

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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Farm Life Improvement.

If altruism could be impressed on people as a personal obligation our back-to-the-farm projects might be brought to better results. If one class of individuals could be made to see its duty in giving up the attractiveness of city life, returning to the country and cultivating the soil for the general good, we might be able to balance the scales of supply and demand, production and consumption and equalize the distribution of population, but there is no hope of making any considerable number of people see that. Consequently, until we abandon altruism and adopt self-interest as the pivot of this great movement we shall meet with no significant fruition.

It is this consideration of self-interest, underlying the scheme of consolidating country schools, which promises success. The plan has been introduced in Hardin county, Iowa, with excellent prospects, and is about to be tried in Minnesota, under the personal influence of Governor Eberhart. The fundamental idea is to merge several schools into one, where it will be possible, by combined resources of many districts, to give a large number of children advantages which they could not get without going to the city for them. Right there, theoretically, at least, they close the gate to the city by supplying the first demand which impels the farmer, to move to town or send his children there. That is bringing the city to the country in the most practical way. In this Iowa county 133 school districts have been made into twenty. Instead of many crude, small houses there is one central school building, modern in every particular, with its lecture hall, class rooms, lunch rooms, gymnasiums and public halls; for these schools are to be social centers where the grown-ups may gather and discuss the ways and means of life.

This sort of system, you say, will turn the country child's head away from country life. No, that possibility is met in the provision of model gardens, orchards, dairies and classes in soil culture, crop rotation and all that. They are keeping the young mind in touch with the farm and cultivating a love for it by intensive methods. Thus, while bringing the city to the country, they are deepening interest in country life and making it more profitable by centering all the development and education around the individual's material welfare.

When the scheme was first proposed the objection was raised of the inconvenience of children from a distance reaching the central schools. This is simply provided by the auto van route system, already in vogue in some western states. This, in itself, adds another attractive feature calculated to stimulate the children's interest in the whole movement. The results in Iowa and Minnesota are well worth watching by other states.

Printer's Ink Empire Building.

The Harriman lines, whose financiers but recently announced plans for the expenditure of \$75,000,000 for double-tracking the route through from Omaha to San Francisco, come now with the announcement through Passenger Traffic Manager Fort of the Union Pacific that they will spend \$1,250,000 this year in advertising this western country. And Mr. Fort hastens to add that their advertising is to be along the broad lines of empire building.

Printer's ink thus gains a sterling tribute to its potency as a factor in the development of the country. But none too great, for it has ever been potential. Today it only comes into the zenith of its power, because advertising, systematic publicity, as an element in every legitimate channel of trade and industry, has passed from the crude stage of experimentation into that of an applied art or science. Otherwise the shrewd heads that own and operate vast corporations would not invest millions in it. The Union Pacific and Southern Pacific are planning this campaign of expenditure because they know it will bring them certain, definite results.

With this great outlay by these railroads and the large sums to be expended by various states, the west in 1911 is sure to be well exploited by printer's ink, this monumental empire builder. It is a work that should be done for the best interests of our whole people, thousands of whom need to leave more congested quarters and come out to this great garden of the gods, prolific of golden opportunities.

American Embassies.

It has taken ten years to convince congress of the desirability of the United States building and maintaining its own embassy homes abroad. The house finally has passed a bill making such provision and the senate doubtless will ratify the action. It seems strange that this, the greatest and wealthiest of governments, should have delayed such action so long, while other nations, nowhere to be compared with ours, have maintained elegant embassy quarters. Such a system has not accorded with the dignity of the American republic abroad, nor added to its prestige in some of the countries, where form and fashion are given wide sway. It has been a matter of humiliation to many of our foreign representatives for years that they have had no commodious homes to which they might take representatives visitors, from their own or other lands, and in some cities of the orient the disparity between the rented apartments of the American agent and the spacious dwelling of the agent of some other less powerful nation, has

had more than a sentimental drawback.

As a matter of fact, some of our representatives declare that this government will be ahead, even from a monetary standpoint, in owning its buildings in foreign lands, since the officials have to pay such exorbitant rents in most places. But that is the least of the advantages to be gained. It will give us the position to which our rank as a nation entitles us, and, undoubtedly, clothe us with more influence which may be used to commercial and political advantage.

Commercial Club Committees.

