

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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WHEN OUT OF TOWN: Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Johann Most is dead. New York policemen will now have to find another man to make famous as "the leading anarchist."

British reports would indicate that American reciprocity with Canada is an accomplished fact, even though it is not to be found in the archives.

It looks as if the year 1906 were not going to be behind its forerunners in the matter of holocausts, wrecks and catastrophes, generally causing loss of life.

Iowa democrats are to have a "dollar dinner." They may have some faces at the table if they postpone the feast until after the republican state convention.

The fact that Russian naval plans have been sold to another nation indicates that the "gold brick" artist does not confine his attentions entirely to individuals.

Japan is to buy all its privately owned railroads. This stroke of enterprise will be watched in America, which may be able to learn something more from the "coming race."

Omaha's bank clearings for the week are nearly twice those of St. Joseph. St. Joseph, however, is still credited with a fictitious census population equal to that of Omaha.

The African tribe of Nandis are the latest to have civilization injected into them by British guns. The Anglo-Saxon spirit goes marching on—until it meets a race which can put up a fight.

With Sweden and Austria both considering new election laws designed to extend the privilege of voting it seems that Russia is not to be permitted to catch up with the procession unless it travels more rapidly than at present.

If the vagrants and idlers in Omaha from whom the holdups and burglars are recruited were up against the prospect of compulsory labor in a workhouse whenever arrested as suspicious characters, they would make tracks to some more restful climate or go to work to earn an honest living.

The profits of the "Steel trust" last year were over \$1,000,000 a month in excess of the profits of the preceding year. Trade seems to have combined with fate to make it impossible for Andrew Carnegie to accomplish his purpose of drying poor without waiting quite a while longer.

A large tract of land in Arthur county is to be set aside for a forest reserve. The maps no longer show Arthur county, but perhaps the government experts will have no difficulty in locating the land and the trees will grow just as well as though the county had not been merged into McPherson.

"Upon the threshold of what promises to be the most remarkable business development the world has even known," the democrats of the south will hardly jeopardize that prospect by turning back the pages of history and forgetting the lessons of forty years ago even at the suggestion of so eminent an adviser as Judge Parker.

The republicans of Nebraska are on record in their last state platform in favor of bringing the nomination of candidates on republican tickets as close as possible to the rank and file of the party. There is no question either as to this declaration or as to the constantly deepening demand of republicans in every part of the state.

A RECORD THAT SHOULD COUNT.

Every public officer is expected to do his full duty, but when he comes to ask the suffrages of his fellow citizens for continuation or promotion in office the record he has made should count for or against him according as it discloses energy and faithfulness in public service, or mere time serving and recklessness of public interests.

Mr. Hennings' record is stamped prominently with honesty, integrity, fidelity and energy. During the period a little short of six years ending December 31, 1905, that he has been in the treasurer's office, A. H. Hennings has collected and disbursed in receipts of taxes, proceeds of bond sales and other municipal revenue, a grand total of \$18,354,382.70.

During the period in which A. H. Hennings has been charged with the handling of city funds, interest on daily balances of deposits in his custody from the beginning of his first term to March 1, 1906, figure the striking total of \$53,513.35. Of this amount \$42,841.51 was paid and credited to city funds, \$10,394.49 to the school fund, \$309.35 to the water board. In a word, more than \$50,000 has been saved to the taxpayers of this city by the interest increment on their money in the hands of Treasurer Hennings, and no one has even entertained a suspicion that he ever farmed out any public money for his private gain.

City Treasurer Hennings inaugurated and put into force a vigorous policy of personal tax collections with the result that delinquent personal taxes have been almost wholly wiped off the tax books. During previous terms it took from five to ten years before the 90 per cent of the regular tax levy drawn against immediately, was collected, while over 90 per cent of the 1905 regular tax list was in the treasury by February 1, 1906—within seven months after date of delinquency.

The effect of this more businesslike administration of personal tax collections has been not only to save the city large amounts of taxes due that would otherwise have been wholly lost, but also to save the taxpayers the burden of expensive penalties and interest. During the first year of Mr. Hennings' term more than \$10,000 was exacted for penalties and interest on the personal taxes collected, while for the last year of his term, although the aggregate collections had increased fully 50 per cent, penalties and interest on delinquents was reduced to but little more than \$3,000.

