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The Bee's Platform

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

THEY DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Lincoln McElroy, professor of theology, for fifteen years in Ohio Wesleyan university, after a distinguished career as prominent Methodist pulpits, has no delusions or illusions about the fundamentals of life. His grasp of history and human nature and world conditions, present and past, is sure. In an address at Columbus Sunday in refutation of the widely disseminated slander that our gallant soldiers whose stars turned to gold in Europe died in vain, he said:

It is too early to appraise the results of the war. It is exasperating for fathers and mothers of boys who have not returned to be told they died in vain. It is not true because they accomplished their major purpose.

The present chaos must not deceive us. Strife is the father of things. Principles are raised in blood.

There stands a theologian and a preacher who sees things as they are, not as hazy visions on the horizon, and who is untroubled by mysterious voices in the air. Son of a gallant sire who followed "Pap" Thomas in the War of the Rebellion, endowed with a lofty patriotism and sound sense, he talks the language of reason and of all human experience when he says "strife is the father of things; principles are raised in blood." All history verifies him. The hallucination that human nature can be changed and bloodshed cease before "the last days" prophesied by Isaiah, when the peoples of earth "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks," and "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more," has taken hold on many preachers and professors who have been misled by a false teacher. They fondly believed "the last days" here for a while, but most of them know better now, as little by little they have learned of the bargainings and abandonment of principles indulged in at Paris by America's chief advocate of international supergovernment, whose meddling and muddling they now are able to appraise as they see some of its disastrous results among the European nations.

It is to bolster up a league of nations that asks America to give up its sovereignty to a foreign council of selfish diplomats, that partisans in the United States have tried to make us believe our soldier dead died in vain in the trenches and on the battlefields of France. But the patriotism and common sense of the people have so far successfully opposed the personal ambition of a misguided president to pledge our sons and our resources to fight the wars of the world under a League of Nations falsely hailed as the end of war. That league now exists, and war continues, for "strife is the father of things," and "principles are raised in blood."

The major purpose of our dead in France is accomplished. It was to bring the Imperial German government to terms and end the war.

Curious Coal Plans Suggested.

Information from official sources seems to forecast the elimination of small coal mines from rail consideration in order to release coal cars used by them to the larger concerns. One widely circulated federal trade publication bluntly says there are "some two thousand more mines in the country now operating than are necessary or desirable." These mines cannot compete in normal markets, but they do lap up a little of the cream in boom markets. And they increase coal production.

The trade publication quoted lets the cat out of the bag when it says that to a certain extent "the small mines fix prices." What is meant is that the small mines retard the profits of the big ones because it is impossible to "organize" them for quick action when profiteering activities are possible. However that may be, the public has noticed little hesitation in stepping up to the limit on the part of mine owners; and in states where locally dubbed "wagon-mines" exist people would be put at the mercy of any price organization while now their little home mines meet local needs promptly.

But when presumable mouthpieces of federal bureaus seriously propose cutting small mines out of car service, the average business intelligence of the country will see a purpose that bodes no good to coal consumers, and the public generally will resent such a suggestion. The present administration at Washington has been too free with its regulations, which invariably have "regulated" prices upward. It will be a good thing for the people, who pay all the experimental regulation bills, when the election is over, a new administration is installed, and so much loose regulation of business affairs, big and little, is stopped.

Prospects for Suffrage Good.

Surface indications are that women will be permitted to vote for president in 1920. Two or three parliamentary skirmishes in the Tennessee legislature, now convened in extra session, have been won by the suffragists, who are thereby encouraged to look for final victory. Just how the provisions of the Tennessee constitution, referring to the manner of endorsement of amendments to the federal constitution, are to be circumvented has not been explained, but the advocates of universal suffrage undoubtedly know what they mean. North Carolina's legislature is also convened for a similar purpose, with a message from the governor earnestly adjuring the members to give assent to suffrage. These things look very promising for the cause, but there is an underlying current of apprehension, due to the uncertainty of the outcome. Until the final vote is taken in these states, the women who have worked so hard for the ballot are not going to start their jubilation. They have counted their chickens a time or two in advance of the hatching, and not going to make that mistake again. Whatever of sunshine may flit across the path of the nineteenth amendment in either Tennessee or North Carolina is filtered through a screen of state's rights feeling that may become opaque at any time.

Another Snarl in Europe.

