## **COMMENTS**

# EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

#### Economic Highlights

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THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Race preju ice must go. The Fatherhood of God and in ... otherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles whil will stand the acid test of good.

A" Copy of Ch-urches and add Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for curren issue. All Advertising Coty or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceeding date of issue, to insure publication.

#### EDITORIALS Why Not Face **Railroad Facts?**

The President's recent message to Congress, in which he pointed to the plight of the railroad industry and stated that it is the duty of our lawmakers to attempt to save the lines from impending ruin, has agin focused public attention on the railroad problem. And no graver ir ustrial problem exists.

The facts underlying this crisis are vividly detailed by Franklyn Waltman in the Washington Post. The average wage of railway employes was twice as large in 1936 as in 1916. In 1936 they paid 9 cents cut . each revenue dollar intaxes, as against 6.3 cents in 1929. The cost of everything the lines use has made especially notable advances since 1932. Yet, in 1937, the freight rate level was 10 per cent lower than in 1929, and the average passengermile rate was 36.4 per cent lower.

To blame the condition of the railroads on excessive capitalization-a common cry of those who either misunderstand of deliberately mistake the issue-is an error. According to the ICC the proportion of operation revenue for fixed charges has fallen since 1890, and in 1936 the proportion was 16.9 per cent-materially less than in 1916.

Lastly, even less founded is the charge that the railroads have failed to keep pace with the times, and so have unnecessarily lost traffic to their competitors. Freight train speeds in 1937 were almost 50 per cen higher than in 1921. Locomotive fuel consumption, in spite of this, was the lowes on record. And gross ton-miles per train hour also reached a record mark in 1937.

To sum up, the real cause of the railroads cris's is this: A steady rise in labor and materil and tax costs, accompanied by a steady decline in the rates charged for freight and passenger service. The railroads have asked for a "living wage" and have been refused it. It is folly to talk of any "solution" to the prolem unless it involves rate adjustments commensurate with the growing cost of carrying on the business. What industry can continously reduce the cost of what it sells and at the same time pay continously more for what it buys, and remain solvent?

matches or lighted tobacco from cars-obey them rigorously. They are sound laws, designed for your protection, and they deserve your cooperation. An excellent practice is to break a match in two between your fingers before dropping it-then you'll know that it really is

Lon't go on a camping trip without the basic tools of fire control-a shovel and a good-sized bucket: If possible, make a rock fireplace for your fire. Under no circumstances build it near bruch, dry leaves or other easily inflammable materials. Don't build a large fire-a relatively small one is adequate for all camping needs. And when yoru are through with it, really put it out-douse it with water, and shovel dirt over the ash. Be certain that not aspark re-

mains. The prevention of fire in the outdoors is its own reward-it guarantees that there will be a

beauty spot for you to visit next year.

#### Things One Remembers by R. M. Hofer

The Bonneville hydro-electric development on the Columbia River, is the the second ggg to be hatched in the government's power socialization incubator.

As one listened to the stories its promoters told of the blessings it would bring to the Northwest, one almost became hyprotized with the thought that this great section of the United States had ever seen electric lights. Then when the spell-binding ended one suddenly remembered that there had been electric lights and power in the Northwest ever since one could remember, and that, starnge as it may seem, Bonneville could be washed out completely and not a wheil would stop turning or a light stop burning in all the country tributary to it.

The people of seven states counties in Oregon were asked at a recent special election to vote for a tax-exempt power districts to use tax-exempt Bonneville power, in competition with the power service they already enjoy from highly-taxed private tompanies, which taxes help support their schools, roads and all public activity, including paying for Bonneville.

And what happened! The spell must have been broken. By a majority of nearly two to one, the people of the seven counties voted not to saddle themselves with debt to duplicate their greatest tax assets, private eleceric com-1 1 1 1 1 1 panies.

The Northwest needed Bonneville about as much as the average home needs two pianos and maybe the voters looked at the matter in that light when it came to going into debt for something they already have, and when the thing they have is a taxpayer instead of a tax-eater.

### **Face the Facts--**Fix the Pump

After five years of pump priming, the water

# Between The Lines

An appreciation of the President's Wife By Gordon H. Hancock, "The Gloomy Dean" for ANP Eleanor The Great

One of the firest influence being exerted upon the life of exalted and powerful. She has merger program. brought to the White House someradiates surshine and common! business.

