

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

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source of light, if not the exact beginning of matter, but the great American public will continue to divide its attention between reading returns from the primary elections and the box scores of the ball games. The people are well assured of one of the properties of matter exhibited in connection with a law of physics. If "Babe" Ruth, for example, hits the ball squarely on the trademark, it will almost inevitably result in a home run. Likewise, although light may not be radiated in the sense we understand it, and the atom be ever-present and capable of passing through matter, the knowledge that Palermo struck out fourteen Wichita batters and won a fine victory for the Rourke family is infinitely of more local importance. Bre'r Langmuir may have the pig by the tail in the scientific world, but his concept of news values requires adjustment.

The Bee's Platform

1. New Union Passenger Station.
2. A Pipe Line from the Wyoming Oil Fields to Omaha.
3. Continued improvement of the Nebraska Highways, including the pavement of Main Thoroughfares leading into Omaha with a Brick Surface.
4. A short, low-rate Waterway from the Corn Belt to the Atlantic Ocean.
5. Home Rule Charter for Omaha, with City Manager form of Government.

CIVIL CODE FACTS.

When twenty-one boards, departments and commissions were consolidated into six departments in Nebraska under the civil administration code bill, it became a moral certainty that the business of the state would be conducted more efficiently, economically and satisfactorily to its taxpayers.

There never was a plainer business proposition than that six departments with centralized responsibility and operating in correlation in the conduct of a business, must have an enormous economic advantage over twenty-one boards established with divided authority and acting independently of each other, in the management of the same business.

This is as true of the business of a state as of the affairs of a great industrial organization—a conclusion, by the way, endorsed by both democratic and republican authority in Nebraska.

What Illinois has done in reforming civil administration Nebraska can and will do. Illinois abolished more than a hundred boards and put their affairs under nine departments. Nebraska abolished twenty-one boards, commissions and departments and put their affairs under six departments. In one year the Illinois tax rate dropped from 90 cents to 75, the second year to 60. The Nebraska taxpayer who cannot make the proper application of the Illinois facts to his own state is not intelligent enough to know a good thing when he sees it.

When to the increased efficiency of a small group of departments are added budget and accounting systems, the civil code presents all the attractive features of a cash register as compared with the old-fashioned open money drawer to which clerks, honest and dishonest, had unrecorded access. Centralized authority in private business always improves administration, and it does it in governmental business as well; so, our form of government being firmly established, Nebraska may wisely support the civil code administration and sing with Pope:

For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best.

Perhaps the code as presented may be improved and amended with profit to the state, but its principle is absolutely sound and worthy of adoption by the people.

Johnson in New Jersey.

Is the east really hostile to Senator Johnson's candidacy for president? If so, New Jersey seems an exception to the rule. In Tuesday's primaries he seems at this writing to be running neck and neck with General Wood. The Johnson candidacy is having some curious reactions after its collisions with that of General Wood. For instance, a hint flitted over the wires the other day that Penrose and Pennsylvania might look with favor on the California senator if his campaign continued to develop strength. We like these little straws which show the trade winds of republicanism setting in strong for victory with any candidate the people may nominate.

Ohio's primary shows that state's preference for Harding rather than General Wood. It also indicates the undertow toward Johnson, for he got thousands of "written in" votes, although not a candidate in Ohio. Many of these votes, in our judgment, came from citizens who admire his fight against the League of Nations.

The Wrecked Mail Service.

A man in Omaha received a letter Monday, April 26, postmarked in Ohio "Apr. 9, 7 a. m." and stamped on the back "Union Depot Post Station, Omaha, Apr. 25, 11 p. m." First-class mail this, from one railroad city to another, that traveled at the rate of less than sixty miles for each twenty-four hours—it was on the way to the person addressed.

The instances of business embarrassment caused by inexcusable delays in first-class mail are innumerable. In second class matter, which is largely newspaper mail, the delays and losses have been unprecedented under the postmaster generalship of Mr. Burleson. It is not unusual to receive newspapers that have been mailed three or four states east of Nebraska fifteen days after they were put in charge of the postal authorities. Sometimes one is almost forced to believe that mail is purposely held up under orders.

Under conditions where the quick transmission of mail is highly important, the service is so rotten that the telegraph and telephone are the only sure means of prompt communication. No doubt Burleson's miserable inefficiency has enormously increased their revenues.

Breaking Up the Atom.

Another scientific sharp, inspired by Einstein, has projected himself into the limelight by a startling announcement. He has "broken up the atom," and finds it to be composed of two elements, the positive and negative, always in motion and never at rest. Several other disclosures, especially that as to time and space, made by this savant are equally of concern to the public. His assertion that time and space are ponderable in a sense analogous to matter, and that light emanates from atoms and does not radiate "went over the heads" of his associated scientists, and undoubtedly will over that of the public.

Einstein may have located the fourth dimension, and Langmuir has discovered the

A Line O' Type or Two

How to Line, let the quips tell where they may.

It would save much argument if the newspapers would include in their daily weather report the mean temperature for the corresponding day of the previous year. What sort of weather did it have on April 29, 1919? You think you remember, but you don't.

DOES A COLLEGE EDUCATION PAY?

(From the Colorado College Tiger.)

The play was that entertaining medieval study by Anabelle France. "The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife."

Hall and Farwell.

(From the London Times.)

Somebody heard and sent to the papers a sad little dialogue eloquent of London's underworld. At 3:30 in the morning the traffic was held up, as it so often is, at the corner of Stamford street on the Surrey side of Blackfriars Bridge. A prison van halted with the rest of the vehicles. On the kerb stood a poor woman carrying a child and accompanied by a small boy. "Are you there, dad?" she called out. A gruff voice from the interior of the van answered "Yes." The woman replied, "I am here."

THERE was a concert in Altamont, Kan., last evening, and the local paper mentions that "the saxophone was a prominent feature." Wagner could have put this horn to good use in "Die Walkure."

THE AIN'T IT THE TRUTH?

(From the Fort Collins, Colo., Express.)

People should observe etiquette at movies the same as other places, only recently a Fort Collins boy took a girl to a movie for the first time. The folks sitting behind them noticed that he had not washed behind the ears and were so rude that they remarked about it. The girl heard and refused to go to any more movies with him. People should be more careful.

IF the league is sent before the people, "I have no doubt," said Senator Lodge, "that the result will be." Whereas we have extreme doubt what the result would be.

CHEESE AU GRATIN.

Sir: Dropped into the restaurant for a rabbit. Check read: \$7.00-15-15, \$1.00.

Waiter explained that the 15 cents was for the rabbit, 15 cents for the toast, and 15 cents for the Worcestershire sauce. There was no charge for the cheese.

F. V. D.

THE New Era Films prints this testimonial from Lawrence Mazzanovich:

"Your production came like a miasma in the desert, very refreshing after the usual movie junk with which the market is flooded." From which we conclude that Larry is trying to kid somebody.

Unspotted From the World.

(From the Ada, Okl., News.)

To the Editor: I noticed that several different religious clubs are using your columns to tell the public why they do not care about the Inter-Church movement. With your permission I would like to inform your readers that the only church most certainly and positively declines to enter that movement.

The Church of Mormonism or the Latter Day Saints of which I am a life-long member seeks to remain unspotted from the world, and for that reason if for no other cannot afford to compromise with anyone in the desert, very refreshing after the usual movie junk with which the market is flooded." From which we conclude that Larry is trying to kid somebody.

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