

THE OMAHA BEE
DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY
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OUR ILLITERATE ALIENS.

Returning to Washington after a visit of inquiry to Pittsburg, Senator Kenyon expresses sorrow and regret for the appalling conditions he unearthed there. He found thousands of aliens, ignorant of our language, our customs, manners, laws, government, and with no sympathy for our institutions, employed there. This condition he says challenges attention, and must be remedied.

Who is to blame for this condition? Surely not the illiterate aliens. Their presence has been known for many years. Long ago the "Pittsburg survey," familiar to all sociologists, developed the fact that in a region covering eighteen miles up and down the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers a visitor speaking only the English language required an interpreter to get about. This sodden mass of ignorance has been increased rather than diminished in that line.

Annually prior to the war hundreds of thousands of illiterates were imported from Europe, to be employed in the great industrial centers, and no attention was given them by any one. They were left to herd in racial groups, to read, if at all, the papers printed in their native language, to preserve as far as possible native customs, and were worked on the old-time shifts of 11 and 13 hours, with a 24-hour turn once a month.

A government inquiry reported on the situation of the foreign laborer in America, giving official support to all that was brought out by the private inquiry. The effect of the prevailing system of employment, not in the steel industry alone, but along the railroads, in mines, and wherever large bodies of unskilled labor was required, was plainly set before the people. And the people paid no heed. So long as these men did the drudgery for low wages, the public, government, everybody, seemed content.

What effort was made to "Americanize" these newcomers, prior to the time we got into the war? If they are ignorant and do not understand our ways, whose fault is it? Certainly not that of the 8,000,000 illiterates now in the United States, most of whom are centered in the states where the iron and steel industry is the leading factor of life. Americans have profited by their presence, have exploited them to the limit, and are alone to blame if the neglected element has now assumed a menacing aspect.

Some better way of treating the foreign-born coming to this country must be found. If the remedy entails a change in industrial practices, and it certainly will, the fact should not be permitted to interfere with a reform that is for the general good of the nation.

Politics and Prohibition.

The president has once more very deftly passed the prohibition buck to congress. His challenge was promptly accepted by the house, and probably the senate will meet him half-way also.

When the democratic congress determined to follow the lead of the czar of Russia and fastened a "war-time" prohibition rider onto a great appropriation bill, it was allowed to go by, for the fervor with which people entered the war led to a general resolve to do anything that might aid in winning it. No provision was made for enforcing the policy, and it was understood that when peace was declared the amendment would become inoperative. The dyes zealously pursued their advantage, and an amendment to the constitution providing for nation-wide prohibition went through a whooping and was adopted by the states in a scramble as to which would be first to endorse. Then came the armistice and a possible hiatus between the ending of the temporary and the beginning of the permanent dry spell.

The democrats allowed the situation to ride along, most folks believing that with demobilization the president would proclaim a truce in the drouth, which was not to set in prior to July 1, almost eight months after the fighting had stopped. But Mr. Wilson had other views. He asked a republican congress to repeal this portion of his party's legislation. So long as a state of war continues, the president is clothed with extraordinary power, which he appears loath to relinquish. The army has been demobilized, the navy has gone out of commission, commerce is resumed with our late enemies, and everything points to peace save the technicality of ratifying a treaty. Therefore, a "state of war" prevails, and the drouth that set in some places on July 1 continues.

The attorney general pleaded the need of proper statute law for the enforcement of the policy. This congress has undertaken to supply, but the president yet demands that it pass the repealing act he proposed in June. He will thus be relieved of the necessity of proclaiming the war at an end, and a consequent termination of all the great extra-constitutional power he now wields. If the senate views the situation as did the house, the bibulous will have to look to the president for relief, or go without egg-nog on Thanksgiving.

Disturbing Sir Isaac Newton.

Having upset all the political, social and economic laws, theories, hypotheses and the like, as well as the sum total of human experience to date, the advance guard of the new world now has extended its activity to the astral realms, and our relations with the universe are to be overhauled. An Italian scientist, Prof. Maiorani, take up the law of gravitation as a reasonable subject for revision, and goes about his moderate task with admirable zeal. Newton's theory, he proclaims, is only an approximate hypothesis. It contains elements of truth, but falls far short of being exact.

Without going into details or becoming dogmatic, we may congratulate Prof. Maiorani on having started something just as Sir Isaac did, that storied afternoon in the fall of 1665, when he wondered what made the apple fall and bump his nose while he was peacefully drowsing in his garden. Science has made some wonderful announcements, based on the Newtonian theory, but may have to revise them, just as Plato's maps have been redrawn. The discovery of radium, predicted on a projection of the law of attraction to the development of the atomic theory of matter, resulted in a complete revision of the theory and the practice of chemistry, but without disturbing the ratio of weights. Copernicus was derided, and Galileo had a very unpleasant experience, but it turned out that each was right as far as he had gone, and Maiorani may be absolutely correct.