These months she has both In Birmingham, on April 28 like graced the White House she has a U. S. Supreme Court decision, not made a single mistake. Just with two dissenting Bishops-Col- the general two churches.' through such critical times with-out one major mistake is one of the white M. E. Church, South, Continues knows how to deal with person-alities and issues with a know-ledge born of Heaven. Above all Mrs. Roosevelt rings true on the color question. It is with her even the marvels of the century. Sha through its Episcopal address, denot an official of the United States, because her husband is its chief executive. She is not merely great because she is the wife of a great man. She is great on her owi account! She has wisdom; She has ability. She has that unyielding moral courage that is rare among the sons of men. She is a great mother and a great public man's wife. She is a great m'stress of the White House; but she gives no evidence of being President. She is a blessing to her day and generation. The errorless of the woman and her ways.

velt has answered once for all achusetts, Connecticut and Rhode tratiing much of our interest to-this irrelevant question. Her Island. More than 90 per cent of ward the elimination of that most certainty. t was not to a Negro. Mrs. race along with the nation something more important than her nothing less than miraculous. daughters' hand. She is giving them encouragement and a helping hand. She is trying to make them feel like humans. She is ever trying to extend unto a stricken race the sympathy and encouragement without which they will suredie! She is trying to have Negroes know that true tristocracy is more

haughtiness; that the real Nor

**Colored M. E. Church** Holds 19th Quadrennial

Hot Springs, Ark., May 14 ment relief and for the city. Much (ANP)-The regligious spoilight suffering is being increased by of the nation centered this week large movements to urban centers.

on two Southern cities-Hot The N. E. Unification Plan Springs, where the 19th quadren-| "The historical relations nial Conference of the Colored tween the Colored Methodist Epis-Methodist Church opened on May copal Church and the Methodist the "perfidity of Albion." 4, and Birmingham, Ala., where Episcopal, South, have from time the General Conference of the ti time yielded such fruits of fel-Methodist Episcopal Church, Souta lowship and mutal aid, each giving opened last week, handed down a the other an opportunity to mak America and the world today is history-making decision on Thurs- centributions, should be conserved, that Mrs. Roosevelt. It is at once day on the controversial church This fellowship has been of great-Here in Hot Springs the atten- er value than the casual observer appreciate. In view of the

thing that blesses a nation, and tion of Bishops, Presiding Elders. practically certain adoption of the although it cannot be described or ministers, church officials and Plan of Unification of the Methdefined, it is there. There has laymen centered about the Epis- odist Episcopal Church, the Methbeen no coronation day nor public coronation, but in the heart of ed by Bishop James A. Bray of and the Protestant Methodist these United States Mrs. Roose- Chicago, elevated to the bishopric Church, the Methodist Episcopal velt has been crowned queen. Up-on her head rests no royal diadem handed down by ancestors through long generations; but she carries upon her brow the invisible dia-the noise the transformed to the bishopric thurch, the methodist Episcopal St. Louis. The quadrennial con-ference, highest legislative and governing body of the C. M. E. Church, South, and the Protestant Methodist Church, we express our-selves in suc a way as may you choose, to the General Conference of the Episcopal Church, South, and the protestant governing body of the C. M. E. dem of a nation's gratitude and affections. Wherever she goes she field of endeavor and because of necessity of conserving the rich the importance of its Episcopal values already achieved in intersense and above all minds her own message to the Negro laity of the racial cooperation by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and nation.

the Colored Methodist Spiscopal Church, through Paine College and the general departments of the

Continues Unabated

color question. It is with her even as it was with Esther of odd, she seemed destined of God "for such a time as this." Mrs. Roosevelt is ter before the church since its has been 5' lynchings-49 of whom organization followed the split in were Negroes. These expressions horror, disapporvval, condemnation 1814 over slavery." Senator Carter Glass of Virginia and comtempt for this unjustifi-