The unprecedented record as a public official made by A. H. Hennings in the treasurer's office is the best guaranty that he will fulfill the duties of mayor with eminent satisfaction when nominated and elected to be the city's chief executive.

IMMUNITY SUBTERFUGE DESTROYED.

The decision of the United States supreme court in the Tobacco and Paper trust cases defining the scope of immunity to witnesses, removes one of the greatest obstacles in the way of public officials in enforcing the state and national laws governing corporations. There has, of course, never been a doubt that the clause of the fifth amendment to the federal constitution, "No one shall be compelled, in any criminal case, to be a witness against himself," afforded complete immunity so far as the witness himself is concerned, and numerous laws have been passed both by congress and state legislatures carrying out the exemption, going so far as to provide that no testimony of a witness may be directly or indirectly used against him in any other proceeding or trial.

But no weapon in the hands of corporations has been more effective hitherto for nullifying the laws for their control than the misconstruction of this constitutional provision whereby their officers and agents have refused to testify as to violations of which they had knowledge because such testimony would incriminate them. As they were the only witnesses by whom the offenses could be proved and as the courts have entertained or sanctioned the immunity excuse for years, the force of the most important laws, like the Sherman anti-trust law, under which the cases arose, has been in large part lost and corporations viciously encouraged by the belief that they were beyond reach of the law.

The supreme court now sweeps away the whole ground of this exasperating system of corporation evasion. The decision holds broadly that the constitutional provision has no reference whatever to corporations. Its reasoning is impregnable, for if one person cannot refuse to testify because the result would be to incriminate another person, much less can the intangible thing known as a corporation, itself the creation of the law, be permitted to escape on this plea. The court takes the broad position that the immunity of the witness himself, as it was intended to be, solely a personal privilege of the witness himself, and not a muniment of corporations in their violations of the law which, as they can be perpetrated only through officers and agents, can likewise be proved and punished only through their testimony.

Obviously this adjudication in its effects must be epochal in the great movement to subordinate corporations to public control. It puts their officials and agents in a position in which they can no longer refuse with impunity merely to testify as to their own knowledge, but also to produce before the courts and all authorized representa-

tives of the government the books and records of illegal corporation transactions. Beyond that an almost limitless field is opened for further effective legislation in dealing with corporation abuses.

JUDGE PARKER TO THE SOUTH.

Judge Alton B. Parker's address at Charlotte, N. C., in the guise of an appeal to the conservatism of the southern democracy, thrusts to the front the whole internal issue which has paralyzed the energies of the party as a political organization since 1896. The substance of his speech implies acknowledgment that his own nomination for the presidency was in pursuance of an effort to restore the party to the doctrinal and traditional ground which it occupied prior to 1896.

Confessing the failure of the attempt on that basis, and the hopelessness of further attempts under northern democratic leadership, Judge Parker urges that the time has come for the democracy of the south to take initiative and direction of the party, both as to formulating its policy and as to representing it on the national ticket. While broadly holding up the prospect that the conservative forces of the north and the east will join in the movement, the weight of his argument bears upon the point that it must leave behind all that is comprehended in "the Nebraska leadership," as he calls it.

However this proposal of the late presidential candidate of the party may strike the southern democracy, to whose pride and old-time convictions and sectional prestige it would naturally appeal, very prompt and nervous protest may be expected in quarters associated with "the Nebraska leadership." Which is by no means ready to yield to the south any more than it was to yield to the east when the nomination of Judge Parker was forced at St. Louis.

ELIGIBILITY.

A point of eligibility under the constitutional prohibition upon a member of the executive department seeking election to another state office during the term for which he may have been chosen has brought about the withdrawal of one prominently mentioned candidate for governor, who, rather than embarrass the party, will voluntarily retire to private life.

The constitution and the laws prescribe a great many qualifications for eligibility to public office, but they are for the most part of a technical character, such, for example, as the requirement that the governor shall have been a citizen of the state and of the United States for two years next preceding his election; that he shall have attained the age of 30 years; that he shall not hold at the same time any other state office; that the treasurer shall be ineligible to a third term; that members of the legislature shall reside in the districts respectively which they represent, and so on.

On only one point of eligibility does the constitution of Nebraska get beyond the technicalities of age, citizenship and duplicate office holding, and that is when it disqualifies any person in default as a custodian of public funds from being eligible to office. In the tribunal of public sentiment, however, there are a great many other considerations that go or should go in determining the eligibility of aspirants for public office.

