

EDITORIALS

THE OMAHA GUIDE

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION \$2.50 Per Yr.

All News Copy of Churches and 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.

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 time.

James H. Williams, James E. Seay, Linotype Operators and Pressmen
Paul Barnett, Foreman

Published every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant Street, Omaha, Nebraska—Phone WE. 1547
Entered as 2nd Class Matter March 15, 1927 at the Post Office at Omaha, Nebr., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

RAIN

Thomson, in his most beautiful poem, "The Seasons," tells how the clouds consign their treasures to the fields; and, "softly shaking" on the dimpled pool prelusive drops, let all their moisture flow, in large effusion, o'er the freshened world".

The faithfulness with which the clouds have fulfilled this responsibility to mankind so far during the present summer is a cause for gratitude. In the past we have not been so fortunate. Drought has been all too common as an unwelcome visitation of nature's contrary whims and, in consequence, there has been intense and wide-spread suffering.

Miseries arising from the economic depression have been intensified by the havoc wrought by nature. In the parched soil the crops have perished. Screams have disappeared, leaving empty beds. The plight of cattle, victims of starvation and thirst, has been pitiable. In one way or another, the disastrous effects of drought have been felt throughout the land.

Happily, the treasures of the clouds have fallen upon the land more generously up to the present time and there should be no lack of gratitude for the benefits enjoyed.

LOAFING TIME

Spring fever makes dullards of us all but even that tired feeling of May and June is as boundless pep compared with the lassitude of July and August. When summer's heat is at its height leisure becomes a necessity rather than a luxury.

No need to apologize for being just lazy this season. Chances are the other fellow is taking things just as easy as you. It is no crime to loiter under a fan, lounge in the woods, float in the water or doze beside a trout hole when the mercury is hovering around the century mark. Punishment is deserved only by those supermen who hustle around making everybody else feel shiftless.

No matter what their occupation none expend as much energy in July and August as in January. The hand that pushes the pen moves slower, the fingers that press the typewriter keys slacken their pace, the machine's speed slows down to keep pace with the guiding hand and mind and the mind directing the huge organization adopts a new and slower tempo.

Leisure is expressed in July and August through various forms of doing nothing. An active vacation is nine-tenths loafing and one-tenth searching for a cool place to cool off and rest.

CULTURED SNEEZERS

Nobody will begrudge hay fever sufferers the consolation given them by Dr. Berno Paul, European allergist who says that in general only cultured people have hay fever.

Yet is goes against our feeling for scientific truth that anything so

variable and indefinable in content as "culture" should produce susceptibility to a disease. This is a serious question, because if only certain kinds of culture produce hay fever a forbearing educational system will want to deal warily with these branches in its efforts to drill culture into youthful skulls. The resistance of the young hopefuls to learning is sufficiently painful as it is, without giving them hay fever with it.

Very possibly, we should say, the particular branch of culture conducive to hay fever would be none other than our old friend, botany. This theory would gain added plausibility if the student's specialty were the study of ragweed, say, or goldenrod.

POWER OF OPINION

The world is coming more and more to be governed by public opinion. Even in governments where the public is supposed to have no opinion of its own, in the last analysis the reigning power cannot long disregard a settled adverse public opinion.

Public opinion is the result of two forces. One is the accuracy of knowledge and the other is character, and when you know how much knowledge a man has and how much character he has, you can predict the result of those two things and forecast his course of action. And so it seems to be with nations.

Therefore the hope of mankind is a continuous process of education, that the public may possess both character and knowledge. Otherwise public opinion will misrule the world.

A LIVING WAGE

The amount paid by both employers and employes in social security taxes is scheduled to be materially increased next year. That simply means that more and more money will go to government—and that there will be less and less money for private spending, individual investment, and industrial development. As a result, the suggestion by Secretary Morgenthau that Congress change the law so that the going federal rate of 1 per cent be maintained for at least another year deserves the utmost consideration.

There is no question here of endangering the social security program. Any number of economists, including government experts, have pointed out that the creation of a gigantic social security reserve, is impractical and basically unsound. And the social security monies now paid in are simply spent as soon as received by the government, which then deposits promissory notes in the form of bonds.

Mr. Morgenthau has a number of excellent suggestions regarding tax policies. His advocacy of repeal of the "nuisance taxes" (levies such as the undistributed profits tax and the capital gains tax, which hamstring and discourage business, yet bring in comparatively little revenue to the Treasury—should have been acted upon long ago. Business has a hard enough time now, carrying the regular federal income and corporation taxes. When the special nuisance taxes are piled on top of these, it's no wonder that industry is stagnant and investors look the other way when there is talk of issuing new industrial securities for job-creating purposes.

The greatest internal need we face today is to encourage business—and you can do that only by allowing business to earn a decent profit if it can.

SUBSIDIZED LUNACY

A majority of the rural electric cooperatives, intended to supply mem-

bers with cheap electricity, and financed by the Rural Electrification Administration—in other words, public money—are faced with "financial difficulties," to put it mildly.