Church, in a sense, grew out of the Commission on Interfacian the M. E. Church, South Bishop Bray on National Problems Atlanta, with representatives com-Delivering the CME Episcopal headed by Will W. Alexander and and supplies from that troubled address on May 5, Bishop Bray, R. B. Eleazer, stands out as one country (thus, by indirection ofdiscussing the present economic of the wise achievements for the ficially admitting what everyone could profit from a close study plight of the Negro, declared, promotion of interracial goodwill, knew: that the has been an active "Since the Negro was emancipa- The'e are 62 Southern white colted, the race has purchased 738- leges giving special courses in It is customary among narow- 000, homes; and operated 860,000 race relations with a total of 108 last straw so far as the Spanish guaged statesmen to interrogate while champions of Negroes rights farms, 20 million acres, 31,000 offering and executing courses in government is concerned, and makes a Franco victory, and the thus: "Would you let your daugh- to the five New England states: "inve our vigorous opposition to consecuent establishment of a

The new Anglo-Italian pact marks a great step toward the pre-servation of world peace and com-pletely pustifies the attitude taken by the Chamberlain government which forced the resignation of

Anthony Eden. The new Anglo-Italian pact marks the complete and unequivocal sell-out of England to the Nazis and Fascists, and is proof of

Those two statements indicate the extreme of opinion regarding this immensely important docuent, signed the day before Easter by Count Ciano, Italian Foreign Minister, and Lord Perth. British Ambassador to Rome. Nothing that has happened in tangled Europe has scared up more headlines-or been reflected in more diversity of opinion. Both the pact's friends and enemies are intensely veral. Ad it seems a certainty that if the Chamberlain government and the foreign policy it has adopted remain in the ascendant, it will be because of this pact. And if the Chamberlain government falls, it will likely be because of this pact. Only time can tell what will come of it-or answed the more immediate question of what the English asses think of cooperation and

conciliation with the dictators. The pact completely covers points of conflict between Italian and English interests in the Mediterraean. Italy guarantees to cease spreading anti-English propaghali timong (Britharis Afri-can subjects. She likewise guarantees the preservation of England's rights in Lake Tana, headwaters of the Blue Nile. And the two governments agree to inform ach other beforehand in the event of any chages in their military facilities n both the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

Of greater importance so far as the rest of the world is concerned, is England's great concession to Senator Carter Glass of Virginia opposing the plan, sounded off: "Its will bring the Negro into our other churches." Heading advo-cates, white Bishop John M. Moore rebuted, "The racial ques-tion is not involved!" The CME Church, in a sense, grew out of

amounts to an abandonment of the Spanish non-intervention pact. Itposed of both whites and Negroes, aly agrees to withdraw her troops participant in the revolution) as oon as the war ends. This is the ter marry a Negro?" Mrs. Roose- New Hampshire, Vermont, Mass- all forms of lawlessness, concen- Spanish Fascist government large-

wrongly has gon "whole hog" in

from necessity, she too may be

#### **Devil Take the** Taxpayer

The story of public electric power develoment in the state of Nebraska would be highly ludicrous were it not for the fact that millions upon millions of dollars of general taxpayers' money have been sunk in the silt of Nebraska's "many waters."

Extensive surveys by army engineers and private engineers long ago indicated that the streams of Nebraska are not suited to electric power development. Within the last quarter century numerous attempts have been made in this direction, and in most instances have failed miserably. But undaunted and with perverse obstinacy public ownership enthusiasts have builded ditches, dams and power houses from one end of the state to the other. They have defied nature, dry riverbeds and tons of silt.

According to Ernest R. Abrams of the New York Sun, out of \$94,526,000 allotted for nonfederal power projects by WPA, Nebraska received over 33 per cent or nearly \$32,000,00. Fifteen states, including Nebraska, received 93 per cent of the total sum.

A 800d share of these lopsided expenditures represent borrowed money and all of th taxpayers of the nation will share in the burden of paying the debt, for years to come.

Apparently the politicians who would socialize the electric industry have not the slightest understanding of the word "fair." To them the end justifies the means and Devil take the taxpayer.

#### **Fire Prevention**

Winter is over. The good days are here. And millions of people will soon start a pleasant round of motoring trip, picnics, camping excursions and other forms of outdoor recreation.

If you are one of these, you will see nature at her best. But do your part to make sure she continues at her best-by being careful with fire.

There are millions of acres of ravished, blackened stum land in this country that once bore magnificent trees-because someone was careless with a camp fire. Some of the finest natural gardens have been turned into ashy wastes-because someone was careless with a cigarette. Animals and humans have perished horribly in holocausts of raging flame-because someone took a chance with fire.

