

FUTURE OF OUR AK-SAR-BEN

Variety of Opinions on Letter of Criticism Printed Last Week.

GATE MONEY ONLY EXCUSE FOR FAIR

Organization Needs Better Financial Support from Merchants Who Reap the Biggest Share of the Benefits.

No communication printed in The Bee in recent years has stirred up so much comment and discussion in all circles as that last Sunday criticizing some features of Ak-Sar-Ben and suggesting innovations and improvements. The sentiment expressed is reflected in the accompanying letters and opinions, all of which come from representative citizens, although a few have asked that their names be held in confidence.

Street Fair is Outgrown. G. W. Wallace, President of the Real Estate Exchange—I am heartily in sympathy with the move to eliminate the street fair. This thing is both undignified and unmetropolitan and Omaha has outgrown anything like it. An industrial exposition in the Auditorium would be a good substitute. The old-time exposition can be wonderfully improved upon and made popular and interesting. The last daylight parade disappointed many country visitors, who expected to see something more pretentious and worthy of the city. The night electrical parade cannot be improved upon. There is no doubt that the electrical illuminations can be bettered, but I think this is largely in the hands of the private citizens regardless of the Ak-Sar-Ben. The efforts of the organization do not meet with the enthusiastic response from the body of people that they should. We are too cold-blooded and even do not cheer the magnificent electrical floats portraying great and ennobling events and periods. I think about the best thing Omaha can do to assist in the success of the fall festival is to get interested in it and applaud the good things that are done, thus encouraging the workers.

Suggestions Should Be Welcomed. O. D. Kiplinger (former member board of governors)—I have always thought that the electric floats might be shown a second time with appreciation on the part of the onlookers. Indeed, I doubt very much whether many of them would be able to tell whether they had seen them before or not. Unless fine new floats are ordered the governors have feared that the people would think we were not giving them enough for their money. It requires an enormous sum of money to run this order and of course the initiations help out greatly. We were behind on finances when we started in and counted on the masked ball pulling us out, with the help of the midway. The former was not patronized well, but we could not know that in advance, and the Midway as usual pulled us out. One could hardly find fault with the Midway—it is no better nor worse than one expects—my criticism being that it is rather out of place in a town of the size of Omaha. However, everyone having ideas on the matter should attend the annual meeting of Ak-Sar-Ben, to be held in the near future, and then and there voice aloud whatever they have to say in suggestion or criticism.

Everything Good—Why Change? W. B. Taylor—I have taken a great interest in the Ak-Sar-Ben and its amusements and attractions ever since the organization. It has not had a parade that I have not participated in. I do not think the membership should be limited, and doubt the advisability of making it permanent, as it is from the reorganization each year that the life and vigor of the Ak-Sar-Ben is maintained. To limit the membership and make it permanent would mean in the course of time a "select" affair

that would not be able to do the town much good. I do not see why it is necessary to change the general form of the festival. In New Orleans and other cities it is not thought necessary. It is true that the electrical illuminations could be improved, and I would suggest historical or symbolical designs at the principal street intersections. The day parade is not and should not be educational. The night parade embraces that quality and does it well. Next year I should advocate a great agricultural and industrial parade, with prizes for the best floats from various countries. It would give an opportunity to show the many kinds of manufacturing carried on in city and state. I cannot think of anything that can take the place of the street fair acceptably. If something better in this line can be devised I am with it. As a general proposition the Ak-Sar-Ben has been conducted about right in Omaha. Any changes to be made should be incidental and in order to present something new.

Street Fair Too Common. T. F. Swift, with Coal Hill Coal Company—While wishing to appear to be putting a stumbling block in the way of the very able Governors of the knightly order, it is plainly evident that the street fair is becoming altogether too common and too long to enumber good ground in Omaha. Small towns of 400 people, more or less, have been making merry over these fairs, and Omaha should not remain in their class.

Let Merchants Contribute Better. Major R. S. Wilcox, One of the Board of Governors—It would not be amiss to discontinue the street fair if the merchants of Omaha would come to the front as they should and support the board of governors in defraying the expenses incident to putting on the parades. As a matter of fact the records show that those who receive the most benefit from the influx of visitors during the fall festivities contribute the least to the support of Ak-Sar-Ben. Take for instance the case I have in mind of an upper Farnam street restaurant that was crowded all the time during the carnival season, and the management gave \$10 toward the Ak-Sar-Ben fund.

