

Bald-Heads Generally Philosophical and Good-Natured



SHOULD a man go out and frankly and openly buy hair when he has need of it, and as much as he needs? Should he try a famous and unfailing hair restorer, that will "positively produce a luxurious growth of hair on bald heads?" Or should he suffer the worry he has rather than fly to others he knows not of?

These questions and others deeply engage the attention of many men in Omaha, as well as elsewhere. Very likely most any woman would say, "Go and buy hair, and see to it that what you buy matches your eyes and complexion."

It is told of a noted suffragette, arguing with a perverse man, that she clinched her final argument with the assertion: "Women are more practical than men in many respects. While much fun is made of their powder rags, millinery and hobble skirts and their false hair, in reality they give great attention to these things for the benefit of man. Take the matter of hair. The people who make hair restorer admit that men are their best customers, and that they try every kind of market affords, spending a great deal of money without any results that can be noticed. Now, if a woman's hair is getting thin, or she loses it from any cause, she goes to a hair store and buys what she wants and wears it without apologies to anybody."

In some cities "hatless" clubs have been organized among men of original turn of mind on the theory that the wearing of hats is responsible for the prevalence of baldness among men. In St. Paul, Minn., last summer a prominent county official, who is also the head of a merchant tailoring firm, went hatless through sun and rain, and even refused to wear a hat when the cold winds of autumn began to blow, but his example did not find many imitators. On this one fact all are agreed, however, that the growing of new hair from the atrophied papillae is a very slow process. Of the best means of gardening for a lawn on the head experts differ radically. Some insist that he who is bald and desires hair must quit wearing a hat; or, to change the thought, that it is the wearing of hats which is the first and main cause of baldness. Others assert that women get better results from hair restorers and such things than men do simply because they persist more faithfully and have more faith. Still another group of hair doctors lean to the view that the tight hatbands which fashion decrees for men, utterly excluding the air, make it impossible for one who has lost his hair to regain it.

The names and personalities of Omaha men who have no hair to wear, and who are likely to be at once occur to any reader of The Bee. There are, however, whose scantiness of hair is a matter of public notoriety, as well as of personal pride. A few are pictured on this page.

Judge Ben S. Baker, candidate for congress

and chairman of the republican county committee, insists he has the most beaming countenance of any man who ever aspired to public office in this state. Judge Baker's campaign picture shows an expanse of smooth, shining and serene face and forehead that extends clean around to the neckband. "I'm too busy a man to waste time fussing with a lot of useless hair," says Judge Baker. "The voters can see at once I have nothing to conceal. Being open-faced, with an unadorned front, of course they can judge quickly that mentality is my long suit. Barbers and beauty shops would have an easy time with me, if I cared to experiment; but my particular style of beauty can be quite acceptably groomed with a towel, which is some advantage. Thus, I can leave comb and brush out of my campaign grip and fill their place with good literature, which I propose to distribute plentifully."

Howard Baldrige and Thomas W. Blackburn, also in the congressional race, are just "verging on" when it comes to discussing shortness of hair. Judge Baker was a red-headed boy and both of his opponents lean to the Caesarian cast of thatch, which coincidences may be taken to indicate the trio will put up a real fight when they follow their bonnets into the ring.

Robert Smith, clerk of the district court, presents an almost faultless front in the human looking-glass division. He has quite a handful of auburn locks still fringing the rear elevation of his head, to remind him of his boyhood beauty, but extracts a good deal of electric satisfaction from the frequent passing of his hand over his caput. Mr. Smith, of an investigating turn of mind naturally, has fallen into the philosophical habit of discussing the phenomena of baldness. "It is a condition practically unknown among primitive races," he said, "and that leads me to the conclusion that historians are right when they credit the Celtic race with being of very ancient lineage among civilized peoples. The ancient doctrine of Celtic scholars to study and deep intro-

spection has very likely had its effect on the modern children of Scotland and Ireland, for a great many of them are guiltless of carrying any very heavy locks. It is perhaps true, too, that homely people very seldom become really bald. I do not care to make that allusion personal, naturally, but the conclusions to be drawn are quite obvious."

"That's one place where 'Bob' Smith and myself can agree without an argument," said Assistant Gas Commissioner Joseph Butler. "The earls of Ormond, ancient heads of the Butler clan, long ago showed indications of becoming bald early in life, and the fact that no Indian could get a marketable scalp from me has not affected my health in the least. My stock of hairdressing has never cost me anything to speak of since I was a boy on an Iowa farm."

City Clerk Dan Butler hasn't near the trouble he used to have with his hair. If he has any cowlicks left they are mighty hard to find. George Clark, the base ball umpire, who works in Butler's office when the snow is on the ground, is also fast getting into the class of slim thatch, but he lays it to the hard and quick thinking he is compelled to do all summer long.