Recognition by France of General Wrangel as de facto head of the Russian government has added another turn to the tangle in Europe. This step is reported to have been taken without conference with England and is said to be looked on as a mistake in London. British labor, which is largely socialistic, has demanded "no war," and mildly insists on giving the soviets a place among civilized governments. The Colby note to the Italian minister, setting out American views, have put something of a damper on the program of the British labor group, and the action by France has fairly shocked the socialists here, who were co-operating with English, Italian, Dutch and German comrades to establish something like a respectable status for Lenine and Trotzky.

Russia owes France a billion and a half, money loaned to the former government, and most of which is owed to the thrifty peasants, who now stand ready to back almost any form of government for Russia that means payment of this great debt. The bolsheviki have modified in some degree the repudiation of all the imperial Russian debt, but have not gone far enough to reassure the French creditors. Therefore Wrangel, as the one most likely to recognize the obligation, is given whatever help may flow from the fact that he has the countenance of the French government.

It may be that the French have shown a way to solve the problem. A responsible government must be had in Russia. The bolsheviki are impossible. Communication with the outside world is imperative, for without it industrial Russia must entirely collapse before another spring. Germany can not provide all that is needed for the restoration of the debilitated industrial life of the late empire. Peace with Poland will not ensure a final settlement of the main question. Facing these facts, if giving to Wrangel the impetus that seems to be contained in the French action will tend to shorten the tragedy of Russian misgovernment and hasten the restoration of responsible national life to the people, the course taken may be approved, even if it does disappoint those who have been devoted to the idea of self-determination even to the extent of accepting bolshevism and all it holds for the destruction of civilization.

What is chiefly needed is to arrange its affairs that a land so rich in all material resources, of such magnificent possibilities, need not go naked and hungry, freeze and starve, for want of rational application of the riches that now lie unused in its reach. Just now the Russian faces extermination by famine and pestilence because he will not work. Bolshevism brough him to this pass. Communism can not help him, and he must be taught to help himself. Wrangel may be the agent through which the change is to be wrought.

The Pleasant Side.

We look for much good to result in certain directions from increased railroad passenger and freight rates. They will rehabilitate the roads. There will be increased daytime travel to save Pullman excess expense; and automobile travel will increase during eight months of the year, thereby stimulating the automobile business, which is full five years from its peak, if not longer. Truck transportation will extend from 50 or less miles to 500 miles, relieving cramped rail conditions. Transportation of all sorts will benefit—on state and county roads and on waterways as well.

One great artery of transportation has sunk almost to innocuous desuetude during the past 25 years—the great Ohio river—once alive with passenger packets and towboats that pushed billions of tons of coal and steel from Pittsburgh and Wheeling to points on the lower Ohio and upper and lower Mississippi and their numerous tributaries. The rails have robbed them of their traffic by low freight rates. Now they will have a chance to "come back" to their natural usefulness.

Transportation of all sorts is cheaper in America than in any other country, it is said. What is needed now is not so much cheapness as efficiency and reliable continuity. That will come with rail rates that make water and truck transportation reasonably profitable.

Working and Thinking.

Work often does for a mind what the hoe does for a garden; it roots up and gets rid of notions that are like rank weeds—New York Mail.

No man can think normally who does not work at least some of the time. The normal man is the one who works. The idler is an unsafe counsellor. Work makes a man steady, and teaches him to approach every problem under the influence of true principles of life. The necessity for work is all that makes life worth living. Without it there would be no progress, no ambition, no achievement. Thank God that you have to work, with reasonable intervals for play, for otherwise this would be a dreary, humdrum, dull and lonesome world.

Mr. Bryan comes up for air long enough to divulge his belief that neither Cox nor Harding is orthodox on the dry question. The old doctor had a chance to get a man he could trust on the ticket, but turned it down.

Now we know why the Filipinos are so anxious for independence. Randall of California proposes to give them bone dry happiness.

We used to believe that whatever goes up must come down. Nowadays it keeps on going up.

Tennessee will tell 'em on Monday, according to current advices. Until then, simply wait.

H. c. of l. seems to be subject to levitation, not gravitation.

The gentle bolsheviki scorn peace without victory

A Line O' Type or Two

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

A PROMINENT citizen of West Virginia was found dead in a rooming house in Gotham. He had been robbed, which is nothing strange in that city, nor were the other mysterious circumstances more mysterious. Truth is less strange than fiction, and is even more stereotyped. There was nothing in this story to interest a writer of fiction, with the possible exception of the street door of the house and the door of the room where the West Virginian was found. These doors, although closed and apparently locked, yielded when one put his weight against them. Few doors are as fascinating as the Sire de Malatroit's, but all doors are inherently interesting to the teller of tales. "There are a thousand doors to let out life."