Thinks People Want Street Fair. H. J. Penfold, Treasurer Board of Governors—The criticisms are in the main well taken. As to the street fair, I would say that in both 1902 and 1904 125,000 people seemed to have wanted the carnival, judging by their patronage. Of course, if something better than the street fair can be suggested as a source of revenue I would be in favor of it. It will be noted that in the last few years the objectionable features of the fair have been eliminated gradually.

Approves New Ideas for Ball. OMAHA, Oct. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: The letter of X. Y. Z., pertaining to Ak-Sar-Ben, is very worthy of consideration. The outside towns have expressed indignation when, after one or more of their young women buying an expensive gown with accessories and making the trip to Omaha, they were simply used as backgrounds to "show off" Omaha society girls. How much more interesting would the ceremonies be if all the matrons and maids of honor took part in the display, as how much more interested the outside towns would be if each town should be represented by the young women, preceded by a page bearing an elegant banner showing each town represented. This idea could be used in such a way as to add to the beauty of the preliminary march and pass the time full of interest to the spectators while waiting for the appearance of the queen and king.

The junior ball is a good idea and could be carried out by sons and daughters of Ak-Sar-Ben members, or a reasonable fee could be charged for membership to a junior Ak-Sar-Ben, the members to be placed under training for their parts and the fee used to pay for instructors and leaders.

The street fair is growing to be a "pro-

number of rowdism" without a doubt. A number of depraved young men took occasion of the general confusion to shove their hands into the women's faces and then after blinding them in this manner, either say low insulting things to them, or worse yet, and so had were these insults that a young woman could not appeal to her escort to protect her. This has become a too common feature of the street fair. Ak-Sar-Ben knights protect your daughters and sweethearts. A MOTHER.

From One on the Inside. OMAHA, Oct. 22.—To the Editor of The Bee: If as suggested by "X. Y. Z." in last Sunday's Bee, with a view of improvement only "it may be taken that a person can call attention to some of the shortcomings and indulge in some pertinent criticism, without putting himself in the category of a knocker," in reference to Ak-Sar-Ben reformation, we might well consider at this time other features along the lines suggested.

And briefly, first of all let it be noticed, that this organization was incorporated in 1896 by twelve citizens, with a view of helping Omaha, and the state of Nebraska, and then still is, dependent on the enterprising citizens for its existence and life, and seeks to bring together and unite all business and industrial interests, regardless of politics, nationality, sect, professions or trades. Like all other growing and healthy "bodies" it has outgrown its clothes, and is badly in need of a new "suit."

Let it be generally understood that the articles of incorporation provide that the object of the corporation, and nature of the business is:

Article III.—To solicit, collect, receive and disburse subscriptions, to defray the expense of conducting in the city of Omaha, festivities of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, and to prepare for, manage and conduct in the city of Omaha, such parades and festivities of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben as the board of governors of this corporation shall deem desirable and proper, and all funds which are paid to it for stock, or otherwise collected, shall be used in furtherance of the object of the corporation, as stated. This corporation is not organized for pecuniary gain.

Article IV.—That the capital stock shall be \$100,000, divided into shares of \$10 each, and that the board of directors shall elect a successor, or successors, to the retiring members of the board of directors, and that the retiring members of the board of directors shall be elected from among the board of governors, at the same meeting, to serve one year.

Article X.—That the board of governors shall hold stock in the corporation only so long as they shall be members of the board of governors, and upon their retiring said stock shall pass to and be held by their successors.

Article XII.—That the articles of incorporation be amended by a majority of the stockholders of the paid up and issued capital stock of the corporation.

To Close a Corporation. The name of the corporation, according to article I, is "The Governors of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben," and article VII gives the board of governors (twelve in number) the complete control of the affairs of the corporation.

It will thus be noticed that a "Knight of Ak-Sar-Ben" is merely a good fellow and a contributor to the welfare and promotion of enterprise and industry, and has no voice in the management of the affairs of the corporation, but must be a loyal subject of King Samson.

