctrine of states' right still dominated southern opinion of that day. But the general attitude is different in this day of the New Deal, whose beneficent program does not balk at state lines. We hear nothing of States' rights when legislation is proposed for the relief of farmers, from drought and flood, the control of labor or the checking of disease.

Although the wealthier states of the north and west were perfectly willing to vote the needed appropriations out of the national treasury, the south interposed obstinate and persistent objection. The north was more willing to give than the south was ready to receive. If it is the national purpose to regulate agriculture, industry and business, and to provide security and look out for the health of the whole population, then why not be equally concerned with stamping out ignorance, the greatest plague which afflicts the nation?

This purpose is reflected in the Harrison-Black bill, which goes far beyond the Blair Education bill in meeting the educational needs of the country as a whole. The Blair bill called for only ten million dollars, annual appropriation. The Harrison-Black bill calls for three hundred million dollars. If the south becomes its chief beneficiary, it is merely because it stands most in need of such benefaction. If the Negro race becomes chief recipient of its blessing, it is simply because it bears the heaviest brunt of ignorance. The greater the disease the louder the demand for treatment.

The sponsors of this bill, the distinguished Senators from Mississippi and Alabama, clearly show how far this nation has travelled toward a larger national spirit since the days of Senator Blair.

Kelly Miller

and going bankrupt, by destroying land and forest to make products for sale.

"The south is losing physical and human. Forests are cut and not replanted. Coal and iron ore are mined and the steel shipped away for others to use. The land is being washed into the sea. The people are being allowed to suffer poor health and poor education, which so deeply concerns the leaders of the south, are involved in the problem of economic unbalance which concerns the leaders of the nation. Not only is the south as a whole spending more than its income, most of its local units are running a local deficit. And any geographic unit that is spending more than its income is in a perilous condition...."

We are accustomed to hearing stock reasons for the backwardness of the south, many of which center their viewpoint. Mr. Coyle asserts:

"The cause of this economic drain can be found, for oratorical purposes, in the evil days of Reconstruction. But in hunting for a remedy, we may as well recognize that the evil of economic drain is found in many parts of the north and west. It has various causes, many of them connected with the difference between agriculture and industry. Any remedy that will help the depressed areas in all parts of the country...."

Mr. Coyle is convinced that the south needs federal aid, and says: "Education is probably the most practical avenue of Federal subsidy to be further developed in the immediate future. For one thing, the custom of subsidizing education is of long standing and high respectability. The voters are not so easily hoodwinked by a program that is merely an extension of a century-old system...."

But when it comes to the Negro, Mr. Coyle, while showing some liberal tendencies, finally curves away from complete equality. He says:

"In the south it would be unfortunate if the race question should be allowed to interfere with the Federal government either to discriminate between races or on the other hand to interfere with domestic arrangement of the states."

"Congress may properly grant an equal subsidy to be expended on each child of school age, and may require the local authorities to match the Federal grant without discrimination. If the states or counties want to supply extra funds for white schools that is nobody's business but their own"

An Echo From My Den

By S. E. Gilbert

As I sit here in my "DEN" with pen in hand, meditating as it were, there trickles through the channels of my mind that old age statement made by John Otis, the eminent lawyer of the pre-revolutionary days, before the supreme court of Massachusetts, quote: "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

In Omaha we find a condition of tyranny going unnoticed by 16,000 black Americans. No County Doctor no city doctor, no city teachers. Yet thousands of us are paying taxes, yes, heavy taxes and for our good and unspotted American dollar, we are receiving aside from NO COUNTY DOCTOR! NO CITY DOCTOR! and NO city teachers, inadequate school buildings, due to the failure on the part of the school government to equalize the appropriation allotted to the 60 schools in the city of Omaha, leaving the four schools located in that section largely populated by Negroes, without funds to meet the necessary improvements needed to rectify the overcrowded condition that now exists. For example we find assembly being held in the hall which is also used for entrance and exit for the children.