Almost all states have laws aginst throwing

seems to have gone back into the well. It doesnot do much good to prime a pump unless the mechanism is right to hold the water.

We might as well face the fact that it looks as if too much political meddling with business has just about wrecked the pump.

Walter Lippmann, one of the most fearless and realistis writers in the nation, in a recent syndicated article, shows that mere government spending will never solve the question of depression as long as business incentive is discouraged. Easy credit will only put business deeper in the hole, unless it is permitted to make a profit. On the possibility of business expansion under such conditions, Mr. Lippmann says:

"With capital gains and undistributed profits taxes piled on top of ernormous surtaxes, all the risks remain but the prospect is virtually gone." In addition to necessity for correcting such a killing tax system, Mr. Lippmann adds that "business will have to be assured that the sit-down strike is not going to be permitted and that there is going to be an end of tolerated violence and of government favoritism in collective bargaining. There will have to be peace with the utilities. There will have to be peace with th railroads and some end to the arrangement by which rates are fixed by one government board and wages by another." And he might have added, a cessation of legislative proposals in Congress to destroy busines and drive up the cost of living. How can pump priming do any permanent good with rotten valves to hold the water after it is raised from the bottom of the well?

> **Savings Bank** Life Insurance

Periodically there is agitation for the issuance of life insurance by saving banks, where the man wanting a policy may go in, look over the list of contracts, make his selection and complete his purchase.

There is probably nothing against this system of issuing life insurance-if adequate legal safeguards for the protecton of the buyer are erected. But it is inconceivable that the American people would have ever purchased \$120,-000,000 of life insurance protection, as they have, in "over the counter" buying.

Savings bank life insurance has been legal in Massachusetts for a breat many yearsyet the total is extremely small in comparison to that of the regular stock and mutal companies doing business in that state. It is the agency system, under which men trained in underwriting call upon the prospective buyer, that it is responsible for our being the best insured of all the world's peoples. No other system can hold a candle to it.

dics are humance! Upon nearly every question of more for 1938. The large Negro the day Mrs. Roosevelt has been upemplayment is attributed to disapproached and many of these involve directly or indirectly her ment. Nowhere does the Negro husbard. Not once has she answered to the detriment or embarrassment of her husband. It ed as to their just share in governtakes ore genius to play the part she is playing than it takes to THE LOW DOWN play the part of a President. Playing safe by saving nothing her merits; but saying plenty and still playing safe is marvelous. At first she was interesting; later she was delightful; still later she was marvelous; today she is maiestic and indeed is she enshrined in the heart of this nation as its uncrowned queen. Her life and labors are a moral tonic for our distressed social order. In spite of the pressure that the depression | and recession place upon the Negroes, the Roosevits have made us feel more a part of the nation than ever we felt before. The "tip-toe" policy for Negores about the White House has been blasted and Mrs. Roosevelt more than any other person in the world is responsible for its blasting. Mrs. Roosevelt knows that mendicants can never be men and that sychophants cannot rever be citizens and the way she has driven this fact home to the hearts of this nation is reassuring. But in her exalted stand on race relations she is not olone. She is

surrounded by friends who encourage her to do what they themselves felt like doing but were afraid.

This writer is convinced that that the greatest need in race re- gopher's hole. lations moral courage and this is So nothing came of our convering to the nation This nation is pump priming. proud to hail its uncrowned queen ELEANOR THE GREAT.

laughters are already married and this area is in the South. Add to when she gave them in marriage, this 70,000 businesses conducted. the accumulated wealth of the Roosevelt is giving to the Negro Negro since 1866 is rated at \$2,-480,000,000. Such advancement is

"Such are our economic assets. This must not blind us to our economic liabilities. The depression of almost eigth years has brought the Negro face to face with the most serious economic situation the race has faced since the Emancipation. Approximately two manifest in helpfulness than in million Negroes are unemployed and quite as many on relief shown by 1933 statistics and with the present down-curve, there will be

crimination in point of employstand an even chance for employment. The race must be instruct-

from-HICKORY GROVE Susie-that is Mrs. Jo-says she to me the other day, Josephus, she business I a all

the time seeing in the paper? And I was brought up in the country and have

tried to prime a pump when the well was dry and, you can keep 1 on priming it till the cows come home and all you

get is a wheeze and a gurgle. So that is the way I explained it.