The chairman of the executive committee of the Commercial club has just announced the personnel of the standing committees of that organization for the year. The members of these committees are charged with responsibilities to the club, and through the club to the city, which they should realize. This is the most important year in Omaha's life and the prosperity and growth of the city will depend very largely on the activity of that organization which represents its commercial and industrial existence. If the committees of the Commercial club will consider carefully and act promptly on matters affecting the interests of the city they can aid very materially in its progress. The work is before them and they should give it all due attention.

Conservative Optimism.

Improving outlook in iron and steel, greater interest in dry goods, larger demand in hides and leather, generally excellent crop advices, an expanding market for bonds, facilitated by the continuing ease in money; the indications of an increasing American credit balance abroad, due in part to the better conditions in foreign commerce, and the action of the Union Pacific system in voting to spend \$75,000,000 in the next few years in double tracking the road—these are signs of a forward movement which serve to inspire larger confidence among business men in all branches of trade and industry. In spite of the fact that the volume of transactions is still below the point of normal output, it is significant that the railroad earnings, notwithstanding the late increase in the number of idle cars, are so well maintained, showing a gain during three weeks of January of 47 per cent.—Dun's Review.

This bright picture of business conditions, painted by so conservative an authority as Dun's Review, may well be received by the people generally as offsetting any lurid view of depression drawn from the other side. The tone and sustained optimism of Dun's is so commanding that we have felt like reproducing this much of it for the benefit of those who might have heard some siren voice speaking on the subject.

Not only Dun's, but Bradstreet's and the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York, take similar views of the outlook. It is the consensus of opinion of those who have a right to expert opinions that prospects are for a year of increasing prosperity throughout 1911. It is interesting to note the correlation of politics and business in the formation of this situation, as suggested by the Chronicle, which, after admitting "that there has been much to stimulate cheerful thoughts in recent periods," declares:

A further encouraging feature has been the circumstance that President Taft . . . in his message to congress in December took occasion to express the opinion that "existing legislation with reference to the regulation of corporations and the restraint of their business has reached a point where we can stop for a while and witness the effect of the laws already on the statute books. It will be remembered that he also indicated his belief that it was "in the interest of all the people of the country that for the time being the activities of government, in addition to enforcing the existing law, be directed toward . . . the building up of home industries and the strengthening of confidence of capital in domestic investment."

Even those who felt anxious about the conservative tone of this executive utterance have since had ample evidence to allay their feelings and reassure them in the hope of safe and aggressive influence from the White House. The time is past when our business interests move along independently from our machinery of politics and government, which serves but to emphasize the imperative need of reliable political leadership.

The Gas Situation.

For several years the city of Omaha has been served by the Omaha Gas company with gas for street lighting purposes under no agreement whatsoever as to the price to be paid. Recently the gas company came before the city council with a bill that was admittedly exorbitant. Since that time the city authorities and the officers of the gas company have had numberless conferences to no avail. In the meantime members of the city council have quibbled over the wording of resolutions, and generally wasted time, without getting any nearer to the solution of the question. It would seem a very simple matter to determine the exact cost of the service and a reasonable price to be paid therefor. Action to this end should not longer be deferred. The gas company is entitled to pay for its service and the citizens are entitled to know exactly what the service will cost. At present the method is most unbusiness-like and unwise.

The Globe-Democrat, in urging the removal of the capital to St. Louis, points out that "a great many legislators find it necessary to come here, anyway, during the session." Yes, that city seems to attract even Illinois legislators at times.

Nebraska is just now receiving a lot of gratuitous advice from Colorado reform experts. The spectacle is as

edifying one. Its force will be more appreciated when one compares the methods of electing United States senators, for example. In Nebraska the office was filled by the people; in Colorado the politicians are in an inextricable deadlock, in which the people have no voice.

The Union Gospel mission furnishes some figures that may be of interest in connection with the investigation of the Third ward election. According to the report of this institution, just made public, 27,000 men lodged there during the last year. Perhaps this is where the big Dahinian vote in that balliwick came from.

The salary bill reported by the house committee at Lincoln shows a spirit of liberality in dealing with state employees. A number of applicants for increased pay will be disappointed, however. But it's a long time between the introduction of a bill and its passage, and many changes may yet be made.

The opera bouffe quality of the Mexican insurrection is beginning to be understood. One can easily imagine the disgust of Associated Press Correspondent Haggerty at the proceedings he so graphically describes. Haggerty comes from a race that knows what real fighting means.

The senate investigating committee will also be welcome when it comes to Omaha to inquire into conditions surrounding local elections, and will find, as did the house inquirers, a lot of people ready to tell everything that somebody else has told them.