The qualifications exacted outside of and in addition to the legal pre-requisites doubtless vary from time to time, according to the issues that are presented. They at all times include honesty, integrity, veracity and the attributes that go to make a man reliable and trustworthy, as distinguished from unreliable and untrustworthy.

In the present state of public opinion in Nebraska just now it is safe to say, too, that one of the prime pre-requisites to eligibility to office is a satisfactory record of public and private life, measuring up approximately to President Roosevelt's idea of the "square" deal. The railroad capper and the discredited oil lobbyist are on the list of ineligible, and so are the corporation attorneys who constantly take orders from headquarters. The bars are up against rebate shippers who have sold themselves for railroad favors and corporation hirelings generally, whether they get their pay in cash or in free passes for themselves and their relatives and friends.

The people of Nebraska are making a few rules on eligibility to office for themselves these days, and while these rules may not be recognized by the courts or be enforceable by mandamus, injunction or quo warranto, they will have the more potent backing of the ballot box, which is the real court of last resort on the qualifications of public servants.

ARMSTRONG INVESTIGATION CLOSED.

The joint special committee of the New York legislature, commonly called the Armstrong committee, whose hearings have just been formally closed, has accomplished a memorable work. Nothing remains but to put in final form by any necessary changes of details the bills embodying the committee's recommendations for the amending of the laws concerning insurance, corporations and the penal code. Those bills are of the most important character, going to the roots of the momentous abuses of life insurance management exposed in the course of the investigation. That the reform measures thus formulated by the committee will be adopted by the legislature, at least in considerable part, is very generally believed, in spite of the formidable opposition, open and covert, which it is sure to encounter. To have accomplished this much is a notable achievement.

But whether these recommendations shall be enacted in whole or only in part into law at this time, the influences for good which have been put in motion by

the committee are of far-reaching effect and of incalculable value. Perhaps these in aggregate transcend any immediate legislative results in the one state of New York, immensely important as the latter may be. As a means of publicity touching matters of such universal and vital interest as are affected by the administration of life insurance it is hardly possible to overstate the potency of the work of the committee. The publicity alone which it effected compelled the correction of a multitude of monumental abuses and the saving of vast sums of money to policyholders before its report was signed, and even before its hearings were half over, and so aroused moral sentiment and focalized public attention upon the subject that thorough reform, legislative or voluntary, is inevitable in every state in the union.

The Armstrong committee, to its own lasting honor, stands a signal object lesson to the public and to all like legislative commissions everywhere, what an investigation which verily investigates can do.

HARD AND SOFT COAL INTERESTS.

It is a mistake to assume that the coal troubles are so simple that they can be accurately stated as a mere dispute between the miners' union on the one hand and the mine operators on the other. Back of that and more important is a growing antagonism between the anthracite and the bituminous coal mining interests. Indeed it is the conflict between them that the directing minds of the miners' union have seized upon as an opportunity for forcing large concessions to it and that in large part has encouraged them to stand out so boldly for their demands.

The great strike in the anthracite region four years ago was a tremendous competitive advantage to the soft coal interests, which was not slow to profit by it. The enforced use of the cheaper fuel not only proved to be a saving to consumers while the strike lasted, but also by overcoming their prejudices and revealing to large users the danger of dependence on the anthracite supply which is practically monopolized caused many to resort to soft coal long after the labor trouble had been settled. Another prolonged struggle in the anthracite region would be a grave blow to the proprietary interest there and could not fail immensely to advance the soft coal interest in the market.

This is a fact which gives point to the official refusal of President Baer on behalf of the anthracite operators to unionize the mines on the score that the miners' organization is "controlled by a rival industry," and it also explains a long series of maneuvers the last six months on the part of the operator representatives of the bituminous regions, particularly their disposition recently to concede a considerable increase of wages. It will be impossible permanently to hold the hard and soft coal interests together against the competitive forces pulling them apart, but one of the chief points in the pending labor trouble rests upon the answer to the question whether for the time a truce can be maintained between them.