It will also be noticed that, while a member of the board of governors, there is no provision or requirement that all of the stock of the corporation (300 shares at \$10 each) shall be held, or is held by the board of governors. So far as the articles of incorporation are concerned, 230 shares may be held and owned by private persons, and one share each by the members of the board of governors.

The order has not only outgrown these "articles of incorporation," but it needs a new pair of suspenders. The letter of "X. Y. Z." is so good and suggestive in many respects, although I have some doubt about the success of the "juvenilia" feature.

Hardships of the Hustler. It would seem that more consideration may well be given to the question of initiation and membership. That the membership should be limited and be permanent there can be no disputing, or ought not to be any question. If the "stockholders" and "board of governors" is to be a permanent feature and the corporation permanent (from 1896 to 1920, why should not the membership be made permanent? It could not be said that it would eliminate either the initiatory features of the organization or the \$10 fee due from each member, and would certainly eliminate many objectionable features, such as, for instance, at the work of the hustling committee in getting and procuring members who never take an interest in the matter or attend the meetings, and who pay their \$10 to get rid of the "hustler." The initiation can be made new each year, and the membership to the membership to, say, 1,000 to 1,200 members, who are only interested in the city's and state's welfare and prosperity, but who themselves will see to it that many interesting details and features are kept up.

Again, why not increase the capital stock and give other citizens membership on the board of governors? Twelve men can undoubtedly manage and control the affairs of the corporation, but twenty-five or fifty will diffuse the interests and spread the work, and if the "governorship" is good for twelve men, why is it not good for fifty men so long as there are no "pecuniary profits"? It may be said that fifty men can not be gotten together who will work together as well for instance, as the masters of such affairs can be left to the control of the officers, who should be salaried and paid for their services, and who can well be paid, and not only earn their salary, but be of material advantage to the organization, and to the community as well, and certainly with the membership as it has been of late years, the "corporation" can well afford it, as it will be noticed that even the proceeds from the sale of the "original stock" is to go to the use of the corporation and organization. Again, 500 stores and repairs, \$25,548; naval ordinance stores, \$5,550—a total cost of \$31,098, or \$120,000.

At Los Angeles, Cal., the experiment has been tried of using the heat of the sun to create power and to heat water for domestic purposes. At an ostrich farm near the city a solar motor with an operation every sunny day, or about 300 in a year, and pumps 1,400 gallons in a minute. Solar motors are placed on the roofs of houses and connected with water pipes. One heater will supply water for domestic purposes for a family.

Working Team Deserves Better. I might have called attention to some of these features. It can with truth be said that the success of the last year depended almost entirely on the activity of the hustling committee, and the efficiency and ability, as well as the department of the working team at the den. The officers of the corporation and the board of governors, especially if increased, may well be able to take the place of the hustling committee, but what of the "working team." Even Mr. Jardine sees to it that his "animal teams" are "rubbed down" and fed, and taken care of after pulling their loads through their course. But what shall be said of the "team" that pulled the Ak-Sar-Ben through its course? It would at least have been courteous that the board of governors should have spent the price of a souvenir postal card, in representing for the services rendered by the working team. I am told, however, that the officers of the board of governors in their magnanimity of heart, three days after the opening of the carnival, did issue tickets of admission to the carnival to the team of workers, but were adverse to delivering them by mail.

There is another feature that may well be mentioned here with a view of forever eliminating it from any future occasion. At the daylight parade one of the principal parts taken at the initiatory services and written by the same able ritualist who wrote the other parts of the beautiful ritual was cartooned and burlesqued in such a

manner as to reflect upon the character and personage of the member who at the request of the author took that part. It has been said that the only defect to make it a complete burlesque or cartoon was the name of the cartoonist-author, who might have supplied the deficiency by portraying "a snake in the grass." If it becomes necessary to burlesque and cartoon those who participate in the initiatory work without pay or favor it will not take long to drive ability and efficiency out of the order. If those delegated to do ritualistic work expect men of ability to participate in this work and give it their time and labor they should at least treat them with respect, and if unable to do the work or perform their parts they should not be allowed to participate at all.

That Indigestion-Breeding Lunch. The order has outgrown some other features which if it is preserved must be eliminated. Hard boiled eggs and beer, with a sandwich and coffee sandwiched, may have been sufficient as a proper antidote to settle the stomach of a candidate in search of the mysteries and light of the order who had never traveled the hot sands before, but it became a good thing to let alone by many who had their clothes ruined by careless members who seemed anxious to get away from the "lunch counter" as they were to get out of reach of the "cannon."