District Judge Howard Kennedy and his brother, Alfred C., have not had to delay the barber very greatly for many years. They could very readily work their way into the bald-headed row if they cared to, but neither one is much given to such frivolity. "The epithelial structure is peculiar," said Judge Kennedy, "and many reasons have been advanced for a bald condition of the scalp. It may be that the actinic rays of the sun have a greater influence on the scalp than we wot of. Judges are compelled to sit a great part of their waking time with head uncovered, so when a man on the bench is bald the condition cannot very well be laid to lack of air. There is this advantage in baldness, that one is never troubled to remember where the part should be."

It is quite noticeable that, with rare exceptions, bald-headed men are good-natured and have quite as much fun in the pursuit of the pestiferous fly

as those with a fussy thatch. Some of them, who are bald on top, but still own a few long strands of hair, lay them out across the expanse of the cranium with an apparent design to trip up the flies and to make the barber earn his money. Those who will discuss their cases frankly claim that bald-headed men are the most civilized, most peaceful and make the best husbands and fathers.

W. G. Ure, who has charge of the county, city and school funds, was seriously discussing recently the advisability of buying a bunch of hair. "I do not hesitate because I think there is anything wrong in buying hair," said Mr. Ure. "With me it is simply a question of being regular and seeking no disguise. The bald man, as has been well said, typifies, in a way, the very acme of modern civilization, and it may be that his deeper concern, with the affairs of his fellows results in an inward agitation of the brain-pan that causes the hair to fall out. On that point there may be room for argument, but there is none, I insist, when it comes to demonstrating the usefulness and efficiency of the men who can comb their hair with a towel."

Mayor Dahlman gets in the front row without argument as an exemplar and philosopher of the state of being bald. "I have heard argument pro and con," says the mayor, "as to the desirability of going bare-headed, and have listened to statements that the large and often heavy hats worn by the range riders to protect them from the sun cause them to become prematurely bald. In the old days I gave little attention to such things, but it has often struck me as quite significant that rarely or never does a person see a bald-headed Indian. Of course, it was fashionable for Indians to wear long hair, as a sort of challenge to their enemies to come and try for their scalps. A good head of hair on an Indian was, in old times, the equivalent of the chip on the shoulder of the white man. Yet, in contrast to this Indian characteristic, most of the scouts who gained fame on the plains used to wear big hats, or fur caps, and still they all were proud of their long hair. It may be that men like Lyle Abbott, who comb their hair

straight-back from the forehead, have caught the secret of the scouts, for the plainmen followed that custom almost universally. They could comb it with their fingers when a comb wasn't handy, and thus they naturally fell into the habit of paying no attention to parting the hair. Women follow that plan largely, or used to when I was a boy, and young girls do it yet. But here I am getting into a discussion on hair when I ought to get shaved. Excuse me while I get my whiskers cut."

Governor Aldrich has been too busy during most of his life with matters that were of more interest, if not of more importance, than his hair, and the result is that his dome of thought stands open to all the world, the flies included. A. L. Mohler of the Union Pacific is surely getting into the class, but it doesn't worry him a bit. Many others of prominence can qualify for the front row at any time, and that brings up the question:

Of what service is hair?

Men who have Samsonian adornment find it a lot of trouble to take care of, while those who have not seem to get along just as well, and so why should anyone struggle to preserve his hair? Vanity, my boy. It is merely a survival of an ancient feeling that parasitism from the time when man was covered by his own hair, before he had begun to substitute the skins of other beasts for his own. And to prove that it is vanity alone instances might be cited of local citizens who hide their bald spots by wigs, toupees and other devices. Only to mention names might be to invite homicide, for these men are exquisitely touchy on the topic, and even their dearest friends do not mention it.

Over against this hypersensitiveness may be set the case of a druggist who lives in the north end of town. Not a bottle in his store but boasts of as much hair as he has on his head, that is, hair that really and truly grows there. His shiny dome was at once the pride and perplexity of the neighborhood, and finally, for comfort's sake, he determined to get a wig. The matter became the topic for general discussion among his friends and customers, and finally the public was notified by a placard in the window "The wig has been ordered." Later another placard appeared to the effect, "The wig will be here tomorrow." This was replaced the next day by a third sign, which read, "The wig is here." And the coming of that wig was made the occasion of a neighborhood justification.

Then, one might almost advert as to the sagacity of the fly. His pestiferousness is admitted, but why should he persist in digging around on bald heads, trying to sink his beak into bare spots, when hair that is normal contains so much more of potential fly food than can possibly be found on a well regulated and properly polished bald head? Here is a virgin field for research; why is a fly has long been debated, so now we may as well add to the topics for discussion, why does a fly?

In any event, many men seem born to baldness, even as sparks fly upward, so why worry over it?