Collier's Weekly throws a spring bouquet at American newspapers by declaring that they "today have more power and use it for better ends than at any previous time." It goes on to say that the permanence and reality of the gain depends on whether the public will show its appreciation of higher standards by support and patronage of the better class of newspapers rather than the poorer and demoralizing class. "Some few pessimists who bewail the fact that the most vicious yellow journals seem to flourish may be disposed to question this, but a careful and unprejudiced survey will surely confirm Collier's conclusion that the tone of our American newspapers is steadily higher as well as the tone of American business and society, both, doubtless, reacting upon one another in the same direction.

The advertisement which the Nebraska state penitentiary is getting by the voluntary return of paroled prisoners speaks altogether too well for the management of that institution. It recalls the incident when a prisoner in the county jail here feigned illness in order to get transferred to the county hospital, some years ago, and then after a brief experience with hospital fare begged piteously to be returned to jail. While we are all insistent that nothing but humane treatment shall be accorded inmates of state prisons and local jails, there is no good reason why conditions of penal servitude should be such as to make them preferable to freedom outside, even though coupled with the necessity of working for a living.

Missionaries who see in the education of Chinese in America a solution of the troubles between the races evidently put little faith in the reports of correspondents who find in Chinese with foreign educations the cause of the whole trouble; but maybe the missionaries are homeopaths.

The suggestion of an Iowa legislator that professors in state institutions should stay at their posts rather than become lobbyists for their schools is a pointed well taken. If salaries were suspended during the time they are trying to influence legislation the comment might be less pertinent.

Ex-Judge Parker's appeal to the south to assume the leadership of the democratic party may be taken to mean that he fears that all democrats but those of that section are either "woolsters" or "Roosevelt republicans."

The reform spelling bee which the National Educational association is trying to institute seems to be encounter-

ing levity and sarcasm rather than serious consideration. There are so many reforms that strike so much nearer home that it is pretty hard to enthrone any one in favor of a new spelling book, except possibly the School Book trust.

The allegation that Standard Oil company steamers have gone into a combination with British companies to injure the trade of America with Asia is not calculated to help the company in its present troubles.

Tip for Jeremiah: Wall Street Journal.

Don't continually look at the country through a porous plaster. Away with pessimism!

Hans and Jonathan: Brooklyn Eagle.

Germany does not want to engage in any tariff war with us. Is it possible that she is casting about to see who are her friends in case of a real war?

Up Against Vested Interests: Boston Transcript.

Only simple people suppose that English spelling can be simplified without the overthrowing of every spelling book in vogue interest, with capital locked up in our present archaic orthography.

Greed Fattens the Graveyard: Chicago Record-Herald.

The recent mine disaster in France, which caused the death of 1,600 men, is said to have been due to the greed of the mine owners, who refused to provide proper safeguards. Greed works out in about the same way the world over.

Relief in the Dim Distance: San Francisco Call.

There is no doubt that the railroads have systematically aided the Sugar trust to crush its competitors, and it is possible that evidence to that effect can be produced in court, but a suffering public expects nothing in the way of punishment or arrest of the practice and is not likely to be disappointed.

Business Methods on the Farm.

Thousands of farmers in the more open agricultural regions of the country still conduct their farms in a haphazard way, but everywhere the advantage and necessity of the business spirit are being recognized. The west has been warned, for example, that the fertilizer problem of the future, which once was described by a poet under better rotations and economy of land is being preached. It is now generally accepted as a truism that the better business man the agriculturalist of today becomes, the more profitable will be found the occupation which once was described by a poet, though not wholly wise farmer, in the statement that "farmin' ain't all keepin' books, by a long shot."

The Grind of the Trusts.

After the trusts are done with their grinding, what is left for the rest of us? The Coal trust and the Labor trust are at odds about a division of the profits derived from the mining of coal. The Labor trust refuses to delve unless its share of the profits is increased. When the dispute reaches a crisis likely to result in stopping the Steel trust takes a hand. Having a twenty-five-year contract with the Coal trust the Steel trust threatens to abrogate it unless the Coal trust shall reach an amicable agreement with the Labor trust. Upon this contract, as the matter now stands, it is believed that the Coal trust will agree to pay the Labor trust a 1 1/4 per cent advance in wages. The April 1 bituminous strike will have been averted. Theebnon hurrah and hallelujah! Calamity is sidetracked. Glory to Theodore! The Steel trust surrenders its coal and the matter now stands, gets its percentage. The Coal trust adds the percentage to the cost of production and the price of fuel. The rest of us foot the bill.

