

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.

..EDITORIALS..

At the last session of Congress, a bill was introduced which was given the almost unanimous approval of those who studied it. It was not voted upon because of pressure of other business but it will probably be up at this session.

This is the McCarran-Lee bill whose purpose is to assure development of America's commercial airlines by placing them under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission. At the present time, the lines are head over heels in politics—very largely due to the control and influence exerted over them by the postoffice department. They have made splendid strides in bettering and extending service—but they would go forward much faster still, were they sensibly regulated by a non-political body.

The ICC regulates all of the nation's railroads, along with bus and truck lines doing an interstate business. It is an independent bureau, wisely placed beyond partisan influence by the law which created it many years ago. Under the McCarran-Lee bill, this bureau would be charged with the responsibility of determining air line tariffs, to the end that they be fair to operators and the public alike; it would determine questions involving feeder service to points not now served by air. This would make it possible for many cities to use to full advantage airports built in late years by the WPA. The bill in brief, would make certain the progress of air transportation on a sound basis, serving the public with maximum efficiency and safety, without unnecessary and wasteful competition, and at a fair cost.

The bill has been endorsed by air line managements, by pilots' organizations, and by experts not connected with the industry. There seems to be no important opposition to it. In the name of the public interest in one of America's youngest and potentially most important industries, it should be passed.

PILGRIM BAPT. CHURCH
Rev. G. E. Stevenson, Pastor
Christine Dixon, Reporter

Sunday school opened at the usual hour 9:30, with a large attendance. Rev. Stevenson spoke to a very large and appreciative audience on the "Revival of Religion in the Church."

Among our worshippers were four white visitors from Lincoln, Neb. Our pastor left for Norfolk, Neb. to speak in interest of the New Era Baptist State Missionary work. Pilgrim church and choir as cited by Rev. Bass and his congregation at Cleaves' Temple church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Rev. Campbell spoke. The BYPU opened with Group No. 3 in charge Group No. 4 had visitors from South Omaha.

Evening services were in charge of Rev. Campbell.

Mrs. Michael of 2432 Parker St. is on the sick list.

The banquet given under the auspices of the City BYPU Thursday night at Pilgrim church promises to be a gala affair.

THE LOW DOWN from HICKORY GROVE

If a fellow has a little time on his hands, it don't do him any harm to read a half a page or so of history.

And when you read about what your great grandpa was doin', you will get over the idea that we are so ultra modern and such hot houbres. And some of the things we been tryin' as new era stuff, it was a fizzle 100 years ago.

And there was Napoleon and for quite a spell. And then it Caesar—they was invincible was the Kaiser, and Coxeys' army, and the Populis's, and Carrie Nation, and others, risin' up to scare us or reform us. And when the shou (in) was all over, it was just some kinda smart-like person's idea and plan, so he could live easy himself, or maybe get elected, or retire in luxury.

And history—it repeats—is a old saying. And we will wake up again, and our gold watch will be gone and the tax collector will be bangin' on the front door, and he won't have such beautiful and flowery news as we been kinda in the habit of listin' to.

Yours with the low down,
JO SERRA.

CLAIR M. E. CHURCH
Rev. W. C. Conwell, Pastor
Geraldine Smith, Reporter

Services were very good at Clair M. E. Sunday. The Sunday school had a nice attendance. The teachers and members were very glad to have Mrs. Norman re-elected superintendent for another year. The Sunday school is moving upward under her leadership and through the cooperation of the teachers.

At 11 a. m. Rev. Adams brought us a wonderful sermon. His subject was, "I Have Passed This Way Before."

The Christian Endeavor opened at the usual hour with a very lively session.

At 7:30 p. m. Rev. Conwell preached an inspiring sermon on "The Power of Christ."

Visitor are always welcome.

MARRIED

Miss Laura Womack, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Womack, 2522 Indiana Ave. and Mr. W. Griffin were married Saturday, January 8 and on January 15, a wedding reception was given them at their home. An elaborate dinner was served. The bride received many beautiful and useful gifts. Those present were Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. White side and daughter, Susie; Mrs. Lotner and daughter, Mary; Mrs. Geo. Hudson, jr., Mrs. Baker Williams and many others.

The Church of the Living God Mission met at the home of Sis. Anna Oliver, 2904 Erskine street, January 13 with the president in charge. We had a wonderful meeting. Last Tuesday night we visited Mrs. Long of 2517 Lake street, who has been ill for sometime. We shall visit Mrs. Dikers of 2520 Ohio street Tuesday night, the 15th. We had a very nice lesson taught from Matt 4:6-11. Many good thoughts were taken from it. After which the hostess served us a delightful luncheon.

Sis M. Wright, President.
Sis M. L. Steele, Reporter.

A Debtless State

(Continued from Page 1)
Gov. R. L. Cochran, at that time state engineer, was secretary of the commission.

A Wing at a Time

To meet the provision of the constitution, the statehouse was built piecemeal, over a period of years. Nebraska, to finance it, simply levied on itself a sufficient tax to raise 1 million dollars a year. The first such levy, in 1921, was for 3 of a mill on each dollar of valuation. As the years came, property valuations increased, and the levy was decreased, so that it dwindled to .22 of a mill, and finally, at the end, to .11 of a mill. The statehouse rose wing by wing, which in itself was a measure of economy since competition was greater among contractors for the small jobs, than would have been possible if the whole structure had been let as a unit. Correspondingly fewer contractors would have been able to handle so large an assignment, and the number of bidders would have been greatly decreased. The capitol was built around the old statehouse. As a wing was erected, a corresponding wing of the older structure was razed.

