

THE OMAHA BEE

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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.

SAVE THE PAROLE LAW.

The very existence of a parole law in Nebraska, with its humanitarian purpose, has been gravely endangered by the unwise acts and utterances accredited to the state officers who have been charged with its administration. For several years, under successive administrations, the dealing out of pardons and paroles has tended to disturb the public conscience, when it did not in fact arouse positive disapproval.

The public has a direct concern in the matter. As The Bee has frequently pointed out, the law does not seek vengeance on a culprit; an offender is not pursued with the single purpose of revenge. He must be punished, because his sin, whatever it is, calls for punishment. This is divine as well as human law. Yet, just as the divine law provides for mercy and forgiveness, when fruits meet for repentance have been brought forth and by penitence and contrition the offender has expiated his sin, so does the human law take into consideration the possibility of reformation and in imitation of the Most High extends clemency to the prisoner who by his acts shows himself worthy of confidence to that extent. Few men have hearts so indurated that they can not conceive of amendment on part of a wrongdoer, and it still is true that earthly power seems like God's when mercy seasons justice.

This, however, is no excuse for the maudlin, unwhisked sentimentality that blinds the reason of some to their obligations to society and leads them to see only an opportunity to help an erring brother. Too often this tender sentiment is abused, both by the administrator and the recipient—the one failing to discriminate between offenses, the other deliberately seeking favor that he may be free to prey on peaceful citizens once more. Medical science, and the law as well, takes cognizance of the fact that there are men whose liberty is as dangerous to social peace as would be a wild beast at large. When one of these is finally sequestered, the humane application of the law requires that he be held. So it is with other phases of the problem.

Our law as it exists, loosely drawn though it may be, and carelessly administered as it has been, holds the germ of protection, both for the public and the prisoner. Administered with prudence and care, it provides for the rights of both. Proposals such as that said to have been made by Commissioner Oberlies and Warden Fenton, that future proceedings be surrounded by secrecy, out the whole plan into such jeopardy as its friends hope it will be relieved of promptly and forever.

When a prisoner is released on parole, it should be because he merits such favor, and he should face the world with his head up, in a serious attempt to convince his fellowmen of the sincerity of his reformation, and thereby win again the confidence he forfeited by his crime. To surround his release by secrecy is to make him also a partner to the deceptions of the public, to undermine his moral force at the outset, and to do him a serious wrong at the beginning. Character can not be soundly built on falsehood. Let us save the parole law if we can through seeing that it is not abused by mistaken philanthropists.

Heroes of Misfortune.

While one has health, hope may well be high, but not even the adversity of physical misfortune and disease is sufficient to conquer some brave spirits. Robert Louis Stevenson, racked with tuberculosis, clung to life and produced novels that continue to delight the world and verses full of a sweet gaiety that go right to the heart of the children. In the case of a woman living in Lincoln, not even blindness has proved a bar to a successful business career. In a little grocery store she earns her own living and lays by a profit to provide for her old age.

From New York comes the story of the death of a most remarkable invalid, an actor who lay on a bed of paralysis for thirty years. This cripple wrote lyrics and playlets for vaudeville in astonishing profusion; he edited magazines, wrote a volume of poems, and a series of plays for amateurs.

Her Paradise Even Blanker.

Since Emma Goldman reached Russia her views of the beauties of communism have undergone some modification. The latest accounts of her doings bring word that she escaped into the Ukraine about two jumps ahead of the commissaires sent by Lenin to bring her in. She had an interview with the man to whom she had turned in this country as a liberator, and following that interview thought a

little bit faster than did Nikolai, for when he decided to send his police to fetch back the strong-minded Emma, she was on her way to a land which is not yet so bolshievisic quite as Russia. The interview she gave out last spring, in which she lamented the fate that had taken her from America, is well supported by this later experience. Emma surely has found her paradise even more of a blank than it has been represented. However, she will not get back to the country whose hospitality she so long abused, and from which she departed with a promise to return later and raise hell.

The Panama Canal.

Some of our democratic brethren are moving in anticipation of the change in policy concerning the Panama canal, which will come when Senator Harding is inaugurated next March. The New York Times deals with the report published in the Canal Record, which shows a surplus for the year of \$2,000,000 in receipts over expenditures. This is far from meeting the interest on the \$367,151,695 the canal has cost, but it does show an advance and may justify belief that in time the canal will be on a paying basis. However, the Times looks at it from another angle, saying:

Another considerable charge against the method of running the canal is the disturbance to land rates for the benefit of private shippers and without precautions to make sure that the savings in freight is reflected to some degree in prices to consumers. One reason for building the canal was to force a reduction of railway rates, and in that it has been a success something too complete. The trans-continental rates have been reduced to the degree of abolishing profit on canal and railway transportation alike, and there has been created a problem which remains unsolved—that of the relation of long haul rates to short haul. Westward traffic has been sent eastward to make a combination of rail and water rates cheaper than the all-rail rate over a shorter route, and the corresponding combination has been made in the reverse direction. Moreover, all the territory between the oceans demands a land rate proportioned in some degree to the lower water rate which geography denies to it.