THEY order these things, as usual, much better in France. The case of Mme. Bessarabo, who pistoled her husband and packed him in a trunk for shipment, is lightened by a number of unconventional details. For example, in her autobiography, she had described herself as a woman who, starting on her wedding journey, discovered that she did not know how to pack a trunk; but hubby was so neatly packed that the police believe she had the assistance of a male. Our heart specialists, like Beatrice Fairfax, should instruct their readers in the gentle art of stowing unworthy helpmates in a trunk when the emergency arises.

PROBABLY there is not another government on the map, not even ours, which could have handled the Mannix affair so maladroitly as the English government. The art of muddling through cannot be acquired; it is a gift, bestowed only upon the Anglo-Saxon race. It is the ordinary business of government to know what is going on, but it is part of the art of government apparently to forget or ignore certain things which are happening.

Still at It.

My loveless lady of the ancient day
Sought love with what of Cupid's arts he'd give her.
I see her now in shimmy shrines, and, say,
She still beguiles her time with beau and quiver.

Q. A. R.

IN Toledo, relates a special to the New York Times, everybody is talking golf, "and even street car conductors talk glibly of stymies and dormies." Now, shrunken as is our stock of nectar, we will give a quart of it to any person who ever heard a street car conductor, in Toledo or elsewhere, use the word stymie or dormie. Why do they send people who know nothing about the subjects to report golf, yacht races, Catholic church ceremonies, scientific lectures, and other things which only specialists should cover?

APROPOS.

Sir: I was seated at Mother's luncheon table, on the right side of the guest of honor, one of Philadelphia's best dowagers. In my flurry to make conversation I sought her various interests, and hit on the topic of golf. "Do you play the game?" I queried. "No, child, I should say not," was her answer. "Heavens, no! I have never had a caddy in my hand."

H. E. E. M.

MARK SULLIVAN suspects that "neither of the candidates is going to develop a personality that the American public will regard as vital." But this is wholly in keeping with the trend of the times. In making the world safe for democracy it is necessary to discourage personality, not to develop it. Harding and Cox combined would not make one good personality.

My Dear, I Shouldn't Wonder a Dambit.

(From the Florida Grower.)

After trying several leaves the butterfly found one to its taste and settled down to slumber. Can one whose day has been full of activity suddenly cease all motion and sink into the quietude of sleep? No more easily than can an active child. There must be a transition, a gradual letting down of the nervous tension. So the butterfly waved its wings up and down—rather nervously at first, but then slower and slower until all motion ceased. Have we not here the essence of a lullaby, a monotonous repetition that gradually becomes slower and slower; a lullaby of motion rather than sound; a lullaby given by the tired one herself, because there is none other to give it?

OUR v. c., Christopher Morley, considering the perils of the colyumist's job, lists as the most serious the danger that the writer, shoveling out paragraphs upon the defenseless world, "may come to think that his own ravings really amount to something." This danger is, we think, remote in the case of a colyumist worthy of the name. There is, however, a nearer peril, more blighting in its influence. And that is that he may think, or come to think, that the ravings of anybody really amount to something.

POMES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED.

In Kentucky.

The moonlight falls the softest
In Kentucky;
The summer days comes oftest
In Kentucky;
Friendship is the strongest,
Love's light glows the longest,
Yet wrong is always wrongest
In Kentucky.

The sun shines ever brightest
In Kentucky;
The breezes whisper lightest
In Kentucky;
Plain girls are the fewest,
Their little hearts are truest,
Maidens' eyes are bluest
In Kentucky.

The bluegrass waves the bluest
In Kentucky,
Yet bluebloods are the fewest
In Kentucky;
Moonshine is the clearest,
By no means the dearest,
And yet it acts the queerest
In Kentucky.

The song birds are the sweetest
In Kentucky;
The thoroughbreds are fleetest
In Kentucky;
Mountains tower proudest,
Thunder peals the loudest,
The landscape is the grandest,
And politics the damnedest,
In Kentucky.

JAMES H. MULLIGAN.

MAY we not surmise that it will be a longish while before Poland undertakes another defensive war on some other nation's territory? The mays appear to have it.

