THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY

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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.

THE SEAMY SIDE OF POLITICS.

When the conventions meet at Chicago and San Francisco to select nominees for the presidency a great part of the visitors there, and of the delegates as well, will be present quite as much to promote personal ambitions for getting or for continuing to hold office, as for the really patriotic and commendable purpose of using their influence to help bring about the selection of the best available candidates. That is the one most repellant feature of politics, that so large a proportion of those controlling its activities through party organizations are working to accomplish selfish personal ends, and that so few have in view only the widest welfare of the whole people. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the cheers and enthusiasm, as well as the influence, of 50 per cent of the delegates and visitors to both the big party conventions will be born of selfish desires rather than of impartial and independent judgment of the fitness of candidates or the soundness of platforms.

We hear and read much from party leaders and the press of national issues and of the attitude toward them of the throng of aspirants for the presidency on public affairs. From the delegates themselves, when we get into their inner councils, we are brought in touch with an entirely different line of thought. The gratification of private ambitions, of selfish purposes, of personal animosities, prevail over matters of state in the minds of the majority, and the game of the big leaders becomes one of so amalgamating the personal interests of self-seekers as to gain control of the conventions and their nominations.

We do not hesitate to declare that the preliminary campaigns in congressional districts and states in behalf of different candidates, are put through as a rule on steam raised by politicians who know exactly what they want in the way of patronage, and have assurances that they will get it if their candidates are successful.

That is politics as the game is now played for the majority of the candidates in both parties, and explains the free use of interested men's money to finance what are considered as legitimate campaign expenses. It is also something else—the reason why so many good citizens who are not after office, who have only the interests of the country at heart, turn in disgust from political association with men whose real interest in politics is wholly selfish.

We dare say that the only possible nomination wholly free from such influences is that of a "dark horse," chosen without the preliminary district and state bargaining in which the professional politicians take such great delight and by which they win such great profits. If there is any nomination the selfish politicians dislike, it is that of a dark horse. They have no bridle on him, or bit in his mouth. But—the people like an unfettered candidate.

Hog Island Making Good.

A recently issued card gives in brief form an excuse for Hog Island shipbuilding plant. For the year ending April 17, 1920, it claims the "greatest record for one shipbuilding plant for one year in the history of the world." Seventy-nine vessels of a total deadweight tonnage of 619,575 were launched, and seventy-four vessels of a deadweight tonnage of 579,050 were delivered. On the hourly schedule, this amounts to one ship launched for every 28 working hours, and one ship delivered for every 30 working hours. That is an achievement scarcely to be comprehended. The service record made by the Hog Island ships show them to be substantially constructed, so that they are not only excellent cargo carriers, but stand splendidly against the stress of weather. For example, the Quistconck, the first ship delivered from Hog Island, has steamed over 62,000 miles at sea, was drydocked once after covering 37,500 miles, for the purpose of scraping and painting the bottom of the hull. The vessel has been in constant service without any difficulty whatever, and has never failed, nor shown material, structural or workmanship weakness from the day it was launched, August 5, 1918, to date.

Hog Island has launched 102 ships to date, with a deadweight tonnage of 799,550, and has delivered 84 ships, with a deadweight tonnage of 657,300. These vessels have steamed over 1,682,316 nautical miles, and have carried over 1,282,189 tons of cargo. These figures fairly justify Hog Island's existence, even if it did not do all expected of it while the war was going on.

A Local Option Way Out.

"The democratic party," says former Senator Ham Lewis, "believes that states that want total prohibition should have it. Those that don't want it should not be compelled to accept it." Therefore he predicts a plank in the democratic national platform favoring state local option on light wines and beer.

What's an unwelcome constitutional amendment among democratic statesmen? Merely a thing to be nullified, as the south has demonstrated for many years. But hold! Not while Mr. Bryan's in the flesh. His lung pressure against the Lewisian proposal will be terrific at San Francisco, and will almost certainly prevail.

Nebraska democrats may have ignored Bryan in the convention, but in their hearts they have not forgotten him.

NEBRASKA PARTY PLATFORMS.