At Long school, we find an equally deplorable condition, so crowded that it is necessary to hold classes in the basement. HOW LONG, OH HOW LONG, will we we black America, 16,000 strong stand by and allow this calamitous condition to last. Will we start the same war cry made famous prior to the revolutionary war and ultimately bringing independence to the colonies: "Taxation without representation" coupled with an unequal distribution of funds and continue our battle until our children are not subjected to overcrowded rooms, fire hazard buildings, that may result in a repetition of the New London, Texas disaster in Omaha, or will we remain in a state of lethargy and let the rest of the world go by?

GLARING DEFECTS EXPOSED IN HARRISON - BLACK EDUCATION BILL

Washington, March 21—In a smashing drive to have the Harrison-Black bill for federal aid to education amended in the interest of the Negro, the National Co-ordinating Committee for equitable distribution of federal started a pamphlet agitation this week calculated to reach 20,000 organized agencies throughout the United States.

Our Concern

By Charles F. Davis

Vital concern of the community is in legislation affecting our public schools and also in the type of education afforded our children as well as the conditions under which they are forced to study.

Legislative Bill No. 314, introduced by Senator Walter Johnson, had the searchlight of public scrutiny turned on it during a hearing held before the Revenue Committee of the State Senate last Thursday. The bill provides for a two mill increase to the school maximum levy in the city of Omaha. Under the present law, the maximum levy is now 13 mills. This increase to 15 mills is calculated to bring an additional \$425,000 into the school fund annually.

The hearing disclosed a few undeniable facts; to wit: That annual school revenue has decreased \$1,134,000 since 1926, due to a decrease in assessed valuation of property in Omaha, resulting in forced economy. This forced economy has caused a gradual and appalling reduction in expenditures per pupil according to the following table:

Table with 5 columns: Yr., Elem., H. School, Total. Rows show data from 1925-26 to 1934-35, showing a general decline in total expenditure per pupil over the decade.

That notwithstanding the decrease in annual revenue of over \$1,000,000 there has been added to the school enrollment over 3,200 more students than were enrolled in 1925-26. The reduction in revenue and increase in enrollment has caused a badly overcrowding of school, improper maintenance of school, property has impaired the morale of teaching staff and reduced needed service to pupils; further that equipment of pupils with elementary necessities, viz. pen; pencil; paper and books have been reduced to the point wherein the lack of these necessities are seriously reflecting in the education of these children.

Reviewing these facts is for the purpose of enlightening the community on the true situation of the public schools, the opportunity of our children to obtain an abundant education, sanitation of the building where they are in attendance and the physical safety of the children.

Progress of a people is in an abundance of education easily obtained. In Lake, Long, Kellom and Howard Kennedy schools, an abundance of education is not easily obtained, due to conditions. There is a serious shortage of text books. One class at Kellom, for an example, has 55 pupils and 20 geography books. One class at Long school has 1 history book for each 3 students and classes are now enlarged to 55 students per room.

Long School is by far in a condition to cause alarm. It is recognized by fire authorities to be a fire trap, without fire exits. Yet classes are held in the basement of this school on cement floors. The exits from this basement is a narrow staircase. Children in this basement would not have a chance were a serious fire to occur. In fact all the children in Long school are in extreme peril.

It is the intention to report the condition of each of these schools individually in future articles.

However, enough information is contained to awaken the community to the urgent need of the public school and the necessity for immediate action by the legislature on Legislative Bill No. 314, providing additional school revenue.

Community and individual action should be taken. Letter or cards addressed to your state senator requesting support of L. B. 314. Further the Board of Education should be taken. Letters or cards conditions at Long school. Economy will not compensate for a disaster similar to that of New London, Texas. The board must take any available funds and insure the lives and safety of our children.

Large advertisement for 'Subscribers and Friends of Omaha Guide' celebrating its 10th anniversary on Easter Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m.