This is fair enough on its face, but carried with it an implication that the republican promise to relieve American vessels using the canal of the tolls now collected is a tendency towards further waste. As a matter of fact, the inland communities have not had any of the benefits they expected from the construction of the canal. A peculiar ruling of the Interstate Commerce commission gave to the coast cities all the advantage of the great waterway, but this may in time be remedied. It may require an entire readjustment of the transportation system of the country, but for the present it must be supported. Yet that is no reason for depriving American shippers of a benefit that primarily was intended for them. If the savings in freight are not reflected in the selling price, that may be reached in another way, but the canal ought to be made free to American ships engaged in American commerce.

American Naval Spirit.

We feel very certain that Commander G. Elyson of the destroyer Brooks will not be reprimanded because of the little incident at Kiel, where he told the officer in command of the German forts to fire if he felt like it and he would take care of himself. We remember that once the present administration reprobated the Order of the Carabao for singing a song made famous back in 1899 by the American soldiers in the Philippines, but it would astonish even Americans were Joseph Daniels to chide a naval officer of the United States for exhibiting something of the spirit that led John Paul Jones to tell the British officer he had just commenced to fight. That spirit has been kept alive by a long list of heroes, none bumptious, any of them ready to make good, and all jealous of the traditions of the service and the honor of their native country. The American navy is an evangel of peace, but it will fight.

Back to Cheaper Bread.

Announcement from many parts of the country of a reduction in the price of bread tells the story once more of the power of the housewife. While slow to be used, this control over the prices of manufactured food is very real. If the woman in the kitchen became outraged by the continued high price of bread while the price of flour slipped off daily, she could assert herself by baking at home.

Flour in the big western milling cities has declined in price nearly \$6 a barrel since June. Wheat is now almost \$1 higher than in 1914, and while the 5-cent loaf of the days before the war is not yet available, it may quite possibly lurk in the distance.

The campaign fund probe committee is soon to make its report, but the public already has been heard on Cox's charges.

Another rail board wage decision is expected soon, which ought to answer objectors to the Esch-Cummins law.

"Open covenants, openly arrived at," gets about the same sort of reception at Geneva as it did in Paris.

The "reds" have been trying for years to uproot Sam Gompers. It looks like his turn now.

It is really comforting to think that the parole board can also back up once in awhile.

Secretary Baker invites inquiry. He needn't worry, for he will get all that is coming to him.

The war must be over. The navy is going to sell its surplus cloth.

Does that gambling order include "pay ball" pool?

Nebraska corn fields call for huskers.

Discovered by a Pig. Most copper mines have been found through pure luck. The Calumet lode, the greatest of them all, was discovered by a pig. One day, while vigorously stirring the soil of the backyard of its owner, who kept a boarding house, the pig uncovered a prehistoric Indian cache. This was a pile of buried copper, which was worth a fortune in itself. But it also led to the examination of the rock beneath, in which veins of the metal were found.

The Indians used copper before the days of Columbus, principally for making ornaments, wearing copper masks. The aborigines, however, had difficulty in working the metal through the lack of efficient tools. In Michigan they built fires against the rocks containing copper. This sometimes produced huge nuggets, or "mass copper," which the Indians could neither divide nor carry away.—Kansas City Journal.

A Line O' Type or Two

How to the Line, let the quips fall where they may.
MR. FRÉDERIC HARRISON at 89 observes: May my end be early, speedy, and peaceful! I regret nothing done or said in my long and busy life, withdraw nothing, and, as I said before, am not conscious of any change in mind. In youth I was called a revolutionary; in old age I am called a reactionary; both names alike untrue. I ask nothing, I seek nothing. I fear nothing. I have done and said all that I ever could have done and said. There is nothing more. I am ready, and await the call.

VERY good prose version of Henley's well-known poem. As for regretting nothing, a man at forty would be glad to unsay and undo many things. At seventy, and decidedly at eighty-nine, these things have so diminished in importance that it is not worth while withdrawing them.

C'EST CA' EN PLEIN. (From the Oakland, Ill. Messenger.) "Hypocrites" was the subject of the discourse last Sunday evening. There was a goodly number present.

"JUST before the curtain rises one hears in the distance voices singing, 'God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen.'"—The Drama for November.

As graduates of the school of journalism will have annual occasion to refer to that carol, they should note now that the comma comes after "merry."