An astute and experienced local astronomer and mathematician summed up the case tersely and succinctly: "He will have to prove it."

A Townley Bank

From the New York Times.

Just three weeks ago the Scandinavian-American bank at Fargo, N. D., was declared insolvent by the state banking board and was put into the hands of a receiver. This bank existed mainly for the benefit of Mr. Townley's Farmers' Nonpartisan league and divers and sundry political-financial concerns in which the aspiring genius of that illustrious socialist finds manifestation. The league and its subsidiaries owed the bank \$432,000. The bank had liabilities of \$1,106,000, of which nearly \$735,000 was lent in excess of its lawful capacity. Much of the collateral was of the queerest. In the case of the Nonpartisan league and its units posted checks, not in the keeping of the bank, were the insecurity. "A vast, unwieldy, financial monstrosity unable to take care of itself," said the assistant attorney general.

To the irrepressible Mr. Townley, inexhaustible in hope and resources, the closing of the bank was "just another attempt by our political enemies to destroy all farmers' organizations." That is the note which Mr. Townley is bugling to his still responsive league. The bank has been closed by the wicked enemies of the league for the purpose of ruining the league.

The bank must be reopened. Mr. Townley proposes to restore it. It must have a capital of \$300,000, a surplus of \$300,000. He is sure that it will have \$500,000 of deposits on the opening day. So he gathers the league farmers of North Dakota and Minnesota. Those fortunate citizens flow into Fargo in automobiles and special trains. Like an army with banners they march through Fargo streets. Mr. Townley turns his eloquence, his passion, his contribution-compelling suasion upon the faithful. Resolutions of support rain upon him. The air trembles with cheers. After the rally stock salesmen are at work among the farmers, selling them reorganization stock. Other honeyed persuaders induce them to make deposits in trust against the great and glorious day of reopening.

Mr. Townley is said to have raised from five to seven hundred million for various league enterprises. No doubt he can re-establish the Scandinavian-American bank, but how long can that bank, or any bank conducted in violation of the elementary principles of sound banking, keep on its feet? And how long will it take the prosperous farmers of the league to penetrate the necessarily visionary nature, and to foresee the inevitable collapse, of a combination of socialist schemes, of state-owned enterprises? Political economy and finance are disowned and defied while Mr. Townley's "unparalleled aggregation" of socialist-agricultural "talent" performs in the northwest. If one cannot imagine Mr. Townley ceasing to crack the whip, it is not hard to foresee the time when the box office receipts will not be great enough to run a Townley bank. Indeed, a Townley bank seems to be a pretty expensive institution for the depositors.

Will Women Vote Next Year?

Will all the women of the United States have the privilege of voting for presidential electors next year? Seventeen states have now ratified the equal suffrage amendment, Utah having done so within the last few days. Colorado's favorable and early action is also expected, so that 18, or one-half of the total required number, will be on record in the affirmative. The trouble is that not enough legislatures to put the federal amendment into effect in time for the national election are scheduled to meet next year, so that unless the woman suffragists are to be disappointed it will be necessary for a considerable number of governors to call special sessions. The question is whether a sufficient group of executives can be prevailed upon to summon the lawmakers. As woman suffrage is bound to come very soon, it would be a proper and gracious policy for governors and legislatures everywhere to acquiesce in the fact and give all the women of the country a chance to participate in the 1920 election. Twelve millions of them are eligible to do so, anyway, under state laws—Providence Journal.



The lessons which humanity has garnered from the past are predisposed to leaking and to leaking mightily fast. Old nature drilled her wisdom through the skulls of ancient men, but more than 99 per cent must all be taught again; for bangs upon a damsel's brow, methodically curled, are more attractive than the lore which underlies the world.

The task we set the public schools is prominent and tough. The intellect of juveniles is of contrary stuff. To mold it and promote it we require a man of parts, a Hannibal for strategy, an Angelo in arts. We find in John H. Beveridge a master of the tools for polishing the infant minds which fill the public schools.

For he's the chief and principal, the high and mighty head by whom the final verdicts of authority are said. He marshals the assistance of a thousand blushing ma'ams; he gives them tactful orders with obsequious salaams; he hands them fluff and flattery or mandates chaste and cold—whatever they require to make them do as they are told.

He wants to build a junior high; it is the modern trend among the horticulturists with human twigs to bend. To call a kid a sophomore when he is six or eight assists the spelling of the word to settle in his pate. The kindergartens soon will ape the poses of the college, and four-year-olds will tremble underneath their weight of knowledge.