SERMONS BOILED DOWN.

It's mighty easy to mistake venom for virtue. Righteousness is never better for taking a rest. The polished Christian comes from the mills of adversity.

The wisdom from above will be known by its works below.

He who lays out each day with prayer leaves it with praise.

You cannot measure a man's righteousness by his reticence.

There can be no finality to truth that comes to fallible men.

The man who is too good for anything is often good for nothing.

The vines of earth become dominant when we are deaf to the voices from heaven.

A successful candidacy for heaven is more than learning to look like a corpse.

Men often think they love the sinner because they are too lazy to persecute him.

There's a good deal of difference between social prominence and personal eminence.

You are not likely to cheer the hearts of others by looking down in the mouth yourself.

The man who always has the sins of others before him puts his own in his pocket.

It's hard to steer a straight course when you keep your conscience in your pants pocket.

It is easy to mistake the outer restraints of society for the inner righteousness of the soul.

Some men think that a pugnacious disposition provides them with all the plecty they need.

The best banks are in heaven; but the receiving tellers are likely to be in some back alleys here.

Many a preacher thinks that because he can express himself with ease he ought to be deadheaded through life.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Springfield Republican: Protestant England has had a wry face over the conversion of Princess Ena, but it will wear away. If the prince is happy, it's a small matter to the world. Denominational ties aren't so important as they used to be. These are not the middle ages.

Baltimore American: A minister in Brooklyn has started a crusade to make women take off their hats in church, but so far without brilliant success. With the time for the new Easter hat in all its glory drawing near, no true daughter of Eve would be willing to set the precedent for its eclipse in this way.

Boston Transcript: Among the other sermons of last Sunday we note that a New Jersey minister spiritually uplifted his congregation by discussing "Business women—do they reduce the number of marriages and do they make good wives?" These are interesting conditions, although we hardly imagined that they were part of the curriculum of our schools of divinity.

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PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

The knocker who knocks March weather is mighty hard to please. Hasn't it dropped several millions of moisture on the dreary landscape and given the coal man a farewell tip? The New Jersey genius who has developed a race of hens that lay eggs with handles is not as great a public benefactor as the race of hens that made cold storage men shell out last month. The art expert of Cleveland, charged with duty of chasing loud posters, pulled a bundle of Gibson girls posted as wall flowers. "Them ain't art," he exclaimed indignantly, "them's rubber." As a means of recouping themselves for the license boost to \$100, Chicago saloon-keepers have decided to lift highballs from the two-tier rank. When the highball goes up it is pretty sure to go down. Startling events crowd upon each other's heels. Here is the attorney general of Pennsylvania bringing suit against the Pennsylvania railroad for charging a rebate on mileage books. Matthew Stanley Quay is dead, his spirit, ditto. Chicago has attained that degree of complacency which justifies cocking one's feet on the mantle piece. The traction octopus stands without hitching, saloon licenses cost \$1,000, and the Chicagoese kiss is definitely rated at \$4.00. The reform spirit has taken such deep root in the New York legislature that the members are vying with each other for the honor of fathering bills to save Niagara Falls. A short year ago the same body handed out charities to all applicants. The supreme court of Kansas tapped a large vat of wrath last week by deciding that a person who sells liquor is responsible for the acts of the purchaser, and clinched the decision by offering a judgment for \$5,000. As Kansas is strictly prohibition there is some mystery as to why the court should concern itself about that which does not exist legally. DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES. She—I guess you didn't know, George, that violets make the proper belt bouquet for Lent? He—But, my dear girl, how can I give you violets on a carnation salary?—Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Well, well, there goes Miss Strong. When I saw her last she was posing as a bachelor girl. That's her hobby." "All that's changed now." She dropped the hobby for a hubby. —Philadelphia Press. "It must be hard," said the friend, "to have your wife chasing off to women's rights meetings and all that sort of thing every night." "Hard?" exclaimed Henpeck. "Why, it's great; I can sit comfortably at home and not have to listen to her."—Chicago Tribune. "When the rich widow married the young fellow she told him he would have nothing to do but spend her money." "And now?" "And now she allows him just \$7 a week."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Miss Goldrox," began Mr. Hunter, "I must confess that at least I have lost my heart and you—" "Really, that's too bad," she interrupted.

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