Voters now have an opportunity to contrast the attitude of the two great national political parties in Nebraska. Each has, through its convention, declared the principles and issues on which it asks popular support, the republicans clearly defining the cleavage and leaving nothing for the shadowy imaging of the "twilight zone."

The republican platform declares frankly the position of the party on what the president hopes to make the main issue of the campaign, meeting the challenge from the White House squarely in repudiating the League of Nations covenant. If peace can not be established without acceptance of the covenant with the reasonable Lodge reservations, it will be so taken, but in the form as demanded by the president it will not. On the equal suffrage issue the declaration is equally plain.

Again the party goes on record as being in favor of business administration for state affairs, endorsing the principle of the code bill, which was enacted in redemption of the platform pledge made two years ago. That this law is working out to the good of the state is becoming plainer as days go by, and while it may require amendment as suggested by experience, republicans are standing by their promise to give public business attention as careful as would be bestowed on private affairs. Another plank in the platform calls on the state's representatives in the congress to support the movement for the adoption of a budget system for the federal government.

Necessary amendments to the primary election law, to cure some of its defects and prevent abuses now complained of will come through the republican control of the legislature. The enforcement of state and national prohibition laws is another thing to which the party is pledged. No quibbling whatever on these issues. The Fordney adjusted compensation bill, now pending in congress, is endorsed as a measure of justice to the service men. Governor McKelvie and all state officers are given commendation for their official acts.

If the opposition hoped for dissension in the republican party, it must be sorely disappointed. The whole course of the convention indicates unity and harmony of purpose, to give the people of Nebraska the best possible government through the careful administration of their affairs under wise laws prudently executed.

On the contrary, the democrats endorse the League of Nations without the crossing of a "t" or the dotting of an "i" and denounce republican senators for refusing to so accept it. In this they overlook the fact that 23 democratic senators voted for the Lodge resolutions, and were unaware of the action taken by the Georgia democrats on Tuesday, when a resolution denouncing the League of Nations covenant was adopted and endorsement of Woodrow Wilson was refused. The president's party is hopelessly divided on this issue.

One of the strange declarations made by the Nebraska democrats is that "administration measures were forced through congress against republican opposition." This assertion comes from a convention presided over by a chairman, who, as a member of congress, opposed on the floor of the house measures asked by the president, and who saw great war bills reported from a committee of which he was a member by a republican because the democratic chairman refused to bring them in and fought them after they were brought in. Such effrontery is rarely found, even in a democratic platform.

Claiming the credit for the income tax is another similar piece of impudence. The resolution submitting the amendment to the constitution was framed by Senator Norris Brown, a republican from Nebraska, was passed by a republican senate and a democratic house, wherein the chief opposition to it came from southern democrats, and was signed by a republican president. The Wilson administration is entitled to about as much credit for this as it is for the law Moses brought down from Sinai. Similarly, with the Federal Reserve act, which is substantially the Aldrich-Vreeland bill, against which the democrats railed so vehemently until it was sent back from the White House, under the guise of the Glass bill, and against which the fiercest and most effective opposition was led by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska.

A ridiculous straddle marks the democratic attitude on prohibition. "The greatest degree of individual liberty consistent with good government and law enforcement" resembles the traditional coon trap more than it does the announcement of a serious position on a question that calls for a definite answer. It will satisfy neither "wet" nor "dry," but may encourage "highjackers" and bootleggers.

As days go by the voters will get further understanding of the contents of the platforms, and will be amazed at the insincerity and trickery of the democrats, who, as usual in Nebraska, hope to capture office by raising unsubstantial issues. The republicans offer a clean ticket on a platform clearly stating what the party believes in and hopes to accomplish.

"An Inexcusable Affront."

Secretary Daniels has not been fortunate in his controversy over the naval matters brought to public attention by Admiral Sims, and now under investigation by a senate committee. The Detroit Free Press, commenting on the secretary's savage criticisms of the admiral, says:

But Mr. Daniels's most extraordinary action and the one that shows clearly the perturbation of his mind, is his recital of what he says was a private address by President Wilson to the fleet officers on the eve of active service. If, as Mr. Daniels insists, Sims was indiscreet in repeating a departmental caution against excessive friendliness with the British, surely the secretary is doubly indiscreet when he gives in language that is slurring and insulting, what purports to be the president's unfavorable view of the conduct of the British naval operations. The recital of such an expression as the one attributed to the president is an inexcusable affront to an ally that for years stood between America and German militarism. It is a piece of raw ingratitude.