Only Temporary Inconvenience

The was a little inconvenience in switching offices around, and sometimes there was a little congestion as a result. But, as Governor Cochran says, "It was temporary, and we all knew it and put up with it, in harmony and good humor. The State's business was not hampered in any way by the temporary discomfort of its officers."

The best part of the whole statehouse project was that when it was completed, it was paid for. Many other states, having built capitols, found themselves with bonds to pay off. A 20-year bond at 5 per cent doubles itself. Thus, if the Nebraska statehouse had been financed with 20 year bonds at 5 per cent—which was not an uncommon rate in 1921—the taxpayers might have felt the cost a little less at the time, but they would have spent 20 years paying 20 million dollars for their 10 million dollar structure.

Governor Cochran lists 5 points as embracing Nebraska's sound fiscal policy:

1. Resistance to pressure groups seeking greater expenditures.
2. Constitutional and legislative limitations upon spending by local subdivisions of government.
3. Efficient administration.
4. Avoiding new forms of taxes which usually result in additional taxes and certainly heavy administration costs.
5. The pay as you go plan for all state expenditures.

The Policy Reaffirmed

Of these five points, the pay as you go plan is probably the most important. As has been said, it rests upon a constitutional provision, but it is noteworthy that the people of the state of Nebraska have jealously guarded that provision. Included in the constitution of 1875, it was reaffirmed by the second constitutional convention of 1920.

In 1931 there was the most serious attack on the provision, when the movement for rapid expansion of highways reached a high peak, and a motion was introduced into the legislature to submit an amendment to the people enabling the state to borrow money for this purpose. The motion was defeated in the legislature. At the time Gov. Cochran then state engineer, upon whom much of the pressure came, disapproved it. Although the proposal did not even come before the people, the reaction against it was so noteworthy, in the last session of the legislature—the unicameral body, which incidentally had nothing to do with creating the financial system—some 600 bills were proposed, but not one single proposal was made for an amendment to permit the incurring of debt.

103 Million in Roads

That the policy has been successful is seen by the fact that the state has in addition to its capitol, a 103 million dollar highway system, planned to take care most efficiently of the state's needs, with 8,000 mi. of surfaced roads, 2,000 miles are paved; the state university, one of the finest institutions of its kind in the nation, with an enrollment of more than 7,000; four state normal schools; eighteen institutions of charitable and penal character, all representing an investment of 151 million dollars—and every penny of that investment paid.

Bolstering the prohibition against debt are numerous other constitutional and statutory safeguards. The governor must submit a budget to the legislature, based on requests from various existing agencies on which hearing are held. The governor's budget is subjected to study of legislative committees and to the legislature as a whole, with a provision that no item can be increased except by a 60 per cent vote. Local subdivisions cannot issue bonds without an approving vote of the people. County budgets are required.

Deficit a Sensation

A few years ago it was discovered that Nebraska had a million dollar deficit. The discovery aroused a major sensation. Eventually it was shown that there was no corruption or maladministration involved, and that the deficit had been cumulative over several administrations, due simply to unwillingness to levy taxes sufficient to cover the expenses. The people of Nebraska demanded prompt action so that such a situation should not again arise. As a result a law was passed making it a statutory requirement that the state board of equalization shall make an annual levy sufficiently high to meet appropriations made by the legislature against property tax revenue. More than this the board of equalization is required to provide a 3 to 5 per cent margin, to safeguard against shrinkage in tax collections.

The result of this has been to place the responsibility for appropriations squarely upon the shoulders of the legislators. In Nebraska it is not now possible for a lawmaker to vote for an expenditure with the comfortable feeling that the governor must either veto the bill, or somehow find the money to pay for it. When the legislator votes for the expenditure, he knows that he is automatically voting for the appropriation, and this knowledge has had an appreciable effect in inducing a conservative attitude on spending. The pay as you go plan also has other very valuable effects as the Nebraska taxpayers now know.

"By avoiding bond issues on the part of the state," says Governor Cochran, "we are able to use current revenue to meet current operating costs, rather than using

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current revenue or a portion thereof to meet indebtedness, while seeking frantically to devise new ways to meet current costs. This policy has made it possible for us to expand or retrench at any legislative session to meet changed conditions. During this entire period of depression our state obligations have been met promptly without registration of warrants. In fact, we have been able to reduce taxes in Nebraska. Whereas in 1927 the total of all property taxes levied and collected by the state and its politic subdivisions was 66 million dollars, the total for 1936 was 44 million dollars, a reduction of one third.

There is another important aspect to pay as you go policy. Such a policy permits a program of long range planning for public improvements—a program that would contribute to the country's economic stability. We have seen demonstrated the fact that bond issues on a large scale usually are voted during so-called flush period and paid for during period of stress.

Other Debts Cut
"The bonded indebtedness of Nebraska's subdivisions (cities, counties, townships and so forth) was decreased between 1929 and 1936 from 113 million dollars to 79 million dollars, a reduction of 34 million dollars during a period of depression. We know that bonds issued during flush periods carry high interest rates. During these periods, materials are high, and there is no unemployment problem. But these same bonds are paid for during periods of unemployment and during periods of low prices. Deferred public improvements would constitute a backlog of construction which could be drawn upon in depressed times to stimulate business and to create employment at a time when construction costs are favorable."

(Nebraska's reasons for the avoidance of new forms of taxation will be discussed in the next of this series of articles.)

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The Omaha City BYPU will hold its annual meeting with the Zion Baptist church, 2215 Grant street, Sunday January 30, 5:30 p. m., at which time the 1188 officers will be elected. Pres. Cooper wishes to express his gratitude to the many loyal co-workers and friends for their services rendered in the anniversary banquet and style revue program, climaxing seven years of service.

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