Better Than Gold. Sir: The psychology dept. reacts that Miss Pearl Button is no longer a student here; on the other hand, there is a confirmed rumor of the continued peritonitis of the late Mrs. Evelyn Leggo. Then I recently sold a Talith Toot-Trombone (my dear, you should hear it!) to Miss Mabel Coffee, who during sabbatical summer settled down as her ancestral estate, "Coffee Grounds." The professors of architecture in a recent quiz found from a student paper that the purpose of the Egyptian pyramids was to hold the soporific of the Pharaohs. These things come to me, sir, as they do to you. "What do you get from writing for the Line—money?" I was asked at a rhetoric tea lately. "No," I replied, "social prestige."

ONCE and sometimes twice a day, we read, "Mr. Wilson is massaged by a masseur." The very person for the job, we should say, "DOWN TO GEHENNA OR UP TO THE THRONE, HE TRAVELS ALONE." (From the Rockford Register-Gazette.)

Practical nurse wants to work for someone who is going to a warmer climate. Forest 2385.

GEN. WRANGEL seems not to have been able to please many of the people much of the time. That way lies the toboggan.

The Bitter-Endians. (From the London Nation.) If a democracy has to be drilled for the eventual task of one day destroying a dangerous commercial and industrial rival, the relentless cherishing of old memories of wrong, the resolve to keep green the recollection of every outrage and every infraction of the laws of war, that can be charged against the resistance to every proposal for co-operation and reconciliation in the field of science and scholarship, is reasonable and even necessary, though it may also be outrageous, if it is to be effective. The "endians" are guilty of this wickedness without a reason. They cannot desire to "smash" Germany again, and yet they are cultivating the emotions appropriate to a policy. This is not sentimentalism, for it is feelings, and very ill feeling, deliberately cherished, and prolonged for no national purpose, however evil.

WE'LL agree that it ought not to be done. We will go further, and say that it ought not to be done, even when it is as well as usual, as anything can be done if Germany were on top, she would be cultivating a bumper crop of hate.

THE SECOND POST. (They knew it all the time.) "To save you the trouble of writing us when you received the envelopes for the new catalog pamphlets that said envelopes do not fit, as samples, they had been purchased at four dollars a gallon, were shocked at the price asked, and word was passed to the sheriff that there was a profiteer in town and he was placed under arrest. After the arrest of Custer his room at the Sutherland hotel was searched by the officers, who found a two-gallon jug under his bed. When the whiskey was poured on it, it was discovered that instead of there being two gallons, there was only a pint and repeated shakings failed to produce any more. When the bottom was broken it was found that the jug had been filled nearly to the top with layers of sand and sawdust to make it the proper weight, and on top of this was a layer of waterproof cement, leaving enough space in the top to hold a pint of whiskey.

NOT a bad definition of philosophy, from a high school exam paper: "Philosophy is a saying which is true but is expressed in an indirect way, such as, 'A rolling stone gathers no moss.' It is generally about lifeless objects or dumb creatures, but is deftly applied to human beings."

POOR OLD FATHER! Sir: Dad was late for supper. Mother said "Maybe he's held up." Young son said, "Well, he ought to be here now anyhow; that won't take long." F. A. S.

SIGN in the rooms of an Iowa hotel: "Anyone committing suicide here will be charged fifty cents extra." We call that fair.

FROST. The leopard comes softly down at night from the northland; Oh, golden grainfields, take heed, he is almost upon you! The great white leopard whose step is as light as a snowflake, His icy breath has robbed the trees of their splendor; Naked and alone they stand before him. His eyes are as green as the frozen seas of the northland. Ah, rich and fruitful autumn, beware of the leopard!

BERTHA TEN EYCK JAMES. A LIBRARIAN (M. M. M.) interested in eternal fitness has noted that Samuel Partridge married Mehitable Crow in 1668, and the "Poetical Essay on Physics, Inscribed to Dr. Pellet," was published in 1745.

EXCELLENTLY CONTRIVED. (Bulletin Kewanee Methodist Church.) Mrs. Hester will entertain Circle No. 4, Thursday afternoon, Nov. 18, at the home of Mrs. Snow, 207 South Tremont street.

"WANTED—Experienced boiled ham-boner. Morris & Co.

Hard-boiled, or four-minute men? IT HURTS LESS ELSEWHERE. (From the Rockville, Ind., Tribune.) Our board sidewalks are flying up and hitting pedestrians in the face and elsewhere.

SNOW-FLOWS in mid-November is coming at a bit thick, even if the feathering animals are growing a thing pelt this season. B. L. T.

Saying It. Karl Kinicki—What do you think of the election? "Mike Monroney—I think the republicans said it with an ax.—Milwaukee Journal.

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.

DEPENDENT ON NATURE

Recently I heard Dr. C. S. Drake, health commissioner of Illinois, say in a public address that the sickness rate among people in the rural districts was higher than that of Chicago.