The president's remarkable address is not denied. Indeed, it is announced that Secretary Daniels made it public with its author's full permission. Insulting and inexcusable that address is, and more, but the blame for it is all Mr. Wilson's—not the secretary's. The permission to give it to the world, with all its mean reflections upon English courage, character and naval preparedness, is but another proof of the president's serious illness and disability.

Congressmen who did not think the Missouri much of a creek ought to see the darned thing now.

Indiana democrats also restrained themselves.

A Line O' Type or Two

How to the Line, let the chips fall where they may.

HOOVER boosters are unique. They do not claim that their candidate is sure of nomination. That in itself is the perfect tribute to Hoover. For, unless the boosters of the average candidate had bamboozled themselves into believing that his nomination was certain, they could hardly have the courage to persevere.

WHAT, besides the fact that he kept us out of sugar, are Hoover's strongest recommendations?—That he is not an orator and that he is not a politician. The fact that he is not a politician does not raise our temperature; because politicians are the perfect fruitage of democracy, and we cannot conceive of a democracy without them. But the fact that he is not an orator—ah; that should attract the support of all discriminating persons who believe that oratory is a national menace.

Behave Yourself, Kittie.

Sir: Now that woman has the vote she struggled for, don't you think it would behoove 'er to use it wisely? KATHERINE.

IN his Mexican notes, Signor Ibanez, or Signor Blasco—we never can remember which is his first name—speaks of "the noble tranquality of Washington," meaning our national capital. Is the Spanish gentleman trying to kid somebody?

(1) NEVER. (2) YES. (3) NO.

Sir: Did you ever see so much real money in all your life as the dining-car conductor exhibits when making change? Did you ever meet a woman who did not assure you that she had a high instep? Did you ever watch two men shake dice without at least one of them hammering the counter with the dice box after each throw? J. F. B.

THE treaty fight in the United States senate is not of interest to the French people, observes M. Bouillon. And he might have added, "Nor to the people of the United States."

PERFECTLY.

Sir: Who names race horses? Why, boy, it's a science. Golden Broom, Broomstick, Whisk-Broom, Duster, Feather Duster, Carpet Sweeper, are all relatives of Ben Brush, winner of many sweepstakes. Got the idea? W. E. G.

A NUMBER of helpful persons have advised us that the abandoning in 1831 of the practice of mowing cornstalks with scythes was an abandonment of something which was never begun. These friendly tips help to make life worth living.

Juvenilia Poetica.

Sir: While this juvenilia stuff is running strong, especially the juvenilia poetica, I should like to tell the world that when I was of tender age I limped in numbers, for the numbers came. My infant muse was an industrious little miss, and produced by the yard if not by the meter. Through the vicissitudes of nearly half a century these jewels are lost to an unfortunate world. A single fragment clings to my memory. It is the first stanza of a beautiful little poem called "The Housewife." Ex uno disce omnes.

She toiled from morn till night,
With the children at her feet,
And the kitchen door was open
To let out some the heat.

Something might be said for these lines. Their simplicity, their directness, their humaneness—But there, I'll leave it to the editor of Poetry. CALCITROSUS.

"THE skeleton of a gigantic dinosaur, believed to be of prehistoric origin."—Evening American.

Prof. Starr assures us that this belief is well founded.

THINX FROM A COLLEGE WORKSHOP.

Sir: A Paradox: Politicians "stand" on a platform, yet "run" for office. Not every man with "wood" in his name is presidential timber. Henry Clay twice ran for the presidency, and both times his name was mud. When the robins nest again they will build igloos. Why not call the new bridge the Pons Asinorum? It is easier to say than Pons Automobilorum, and means the same thing. Ireland only needs a few snakes now to make it a paradise of excitement. Why worry over a short corn and rye crop since whisky has passed away? Having just paid my tailor, I have discovered that rents have gone up. SPHINX.