As of June, 1938, according to the R. E. A., itself, rural electric projects including some that were started as early as 1935, had absorbed federal loans of over \$60,000,000. Under normal circumstances accrued interest and amortization charges would run into \$3,000,000 or \$4,000 annually. Yet, at that time, the government had received only \$138,869 as interest and \$50,567 as principal repayments. And of the total repaid principal, 73 per cent was paid by six private enterprises that had borrowed. The "cheap power" rural electric cooperatives repaid only about \$13,000 on the \$60,000,000 principal!

And now the only solution which the public power advocates seem able to offer in an effort to salvage this "experiment" that has not only been costly to taxpayers, but has helped to paralyze the private utility industry, is that the states adopt legislation excusing the electric cooperatives from certain taxation, exempt them from the jurisdiction of state public service commissions and exempt their securities from "blue sky" laws.

As long as the private utility industry is forced to compete with this kind of subsidized lunacy, is it reasonable or fair to ask it to attempt to expand, employ workers, lower rates and progress—normally?

WE CAN'T POINT FINGER

Speaking editorially, a leading Pacific Coast newspaper says that after three years, during which a Socialist government has been in control of New Zealand, that commonwealth is in a desperate financial condition, according to reports from Wellington. Export prices and exports have fallen off and the industries of the country are unable to compete under Socialistic conditions with those of other countries.

One doesn't have to go to New Zealand to see what a policy destructive to private enterprise, does to business—witness our own government ownership drive against our own government ownership drive against our electric industry and the havoc it has raised in this country—loss of private jobs, unnecessary loss of private investments and increased taxes.

It's a poor time for us to point a finger at New Zealand.

IS IT "Reactionary" To Promote Recovery?

More than 75 percent of investors have money available that could be used to promote new enterprises, according to a recent survey. But the money is not forthcoming for the following reasons: 62 percent of the investors covered by the survey said that the Government takes too much in taxes from the individual taxpayer. Sixty-three percent feared the possibility of labor troubles, 73 percent feared the possibility of new taxes on industry, 77 percent cited legislation restricting industry, 83 percent complained that the government take too much in taxes from corporations. Here in black and white, are some major reasons for upwards of 10,000,000 unemployed men and women, soaring relief costs, industrial stagnation.

Impartial authorities have frequently pointed the way to a correction of abuses which have destroyed investor confidence in the future. The Brookings Institution, for example, has recently set forth a complete tax revision program that should serve as

a model for Congress. And as a matter of fact, as Arthur Krick of the New York Times, observes, many congressmen and treasury officials would undoubtedly support a conservative tax reform program—privately. Yet, for political reasons—probably for fear of being called "reactionaries"—many have so far refused to support such a program publicly.

One can only ask, Since when has it become "reactionary" to promote jobs and recovery?

DO IT TODAY

Every building should be checked at regular intervals for fire hazards. And it is obvious that the checking will be useless unless the checker is familiar with at least the more common hazards.

You, for instance, can adequately inspect your own home if you are armed with a certain amount of simple, non-technical knowledge.

Look at your roof—old or warped roofing easily collects sparks and flying brands. Thoroughly go over your chimneys in search of loose bricks cracks or any other failure that might start or encourage a fire.

Keep your yard clean, trim condition—dry grass, leaves, boards, etc., are readily ignited and are a definite danger to nearby buildings. The same thing is true of garages and sheds—cleanliness and good maintenance go a long way toward preventing fire. Pay special attention to the storage of inflammable materials—liquids such as gasoline and benzine should be kept in tight, metal containers. And remember that explosive liquids should never be used for home cleaning operations.

Accumulations of discarded material—whether old clothes, furniture or magazines—in closets, basement, and attic, constitute one of the worst hazards. Oily rags are most dangerous of all, as they are subject to spontaneous combustion.

If you use wood for fuel, pile it neatly. And never mix rags or paper with wood or coal—spontaneous heating may result. The whole heating system should be inspected carefully, and it's wise to hire an expert for this job.

Oil burners should be installed with extreme care, and in accord with standard regulations. That is also true of gas appliances. No gas appliance should be used which lacks a thermostat for cutting off the supply in case the pilot light goes out.

If your work room, as many are, is littered and disorderly, you're simply asking for a fire. Keep it neat.

This doesn't exhaust necessary instructions by a long shot—but it shows you where to start. And it's a good idea to do it today.

FAITH

American agriculture faces many problems—some of the most serious nature. And American farmers are doing something about them.

Fewer and fewer farmers are sitting back and waiting for the government to step in and fix things up. More and more farmers are working with their fellows, through such organizations as the marketing cooperatives, in a determined effort to lessen their troubles. The gain in the membership of these cooperatives, and the increase in their volume of business, is one of the most significant factors in the whole history of agriculture.

Today's farmers have faith in their own abilities to earn a living and go ahead. When men feel that way, few problems can defeat them.