The same statement as to New York state has been made by Dr. T. D. Wood of Columbia. However, the farmers challenged the accuracy of Dr. Wood's statement. They called attention to the fact that Dr. Wood, classed towns with 8,000 and under as being in the rural districts. They proved that it was the high sickness rate of the smaller city which made the so-called rural rate high and gave life on the farm a black eye.

An investigation made in Iowa showed that it is the small city which has the highest sickness rates. When these are removed from the rural rate and the figures are made to apply to the truly rural the farmer class does not make a bad showing.

In his official rate, Lumsden has shown that the standard of sanitation in country homes is low. A very large percentage of them have inferior and sometimes unsafe water supply. His health department in its effort to protect him. The people in the country depend on sunshine, air and isolation to protect them. I would like to see a health department in square up to them. They can put too much dependence in the protective power of nature. The Lord helps who helps themselves.

Did isolation protect them against influenza in 1918-19? It did not. Something which happened in South Africa 25 years ago showed the limitations of nature as a protective agent against disease. All over the country there were herds of buffalo spotted here and there. South Africa has stretches of dry land separating valleys and patches of woodland and vegetation. In consequence there were herds of buffalo which were separated by wide stretches of thousands of square miles without human habitation.

In 1896 rinderpest swept over South Africa. Salous, a famous authority, says: "No doubt the buffaloes were destroyed like the rinderpest by the epidemic of rinderpest in 1896 and 1897."

Of other herds, he says: "It (whether any are left) all depends on whether the rinderpest penetrated to these regions in 1896-1897."

The early part of the fatal year of 1896 the terrible epidemic of rinderpest crossed the Zambesi and almost exterminated the buffaloes. The farmers finally vaccinated their herds.

Seems Old Enough. Mrs. N writes: "Would it be injurious to a baby 6 months old to sleep during the winter months on a sleeping porch with glass on three sides and no heat? How low temperature can a child of such an age withstand, and what would be the proper equipment for such temperature?"

REPLY. A New Reader writes: "I would you kindly advise if Graham crackers are good for a diabetic sufferer to eat?"

REPLY. "Are they starchy?" "What kind of fruit would you advise?" "Is buttermilk any good?" "Is ice cream any good?"

REPLY. A diabetic should not eat Graham crackers unless specifically instructed to do so by a physician. Graham crackers are rich in starch.

REPLY. Any of the very watery fruits are well tolerated by most diabetics.

REPLY. Yes.

REPLY. The sugar in ice cream is just as harmful as the sugar in candy.

REPLY. They Still Live, You See. A. J. C. writes: "What, if any, danger is there in drinking the hot water drawn from the hydrant of a downtown office building? I have been in the habit of drinking three or four glasses of such water a day, but have been informed that there is a danger of lead poisoning."

REPLY. There is no danger. If such water caused serious danger all city dwellers would have been killed off a long time ago.

REPLY. You'll Never Begrudge the Dollar You Spend With Us. —When our work is delivered you'll say: "Now there's what I call a first-class job of cleaning."

—And you'll compliment us on the way we deliver the cleaning work—we are just as particular about packages as we are about the cleaning.

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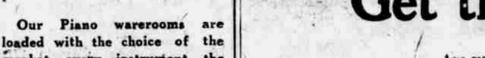
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SAID IN JEST. Eight-year-old Sonny slid carefully into us sent at the table. "Have you washed your hands?" asked mother. "Yes, mother"—meekly. "Are they clean?" from father. "Well—pretty near—almost!" was the answer.—New York Post.

"You seemed to be pretty sick yesterday." "What did the doctor say?" "Well, I thought I was sick enough for a trip to California, but all he prescribed was a fishing trip."—"Philadelphia Bulletin."

"How do you nurse a grudge?" "Well, you feed it from vials of wrath. I suppose." "I see, and a vial of wrath keeps your wrath warm. Sort of a vacuum bottle."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mrs. Wiggs—In Billy III, Mrs. Skinner? Mrs. Skinner—Well, "a bit" if exactly, but no stammerer can stand 13 years. It's an unlucky number.—London Tit Bits.

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better days' coming

The other day we heard a care-free young chap make that remark. This young man is earning a large salary, is spending it foolishly, and is forced to borrow a day or two before pay day. He, like many other young men, are of the happy-go-lucky type letting tomorrow take care of itself; they are in the Best Days of their life, but satisfied that there are "Better Days Coming."

Get the Saving Habit

Are you spending your money foolishly, giving no thought to the future—letting Tomorrow take care of itself? Stop and Think! You are in the Best Productive years of your life and they will not last long! Save a little of your income EVERY week. Open a SAVINGS ACCOUNT in our SAVINGS DEPARTMENT. SAVE TODAY! Prepare for the future, then there WILL be "Better Days Coming"—and they will be Mighty WELCOME DAYS, too.

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