"AS the music proceeded," relates the inspired reporter of the Bloomington Pantagraph, "we were impressed that many of the greatest singers and artists of the country have yet to visit our city."

"MEMOIRS OF MY DEAD LIFE."

I knew a girl with grace and poise and winning ways galore;
Her voice was like the song of shells that kiss the ocean shore.
But as I think about her now, it isn't how she looked,
Nor yet how buoyantly she danced, or skillfully she cooked.
I often, while in pensive mood, recall the songs she sang,
But that is not the memory that brings the dearest pang.
'Twas once when I was on the peck and feeling sad and low,
(It seems like yesterday, instead of many years ago),
She placed a bottle by my side, of vintage old and rare.
And gently said, "Take all you want. Dad has a lot to spare." COG.

HENRY ADAMS WAS RIGHT.

[From the Harvard Daily.]

Cacchanale from "Tannhauser".....Wagner
Marche Salve ..... Tschaikowsky

THE difference between talent and genius is illustrated by the following "streamers":

"Carranza Escaped Without Beard."—Galesburg Republican-Register.

"Carranza Escapes by Close Shave."—Charles City Press.

The Second Post.

(From an Ohio banker.)

Dear Sir:— Mr. ——— called my attention that you had some time ago talked that you would like to try the Banking Buisness, if you think still you might want to try it there might be a place made here for you. You would of course start as bookkeeper, & as you have no experience along this line you will kindley verture aprice that you would be willing to start at. You understand to follow the natural rule of any thing the low men if competent get some day to be the high ones, how far this is in future depends quite a bit on circumstances, & ability of the one comeing up. You will frankley tell the writer, what you would expect to start with, we then could see what could be done, would say about $75 per month for book keeper, in these inflated times. Let the writer know in the matter writing to him, what you think of the mater, you will understand that these country banks are mutch easier, & liveing is mutch cheaper than in the towns of larger size.

An Iowa Immortelle.

(From the Oelwein Register.)

Miss Mae Nure of Elgin spent last evening in the city, visiting friends and attending the dance.

A WALL street firm announces that it has admitted to partnership Mr. E. Burd Grubb. To the person guessing the first name will be awarded a can of No. 1 worms.

JUST LEAVE THEM WITH THE CASHIER.

Sir: If you still wonder what to do with your old safety razor blades, send 'em to the restaurant in the Folk Street station, where they're used for slicing bacon. W. S.

Thrill De Luxe.

Sir: Observed in one of Detroit's best eating places, a patron drinking near-beer and reading the Police Gazette. L. S. R.

FOR THE TOONERVILLE TROLLEY.

[From the Marshall, Mich., Chronicle.]

For Sale—Seven cement posts, also outhouse which could be used for waiting station. Mrs. L. S. Joy.

WE SUSPECT SO.

Sir: I see that old Bill Skillet Fork spells it "menny." Does he really want us to pronounce it that way? N. T.

THE DEAR, DEAD DAYS.

[From Forty Years Ago, in the Springfield Journal.]

Two temperance lecturers and fifty kegs of beer went to Lincoln on the noon train.

NOTE to foreman of composing room: Keep standing the line, "Supreme Court Fails to Rule on Dry Laws." B. L. T.

How to Keep Well

By Dr. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally, subject to proper limitation, where a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

SOUTHERN HEALTH CHANGES.

The physicians of Greenville and Washington county, Mississippi, say disease is changing in their section of the country. In the old days they were busiest in the summer and fall.

In those seasons they had to keep relays of horses and the doctors rarely got eight hours' continuous sleep. Up early in the morning and working until late at night, they were unable to see all of the acutely sick daily. Now they have a good deal of liesure at that season. They have time to go fishing, attend medical meetings, or even slip away to the seashore or the mountains.

The reason? Nearly every plantation has one or more artesian wells, and, in consequence, typhoid fever has dropped away down. Occasionally some man sinks a well near his horse lot or his privy, and he, his family, and his labor still have typhoid, but that is the exception.

Malaria is disappearing. There are fewer mosquitoes, but what is more important, more people are curing their malaria thoroughly rather than taking a few doses of chill tonic "to break their chills" and stopping it at that.