Congressman Macon of Arkansas seems to have failed to get congress to take up his personal fight with the newspaper correspondents. The fight probably will end when Mr. Macon learns how to whip himself into better spirits, generally.

Getting to the Point.

Baltimore Dispatch: Nebraska is now falling into line about legislation to muzzle the long hatpin. So far the hatpin has scored first point.

Orders from Home Turned Down.

Washington Herald: In personal independence Senator Heyburn of Idaho rarely very much. Instructed by his home legislature to support the measure providing for popular election of senators, Mr. Heyburn wrote to inform the honorable body that he would not do it.

Influence of Environment.

Pittsburgh Dispatch: Mark Twain's private opinion on Roosevelt, which his literary heirs have been indiscreet enough to make public, was plainly inspired by his close relations with the Standard Oil and railroad magnate with whom he was intimate during his closing years. Of Mr. Clemens' judgment on economic issues there never was any reason to hold faith in its infallibility.

Benette Exceeds Possible Injury.

Springfield, Republican. The Boston Fruit and Produce exchange, after some study of how the provisions of the Canadian reciprocity agreement are likely to affect the United States producers, has sent a strong appeal to congress for its enactment. Even those members who thought they could see possible harm to some kinds of farm produce in some localities admitted that other kinds and other localities would benefit, and the net result would be advantageous to the country. So the memorial to congress for adoption of the agreement went through with practical unanimity.

Democratic Harmony.

Brooklyn Eagle. A dear and faithful democrat, venerable in years, and courtly in manners, said to Governor Tilden one early summer afternoon on the side porch of the since demolished executive mansion: "Governor, we look to you to secure harmony in the party." Saying this, the representative of Penn. Yan. in the county of Yates, bowed farewell to Mr. Tilden and departed to take the train home. Mr. Tilden bade him goodbye and hoped he would reach home in safety.

No sooner had the visitor departed than the governor remarked to a newspaper man who was his guest: "Harmony in the party? You might as well hope for harmony in hell. The party loves a fight and when it cannot find one it makes one."

People Talked About

Theodore Pokey, mayor of Marblehead, O., not finding the position to his liking, has traded jobs with Alex Clemmons, a member of the town council, with the approval of the council.

Mrs. Carrie Nation is near death in a sanatorium at Lexington, Kan., after a ten years' campaign against the liquor traffic. Twenty-two times in eleven different cities she has been imprisoned for taking the law into her own hands and smashing the equipment of saloons.

The New York Department of Agriculture reports a steady migratory movement of the west to the unemployed and abandoned farms of the state. It is said that immigrants are coming in blocks of families from as far away as Saskatchewan and the state of Washington.

The prospect of a memorial building in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln, to be erected in Lexington, Ky., where Mrs. Lincoln resided before her marriage, was launched at a meeting of the Southern Women's club at Chicago, a number of the members, when two substantial subscriptions were announced by Dr. J. W. Spencer, president of Sayre college, where the building will be erected as a dormitory.

Mrs. Mary Kings, wife of a carpenter, has been advised, that by the will of J. S. White of Duluth, Minn., in which city White recently died, she is left property worth several thousand dollars. Years ago in Detroit Mrs. Kings gave up her seat in a street car to White, who had in his arms one of his children. He obtained her name and address and said that some day she would be well repaid for her kindly action.

Mrs. E. A. Clarke, former instructor in the Indiana Asbury university, now De Paul university at Greencastle, Ind., and an artist of note, has been found in the kitchen of a Pico Heights hotel, Los Angeles, washing dishes for a living. Mrs. Clarke is 74 years old and has painted pictures that have been criticised favorably by some of the world's greatest artists. These pictures, said to be the work of the hands of the hotel parlor, the admiration of all the guests.

War's Merry Front

Town and Adjacent Scenery
 Wharson the Warriors of
 Mexico Are Doing Things.

The stage setting for the northeastern division of the Mexican revolution measures up to the outward characteristics of the scrap and the scrappers. Juarez (pronounced Wharson) is a tumble-down town. It cuts more of a figure in print just now than on the Mexican landscape, because Mexican rebels and Mexican troops are camped in the vicinity eager for a fight, but carefully avoiding a collision. Close by El Paso, one of the principal cities of Texas and the American gateway to the republic of Diaz. The fact that the town lies close to the border affords war correspondents a near view of the moving picture of a revolution as free from thrills as the Haitian burlesques.