It has been customary for each sir knight to receive a "souvenir" at some time during the season for the last several years, but we have yet to learn of one appropriate for the women, except the 1902 souvenir. There are a few other objectionable features not mentioned, and perhaps better not, but if the order is to be preserved and along the line of a public benefactor, let the wife and husband board of governors get in action and not only eliminate some of the objectionable features, but at the zenith of the reputation of the order infuse a little new blood into the management and conduct of the order, as well as new features and merits for the order.

RELIGIOUS. The American Bible society reports the distribution of over 70,000 Bibles in ten years of them in foreign parts. The world circulation of Bibles per capita must now be at high-water mark.

The late bishop of Southwell, Dr. Ridgely, was regarded as the finest Greek scholar of the Episcopal church, but was noted for his carelessness in the use of English.

In all his official correspondence the archbishop of Canterbury signs himself "Randall Cantuar," the latter word being an abbreviation of "Cantuarium," the ancient name of Canterbury.

The Baptists of the Pacific coast have taken steps toward the establishment of a theological seminary to be located at Berkeley, where the state university is. Dr. G. H. Hill of Oakland has been chosen president. The Baptists of the Pacific coast now number 35,000.

The beautiful gold crozier, embellished with gems, which was borne before the archbishop of Canterbury in the procession at the great unity service in Washington is that used by Archbishop Temple at the coronation of the Emperor William. It is a copy of mediæval English models.

The increase of Protestantism in India has been steadily going on for ten years, and there are now over a million Protestant Christians there. About a quarter of them are of the Anglican communion, while another quarter is divided between the Lutheran and Congregational sects.

Rev. William Max, the oldest Methodist preacher in Kentucky, died last Thursday. He had been preaching for seventy-five years, and during the time had never accepted a cent of money for his services. He married 3,000 couples, baptized 5,000 persons and officiated at 5,000 funerals.

In Cooper cemetery, five miles from Rochester, Ill., is the grave of a "hardshell" Baptist, over which stands a monument with this inscription: "Here lies a. Invertebrate and a. Preacher." This epitaph was demanded by the wish of the testator, who was a "hardshell" farmer and preacher.

The decision of the Protestant Episcopal general convention to hold its session of 1905 in the city of Boston is a great honor and general interest. It will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Anglican communion in this hemisphere, and will also be the first general convention to meet within the borders of the so-called confederacy since the civil war.

Dr. Randolph H. McKim, D. D., of Washington, D. C., who has just been elected to the honor of being elected to the post of chairman of the house of deputies of the Protestant Episcopal church, for a most forty years has been one of the most prominent clergymen of his denomination. He is a close student of history and has been called upon to give many addresses of an historical character before patriotic and other societies.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY. A number of towns on the northern coast of France are now connected with London by telephone. The charge is \$2 for three minutes.

As tending to show how Southern California is being built up it is noted that Imperial, in San Diego county, which had not a voter in 1900, has had, up to September 24, registered 25,000 voters.

German, Syrians, Greeks, Danes, Roumanians, Swedes, Bulgarians and Russians are pouring into South Africa, but the British workmen cannot be induced to go there. Beer is too good.

The day of the brass megaphone is over. The latest thing in a megaphone mouthpiece is one containing tin, copper and colored accordingly, red, white or blue. They are very showy and dealers expect a sale for them.

From the analysts' researches at the Chartreuse distillery it appears that more than 100 plants are utilized in the composition of the liquor. Aromatic plants which are peculiar to the district are indispensable. Similar plants are used elsewhere are useless.

After much deliberation the French government has decided to export wheat from South Algeria to the west coast with an electric cable. The line, which runs from Algiers, via Oran, to Tangier and Timbuctoo, will be about 620 miles in length and will cost \$20,000,000. The work is to be completed in about a year.

A Cleveland man has started a business which promises to be a great success. He has hired an office, a number of telephone stenographers and a number of telephonists. He has a number of men, by telephone, dictate their letters over the wire to a stenographer and the letters are later sent back by messenger to the sender.