Babies do not die in summer as they once did. But on the other hand doctors are busier now in January and February than they were in olden times. The reason? There is more pneumonia, bronchitis, influenza and pleurisy. Not only have these diseases failed to decrease, but they have actually increased.

The spring-winter seasons, formerly slack, are now busy. When I asked a question of them they replied unanimously and at once that they were busiest in February. When I asked the older ones which were the busy seasons 20 years ago, with unanimity and promptness they answered summer and fall.

A study of the seasonal distribution of disease in Chicago during 1871 to 1918 showed the same change. All forms of summer sickness has greatly declined. On the other hand winter-spring sickness has increased. The increase is due to pneumonia and other acute infections of the upper respiratory tract. If this change has occurred in Chicago and in the south, it has probably occurred in all parts of the country. The Pacific slope may be an exception.

While typhoid fever is becoming less because we are more cleanly in our habits and customs, malaria, because of better drainage and better mosquito control, diarrhoea in babies, because of better milk, pneumonia is becoming worse because of foul air, bad ventilation, and especially because of almost universal neglect of coughs and coryzas.

Baby Born With Teeth.

N. G. writes: "On April 7 a baby girl, weighing 12 1-2 pounds and with two teeth was born to me. The teeth are growing, and as the baby is only three weeks old it worries me very much. Do you think the teeth will fall out, or will they remain until the others come? If they should fall out I am afraid she might swallow them, and, if so, is there any danger?"

REPLY.

The teeth can be made to stay in until the regular falling out time. Clean them with a soft cloth wrapped around your finger once or twice a day. She will not swallow them.

The Bee's Letter Box

Setting An Example.

York, Neb., May 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: "Times like these demand great minds, strong hearts and willing hands."

Nowadays is a particularly opportune time to set an example in right living. Early in life, becoming imbued with a sincere respect for all respectable people as well as a deep disrespect for all disrespectable ones, it has always seemed to me and should seem so to all, especially since prohibition went into effect (always sober) that we are all expected to do the proper thing at all times. How different this world would be if more people felt it incumbent to do what is right and honorable! But, no; too many try to get by as slacker and bluffer. The writer is past middle age, yet today I feel that if I didn't work and set the proper example something dreadful would happen. And, therefor, those who want something for nothing and without effort should be watched more closely, or they will become so numerous and rock the boat so rudely that the ship of state may yet be swamped. Don't tolerate a slacker or a bluffer and there won't be any. Just as we refused to stand for the nuisance of drunkenness we cut out the cause and the whole world is better for it.

The most irritating nuisance now is the profiteer and you ask me: What are you going to do about it? And it's a very easy question to answer. Don't stand for it. When we desired to remove the saloon we took counsel together and worked out plans that put it over. It may be necessary in a few places to call meetings but the mere threat to do so will be sufficient to stop it and invite the principal offenders to come and explain why they have more than doubled prices for goods or service. If there are reasons there will be no objection, but if there is not, we want the overcharge to be put back. We grant that on an average wages have doubled, but there are cases where we are charged four and five times what we were charged before the war and it is those instances that furnish the agitator with material to work on and we wonder how such things are allowed to go on in a land where law and order is supposed to exist.

I am told to look out for myself and forget it. To go to the movies and read the fairy tale, have a good time, shut my eyes and drift along the current of the stream. And, sure enough I can stand it if anyone can. I get good wages for what I do and I have only myself to keep. I economize and don't have much to buy, but if I could live on peanuts alone I suppose I would have to pay all my wages for them alone and everywhere I hear people say: "It's too expensive to live and to die." On account of the high prices they can't marry nor have children or even go to church or do anything whatsoever. We seem to have come to a dead stop and the profiteer is the only one who can see any joy in living. How long, O, Lord, how long shall we be provoked by this parasite who thinks more of ill-gotten gain than he does of his country's welfare? They are mad and must be stopped in their mad career. Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and go over the top against the common foe. Our constituted authorities are leading in this movement and proving that the public is respected and we can all live happy ever after if we'll get busy and set an example. J. F. HADE.