(Next Subject—Everett Buckingham.)

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.
H. H. Claiborne, attorney at law, born 1868.
C. W. Britt, judge of the municipal court of Omaha, born 1864.
Queen Maria of Roumania, who has signified her desire to pay an early visit to America, born 44 years ago.
Sir Conyngham Greene, the retiring British ambassador at Tokio, born in Ireland, 65 years ago.
Most Rev. Paul Bruchesi, Catholic archbishop of Montreal, born in Montreal, 64 years ago.
Maj. Gen. Charles S. Farnsworth, U. S. A., recently in command of Camp Bowie, born in Lycoming county, Pa., 57 years ago.
Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, the new president of William and Mary college, born in Caroline county, Virginia, 47 years ago.
George H. Tinkham, representative in congress of the Eleventh Massachusetts district, born in Boston, 49 years ago.
Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.
Miss Clara Brown has returned to town.
Mrs. John L. Webster and Miss Webster have returned from a four months' stay abroad.
R. H. Wicks, secretary of the State Land and Loan company, has gone to Pierre, S. D.
The Misses Barlow of Colorado Springs are visiting Mrs. Arthur Remington.
Senator Anderson has left Washington for his home at Omaha by way of New York.

Our Free Legal Aid

State your case clearly but briefly and a reliable lawyer will furnish the answer or advise in this column. Your name will not be printed. Let The Bee Advise You.

Custody of Children.
X. Y. Z.—The court in granting the custody of children takes into consideration solely the best interests of the child, irrespective of the wishes of the parents.

Marriage of Cousins.
I. J.—Please answer in your Free Legal Aid column: Is marriage between cousins legal in Iowa, if not, since when? My cousins were married last spring. If it isn't legal, what can they do?
Answer—Marriage of first cousins is prohibited in Iowa.

Federal Road.
S. C. F.—If a county don't build the federal road on the railroad right-of-way can it get its portion of the federal money and does the land have to be deeded to the government the federal road is built on?
Answer—A. It can. B. The land is not deeded to government.

Will.
E. L. R.—Will you please tell through The Bee if one would make a will and have a notary public put their stamp on, would it hold in law and would that be all that would be necessary to be done?
Answer—The will would be void. Better secure the services of a reputable lawyer.

Claim Against Government.
H. A.—Will you please answer in your valued paper the following question of law: Two months ago, the 18th of this month, I ordered \$68 worth of groceries from the government, through the postoffice here, and have never received them. How must I go at it to recover my money?
Answer—Write to the United States district attorney, Omaha.

Divorce—Custody of Children.
W. E. S.—Kindly answer the following to your earliest convenience:
1. Can a man, whose wife has started suit for divorce, and for various reasons wishes hearing of the case postponed indefinitely, leave state and file a divorce from her without filing cross-petition in same state her suit is filed?
2. Can he compel suit to be tried sooner by filing cross bill?
3. If he has been ordered by court to pay temporary alimony and does not do so, can all the back alimony be collected from him at a later date?
4. Has the mother or father the better chance of getting custody of a minor child?
Answer—1. No. 2. Either party is entitled to an early hearing. 3. Yes. 4. Mother.

Various Questions.
L. F. F.—Write to A. Shotwell, county attorney, of Douglas county, Nebraska.
L. S.—Impossible to answer your question without examining all the papers. Ordinarily a provision of that kind is not binding.
C. M. R.—Write to United States district attorney, Omaha.

DAILY CARTOONETTE.
GUESS I'LL PLAY WITH THE OLD CAT'S TAIL!
AND HE DID—



FIGHTING H. C. OF L.
While high prices rule and profits pool, Unscrupulous they operate, How long must we stand it, Investigation, we demand it; 'Tis the people who "pay the freight."

While congress dilly-dallies With argument and sallies, great things they prognosticate, While they are still prating, The masses are waiting; 'Tis the people who "pay the freight."

Let there be now laws Without any flaws, No trusts, or no syndicates, It will stop this unrighteousness, And be for the benefit, For the people who "pay the freight." BELLEVUE.

Little Folks' Corner



WOODCRAFT
Artilery of the Plants.
By ADELIA BELLE BEARD.
The bombardment is going on now, and if our ears were attuned to the finer sounds we could hear the boom of the guns, the rush of shells, and the rattling of shrapnel as the artillery battalions of each plant army put down their barrage. Men did not really invent the gun. There were guns as well as air-



planes in the plant world long before humans had any idea of such things. And just as nations have fought to acquire land on which to start colonies of their people, the plant armies invade territory where they cultivate new colonies of their species. For that purpose there are artillery plants which are supplied with guns that shoot. We call them seed-pods, or seed vessels, but why not seed guns, since they were the first guns on this earth?