But Susie, says, I am not talking about any pump in the country-I am talking about pumping oney like they do down in Wash. So I says, pouring water in a pump, when the well is dry, and pouring money in a gopher's hole, like in Wash., it is no different. And if you get back half what you put in, you are doing good.

race relations in this country are the money-and do you have to or our Military forces, including still the opinion of most economimproving; that racial understand- crawl into a gopher's hole to get ing is far in advance of racial it? and I says, with the diet I am Force, and to the West Point Mili- Iv cautious about forecasts. policy. He has further contended on, I could easy enough get into a tary, the Annapolis Noval and to

what Mrs Roosevit is commend- sation-and it is the same with

Yours, with the low down, Jo Serra

So far as this pact's possible inbreatening evil in American civifluence on the map of Europe is vation-lynching. corrdined, an 'onth hake could

No Increase in Bishops Bench "We have eight bishops. In our hardly have been more effective. It judgment eight active bishops can means that England, rightly or rive adequate Episcopal superviion to our Conference and chur-hes at this time. We have some means that France is left alone, and vigorous bishops who can ef- bordered by enemies-and that, fectively serve their Episcopal districts than the, are serving now. forced to attempt to make similar They are willing to have their pacts with Gerany and Italy. It Episcopal districts increased in or- means that the little countries, der to utilize their surplus ener- such as Czechoslovakia (hat "isgies for the church. In view of land of demovracy in a sea of desthese facts and facing the general potism") have been abandoned to necessary movement toward re- their fate-which must almost inrenchment rather than expansion, evitable mean subservience to the we recommend that you retain at will of the Reich, even if they espresent the number of bishops at cape being made a geographical

are than eight active ones. Con- part of German, as was Austria. sidering our present bench, we It means, finally, that Russia will recommend no Episcopal election stand alone, a gigantic land conat this General Conference. ecting Europe and Asia, in oppos-Negro education in the South; ition to Hitler and, to a lesser extent, Mussolini. If all this comes to In snite of the handicaps and hind-

rances on all sides, the Negro pass, the stage will be set for an advancement in education has been invasion of Russia by Germanystartlingly rapid. In 17 Southern possibly accompanied by an invasion by Japan from the Asiatic tates with seggregoted schools. there are 2,500,00 pubils enrollar side. 25,000 elementary schools. Thus, it s apparent, even from There are 900,000 colored childthis brief review, that the possible ren in Southern states who are consequences of present day Hi-

either not provided with school tish policy, as reflected in this facilities or who are out for other pact, are limitless. The pact has causes. In college attendance. says, what is this pump priming there has been an increase from undoubtedly delayed, though no one knows how lon, the possiblity less than 1.000 in 1900 to 36 000 today. The people will believe in our educational program and objectives when the church not only trains its leaders through its colleges. but when the church recognizes its own work by making full use of its trained product.

The Military and Naval Servvice "In view of the persistent disamimination against the Negro in the different branches of our Militory and Naval sorvices: in theMili-"ary and Naval acadomies, and Army Air Force; and in the Courts of the Department of Jus-

"We recommend that appropriate memorials be framed and directed by this General Conference to the President and Congress of the United States, calling attention to these undemocratic and un-Amovican attitudes and practices. and urging that Negroes he admit-And Susie says, who is getting 'ad and nucleated in all branches

the Army, the Navy and the Air "" National Acodemies, on par with all other citizens. also that

of Justico

The pending government spending program will, of course, be a favorable factor. However, past compotent Negroes be given equal experience seems to indicate that consideration for appointment in the gains resulting from govern-

"I the Courts of the Department ment spending are lost as soon as to speding is reduced.

think its critics, it has, at the same time, furthered an eventful way which will be all ho more horwible and destructive because of the great corressions that belligerent dictators have wrung from Britain. Certainly, from any point of view, the pact has immensely weakened the sick cause of European deocracy.

So far as this country is conerned, it seems to be true that the Chamberlain government and its policies are unpopular-an that this pact has ade even more remote the chance of the American people being willing to enter into

of a major European war. But,

accord with England. Likewise. today is one of rigorous isolation. -----

ad little. "Moderate bettermert" is

ists-and they are being extreme-

The business outlook has chang-