Mr. Freyman of England, in reply to a question of the government lately, stated that the annual cost of maintaining in commission a first-class battleship of 12,000 tons is: Pay of wages of officers and crew, \$4,200; victualing, \$1,400; coal, \$25,000; stores and repairs, \$2,548; naval ordinance stores, \$5,550—a total cost of \$49,000, or \$420,000.

At Los Angeles, Cal., the experiment has been tried of using the heat of the sun to create power and to heat water for domestic purposes. At an ostrich farm near the city a solar motor with an operation every sunny day, or about 300 in a year, and pumps 1,400 gallons in a minute. Solar motors are placed on the roofs of houses and connected with water pipes. One heater will supply water for domestic purposes for a family.

PETERS' "DIAMOND BRAND" SHOES GET HIGHEST AWARD.



To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come Greeting: This Declaration is to Certify that the Attached Official Award Ribbon is Issued to PETERS SHOE CO. By the Authority of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Bearing the Signatures of...

GRAND PRIZE AWARDED TO PETERS SHOE CO. St. Louis, Mo. U.S.A. FOR BOOTS and SHOES Manufactures Department Group 60 Class 378

And that the Matter Thereof has Been Granted by the Jury of Awards The Award as They are Informed for Best and Most Complete Line of Shoes. The Attached Official Award Ribbon is the Emblem of Authority of the Matter to make known to the World that he has received the distinction of an Award from the Jury of Awards at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

IF YOUR DEALER DOES NOT SELL "DIAMOND BRAND" SHOES, WRITE US.

Advertisement for 'Kantwearout' shoes, featuring an image of a man in a suit and a dog. Text: 'Is your boy worth \$5? If so clothe him with a suit that will keep him dry in all sorts of weather, possesses style and is made for service. Our new (patent applied for) \$5.00 Hercules Suit of the famous Wear Resisting and Dependable...'

Advertisement for Metz Beer, featuring an image of a man and a woman. Text: 'Metz Beer As good in the fall as it is in the summer. Strictly all wool, checkered of style, as are all garments of the...'

Advertisement for Daube, Cohn & Co. featuring an image of a train. Text: 'DAUBE, COHN & CO. MARKET ST. & JACKSON BLVD. CHICAGO. ELECTRIC LIGHTED TRAINS Run every day in the year on the UNION PACIFIC Observation Compartment Cars, Barber Shops, Bath Rooms, G.O. Palace Sleeping Cars...'

Advertisement for Dr. McGrew Specialist, featuring an image of a man's face. Text: 'DR. MCGREW SPECIALIST. Treats all forms of DISEASES OF MEN ONLY. A Medical Expert 20 Years' Experience 18 Years in Omaha...'

Large advertisement for Cuticura skin medicine. Text: 'SKIN HUMORS Scalp Humors, Hair Humors, Blood Humors Complete External and Internal Treatment One Dollar Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales, and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT to instantly allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal; and CUTICURA RESOLVENT PILLS to cool and cleanse the blood, and expel humor germs. A SINGLE SET costing but ONE DOLLAR is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring skin, scalp, and blood humors, eczemas, rashes, itchings, and irritations, with loss of hair, from infancy to age, when the best physicians and all other remedies fail. WONDERFUL CURE BY CUTICURA "I take the liberty to drop you a few lines to let you know of my wonderful cure by Cuticura. My head was one mass of scabs and my forehead was covered down almost to my eyebrows. I had to wear my hat all the time. My legs, arms, and body were covered with spots in size from a pin-head to as large as a silver dollar. A white, crusty scab would form and itch, and words cannot express how I suffered for fifteen years. I tried many doctors and all kinds of treatments, but could get no help, and thought there was no hope for me. While in Michigan last summer a friend told me to get Cuticura. I got a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment, and in three days my head was as clear as it ever was. I applied the ointment night and morning, also taking a hot bath three times a week, and using the ointment freely after the bath. After using one cake of soap and two boxes of ointment I was completely cured, without a mark on my head or body. I was so pleased I felt like taking my hat in my hand and running down the street to tell every one I met what Cuticura had done for me. I shall never use any other soap but Cuticura. If any one is in doubt about this, they may write to me. (Signed) H. B. FRANKLIN, 717 Washington St., Allegheny, Pa.'"