Juarez is a pretty poor excuse for a city. In the American acceptance of the word, crossing the bridge from El Paso that marks the international boundary on the Rio Grande, one comes upon a few public buildings that are worthy of the name. There is one of some prominence, in which President Taft and President Diaz sat down to table together and exchanged reports concerning the love existing between the people of the two countries. Juarez boasts one of the best bull rings in the republic, and every Sunday in season the Spanish national game is attended by hordes of poor natives, a few Mexicans of intelligence and a crowd of American toughs and gamblers, with a sprinkling of Yankee tourists and sightseers, who like to boast of having seen the bloody spectacle. This boast usually takes the form of a souvenir postcard addressed to the friends at home.

There is one principal street, the buildings of which are mostly tumble-down affairs in Spanish style, devoted to the sale of souvenirs such as rugs, minerals and opals, which purchasers are encouraged by attempts to smuggle across the border. Opals, for instance, which bring a pretty good price in American jewelry stores, are here piled into trays and drawers and may be purchased at prices ranging from 6 cents to \$1.

The town is "wide open," and a favorite rendezvous for the followers of the race track, who are permitted to carry on their operations in a manner that would not be tolerated on the American side. They live in America, because after the races each day they cross the river to El Paso and enjoy the comforts of American hotels and boarding houses, which are not to be found across the river.

What is called a "fiesta" draws big crowds to Juarez. Nominally it is a sort of country fair, but in reality nothing is placed on exhibition and the entire grounds are given over to gambling devices and licentious spectacles in tents—usually operated by Americans, who would not be allowed to pitch their white tents in this country. The gamblers spread out their machines, varying from roulette to cards, "roulette" and "dice," and all games to anything else that can be operated to get a dishonest dollar. ("Mex") and the crowds promenade in holiday attire down the avenue thus formed, stopping at each stand to lose money that is in reality blood money, for the gambling instinct is inherited by the half-breeds, and they come in from far back in the country to enjoy their plantation earnings with the sharp and crooks who are certain to take it away from them.

The residential portion of Juarez consists chiefly of "dobe" affairs that would not be called homes in America. Except on the main streets where the international street car runs, the streets are not paved. They are dark at night, and without the sun set good Americans make it a point to cross the bridge.

Ciudad Juarez is not a city as we think of a city, being merely an outpost terminal with all the vices and the raffish population that is found in such places all over the earth.

IMAGINARY FEARS.

American Farmers and Reciprocity Bugbears.

New York Sun.

In 1900 the barley crop of the United States was 50,000,000 bushels, of a farm value on December 1 of about 41 cents a bushel. The exports of that year were a little less than 24,000,000 bushels. About that time the farmers discovered that there was a fair profit in barley, and acreage was largely increased, with a considerable gain in average yield. The crop of 1910 was 125,000,000 bushels, of a December 1 farm value of nearly 58 cents. The exports of the calendar year 1910 were 8,500,000 bushels. This is one of the industries now said to be threatened with destruction through Canadian competition. Shipments of Canada's surplus barley averaged 2,331,000 bushels for the last three years. There has not been a time in the last twenty years in this country when the crop variation from year to year did not materially exceed the present Canadian surplus. No doubt our neighbors can and under the proposed agreement they probably would somewhat increase their acreage and output, but the possibility of an increase that would appreciably affect prices here is so remote that fear of it is silly.

During the fiscal years ending March 31, 1906, 1907 and 1910, the wheat exports were 43,554,088 bushels, 49,137,449 and 47,741,530 bushels. The record of this country for the last three fiscal years ending June 30 is 100,715,727, 106,714,314 and 105,826,000 bushels. Canada's shipments of 20,000,000 bushels are less than the average of yearly variation in our own crop. It is true that Canada's rate of increase in wheat exports in recent years has been rapid. The gain has been from an average of 15,000,000 bushels a year from 1901 to 1906 to an average of 40,000,000 bushels from 1906 to 1910, but even the surplus of recent years is only about 6 per cent of the crop of the United States. The absorption of the entire quantity, a somewhat improbable process, would have no other result than an increase of our foreign sales of wheat and flour without change of prices in this country. The Canadian surplus will doubtless still further increase in the coming years, but the rate of increase will not be as rapid as we are told it will be, and it will be years before Canada's crops will be large enough to affect wheat prices made in Europe and regulated by the world supply.