When you begin to investigate you will be surprised to find how many there are. As a child it was my delight to touch off the cultivated lady-slipper guns in our garden, hear them pop! and be showered with their tiny seed shrapnel.

All artillery plants do not need outside aid to fire their guns; many guns work automatically and, before ones eyes, they shoot out their seeds to an incredible distance. The wild bean gun (pod) bursts into the air as the two halves coil and spring apart. The Chinese wistaria employs the same method with a wild scattering of seeds.

But the witch-hazel, blossoming in the autumn woods, has guns that are veritable "Big Berthas" in their long distance range. When the ragged battle flags of pale yellow blossoms are flung to the breeze the guns are ready for action, and each little nut-shaped gun begins to open at the top. As it opens, its sides press in with such force that the smooth seeds are shot sometimes as far as 30 feet. (Next week: "Moss Signs on the Trees.")

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ADVENTURES THAT MADE AN AMERICAN
Stolen Ride on Mail Train.
By R. S. ALEXANDER.
Hunting Eye was standing at the railroad station as a mail train stopped. He had never seen an engine or a train and was much afraid of this new monster. But when he saw men moving about inside the cars he got back his courage and decided to climb into a car and find out about the iron giant.

Barely had he crawled into the car and crouched down into a corner before the train started to move and he was borne rapidly out of the city.

"Here, what are you doing in this car?" asked a clerk as he pulled Hunting Eye out of his corner. "Don't you know better than to try to steal a ride on a mail train?"

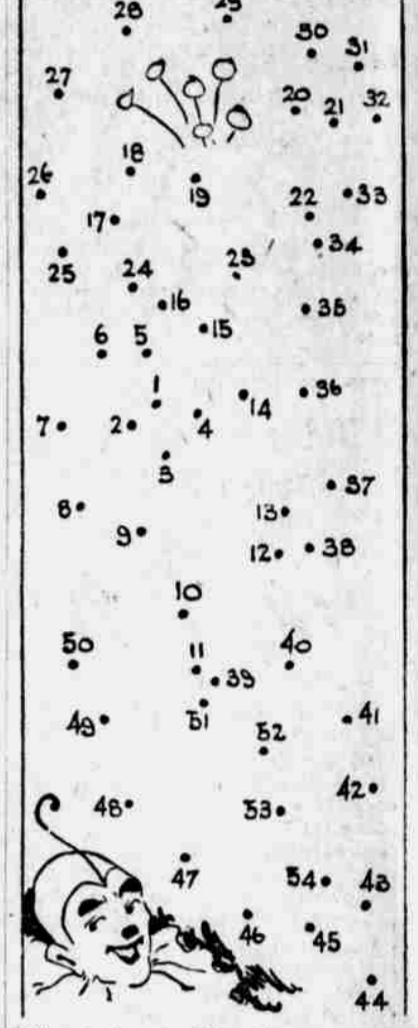
"I got on to see what it was about and it started before I could get off." "Well, we'll put you off at the next town. Sit over there in the corner."

The Indian boy watched the clerks as they stored the mail, taking the letters and parcels from one sack and throwing them into several others.

"What are those things?" he asked a clerk after the sorting was finished. "Those are letters. A person at one place wants to tell a person at another place something. So he writes it down, puts it into an en-

velope, puts a stamp on it and the government carries it where he wishes to send it. The government has a postoffice in each town where mail is received and sent out. "The sack of mail we sorted was taken on at the town where you got on. The other sacks will be thrown off at the towns along the way. They will either be sent on to other towns or taken to the postoffice and the letters and parcels sent out from there. "Well, we are slowing down for

DOT PUZZLE



I'll not stop to tell a story. Fifty-four brings — — — Draw from one to five and so on to the end.

the next town and you must get off.

Much as he wished to stay on the train and hear more about the mail system, the little Indian boy had to get off and again take up the trail toward the east.

1. Who is at the head of the Post-office department? 2. Do the states have any post-office systems? 3. How does the government get paid for handling the mails? (Next week: "Hunting Eye Tries to Vote.")

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The Co-operation of Your Bank

It is of the utmost importance to the growth and success of YOUR BUSINESS that you select a bank which will give you a great deal more than routine service. —a bank whose officers and employees will show their appreciation of your patronage by helpful, friendly interest and practical co-operation.

The United States National Bank of Omaha is an institution which strives to meet these requirements—and, as a result, our customers invariably receive the highest character of service that it is possible for us to give—whether their business be large or small.

The Omaha National Bank
Farnam at 17th Street
Capital and Surplus, \$2,000,000

Main Banking Room



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