IF the Soviet government (for want of a better word) succeeds in dropping the foundling Bolshevism "at the doors of the Western Powers," the W. P. will do well to drown the redheaded brat forthwith. But it will be just like them to take it in.

THE flea, we learn from Dr. Heisler of the Rockefeller Foundation, is a very delicate animal, which cannot stand much sun. How, then, does he account for the sprightliness of the California flea?

"JAPAN to Refuse Flatly to Return Half of Saghalin."—Headline.

Oh, sorry! Suppose we drop the subject.

HYTHE, England, which is appearing in the date-lines, is not familiar to us. It is likely pronounced "Higham."

CAPT. AMUNDSEN has left Nome to drift northward with the ice pack. The lucky stiff!

THE flurry over Wiz Ponzi appears to be about over, and the birth rate has dropped back to normal, which is one per minute.

"BOLSHEVIK Cavalry Takes Przasnysz." And small wonder, considering the dampness of theterrain and the lack of sanitation.

B. L. T.

Should Be Taxed.

Speaking of the grasshoppers which have eaten a million dollars' worth of Michigan farm products, couldn't the proposed consumption tax be applied to them?—Detroit Free Press.

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 limitations, 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.

WEANING PUBLIC FROM BUNK.

In the popular mind there still remains the opinion that grip or influenza cripples for life.

Those who recover from the acute attack never feel well afterward. Many of them sicken with consumption; others develop kidney and heart trouble; others remain in a state of chronic mental depression.

Stories to this affect were freely in circulation in the wake of the epidemic of 1890, and there being no health columns in the newspapers of that day, a Frankenstein was created and said Frankenstein is worrying and frightening people today. If by talking we could add a bunch of diseases to our collection, most people who had influenza in 1918 would have one or more choice "complaints" by now.

The Buffalo health department conducted an investigation early in 1918 which led them to believe that the wake of the flu was not so bad. During the epidemic 23,000 people in Buffalo were reported to the health department as having the flu. The department sent an investigator to each case in the late winter to see how many had died and from what diseases. How many had completely recovered. How many thought they had not fully recovered and what was the trouble when there seemed to be after effects of flu.

In the early summer of 1919 they made a second investigation of the same general type. In the summer of 1920 they came out with a third statement.

The number of people of all ages dying from consumption is as follows: 1917, 365; 1918, 398; 1919, 321; 1920, 252. The numbers of reported cases and deaths since 1914 by years are: 1914, 1,172 cases, 633 deaths; 1915, 1,249 cases, 609 deaths; 1916, 1,197 cases, 658 deaths; 1917, 1,409 cases, 699 deaths; 1918, 1,295 cases, 713 deaths; 1919, 1,104 cases, 523 deaths; 1920 (six months,) 530 cases, 252 deaths, or at rate for 12 months of 1,060 cases, 504 deaths.

In other words, consumption seems somewhat less prevalent in Buffalo since the influenza than before it. The earlier studies showed there had been no particular increases of other organs.

Dr. Frouczak is doing his part to kill the Frankenstein of 1890. But his evidence is not unsupported. While the Chicago death rate from consumption is falling yearly, the health commissioner says the drop this year is unusually great.

The weekly report of the census office shows that practically all American cities are experiencing the lowest death rates in their history. For the week of July 24 twenty-one had rates lower than 10. All this spring and summer the general conditions of health have been the best ever known. All of this indicates that influenza did not cripple organs and impair general health in 1918 and 1919, as so many people still believe.

Dropsy Only Symptom.

D. M. B. writes: "What is the cause and cure for dropsy?"

REPLY.

Dropsy is a symptom. It results from Bright's disease, heart disease, and liver disease and some other diseases of lesser importance. A person with dropsy must first find out what disease causes his trouble and then direct the treatment in accordance with the facts.

Remedy Is Mental.

L. S. writes: "I am 78 years old, in general good health, and smoke a light cigar now and then. I never use tobacco in any other form and have no use for spirituous drinks. I am troubled with dreams. I usually retire about 11 p. m. and rise at 7 a. m. I sleep on my right side. I eat moderately. What is the cause of the dreaming? I am out in the fresh air at least two or three hours every day."

REPLY.

A small allowance of light cigars is not liable to hurt you. You appear to be doing about all that is practicable in a physical way to induce quieter sleep. You will find the trobule is mental. Disturbed, dreamy sleep results from worry or fretting or fears or some other form of mental or spiritual unrest. The only remedy is the cultivation of mental poise.