THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) — EVENING—SUNDAY

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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.

A COMMUNITY CONSCIENCE.

Hardly a week passes that the press of some state or city does not flame up in a burst of righteous indignation against local authorities for failing to enforce the laws. And yet it is an axiom accepted among lawyers that for the most part our statutes are enforced just as rigidly or just as laxly as the prevailing sentiment of the community dictates.—Saturday Evening Post.

And thus squarely does Editor Lorimer state the truth. Government at any given time or place fairly reflects the attitude of the people governed. This is true to a considerable extent even of despotic governments, for the most autocratic ruler had finally to depend on somebody outside his immediate circle to enforce the law or edict. As we recede from the despot and approach the democracy, law becomes more and more the creature of the individual, and therefore partakes in its efficacy something of his mood. Just as the individual is inclined so is the statute obeyed or broken.

This has another angle, however, which recently had an excellent illustration in Omaha. Well devised traffic laws were of little avail and our city streets reached a strangely dangerous condition because of the individual attitude towards the regulations set up for securing the safety of the public. An awakened public consciousness, however, brought a sense of responsibility to all, voluntary traffic oversight by citizens served to check the careless or indifferent, and a decided improvement has followed. Such an example might serve to stimulate other manifestations of a community conscience.

If everybody were zealous in sweeping his own dooryard, the streets would all be clean; if those who persistently neglect to sweep their dooryards were reported to the central authority by their outraged neighbors, the effect would be to secure cleanliness for all. Many salutary laws are rendered ineffectual because those who observe the infraction refrain from reporting the fact to the constituted powers. This, of course, because of the inherent reluctance to turn informer; nobody wants to be classed among the tattlers.

But is it tattling to give proper and warranted information about such acts or neglect to act as amount to a violation of law and therefore an offense against the entire community? Sound reason answers, no; in such a case the informer is doing public service. Most of the immunity enjoyed by offenders, great and small, flows from the fact that private individuals do not like to depart from their privacy; they shun notoriety of any kind, and allow themselves to be imposed upon rather than incur possible publicity through resistance to what they know is wrong.

We are not contending for a rigid, exact enforcement of all laws or of any law. It is, however, a bad sign when any law is generally ignored or administered with such laxity as makes it ineffective. This breeds a disrespect for all law. A true community conscience is one that looks to the enforcement of such laws as rest reasonably on all; relying on the good sense of the majority to move for the repeal of statutes that are inoperative, and the enactment only of such as meet public necessities. It is unsafe to leave to the individual any choice as to what laws he will obey and what he will disregard. That leads directly to anarchy. But the individual must be the keeper of the community conscience, for he contributes to it to the extent that he is conscientious in the observance of the laws as he finds them. And now let us quote Editor Lorimer's own conclusion:

> Before our statutory hypocrisies can be abated we must renounce the childish belief that law can make character. The women can do much to help if from the first they refuse to be deceived by the fallacy that is responsible for thousands of pages of foolish man-made statutes. Then, too, we must take a livelier interest in the law of the land. We must talk about law, think about it, and read about it, until we come to realize that wise law making involves one of the most difficult and baffling of all sciences. Moreover, we must learn to think clearly, march warily, and to see to it that our statutory advance guard never outpaces the main body of public opinion, in which lies its only hope of survival when the battle is joined.

Export Market as a Test.

For more than five years the export trade of the United States was limited only by the capacity of ocean-going vessels to carry the goods. Something of a slump took place in this a few months ago, not because our customers did not want our wares, but because they had no means of paying for them. Europe was as anxious as ever to get what we could furnish, but asked for credit longer than could be granted. During a considerable part of the war the trade was financed by money from this side. Immense loans were made the Allies first through banks, then through the Treasury, and the proceeds went to pay for food, munitions, and needed supplies made in this country. Under such stimulus the export trade swelled out of all proportion, and the falling off that followed on the armistice and the shutting down of credit brought considerable disappointment, particularly to those exporters who had goods at the seaside, but would not allow them to go abroad on the only terms the prospective purchasers might offer. Our government declined to extend its credit to further cover private transactions, and some other basis had to be found. It evidently has, for the report of exports for the month of October shows an increase over September of $55,097,018 in value of manufactured goods ready for consumption. This indicates a healthy revival of trade, an outlet for the surplus wares produced, and as such is a noteworthy sign of the future. America is holding its own in the trade of the world.

Cancellation of Contracts.

A practice that has grown up within the last few months until it has reached a stage that is a real menace is the withdrawal of orders for goods contracted for. The disturbance that has resulted from this is more than an annoyance to the manufacturers; it has introduced an element of uncertainty into business that prevents safety of operation. It is, of course, an outgrowth of the "falling market," an effort on part of the dealers to anticipate or avoid possible loss incident to decline in selling price. After making full allowance for this, the fact yet remains that until contracts are regarded as binding there is little probability of bringing business affairs to a state of satisfactory stability. Permission to withdraw an order once placed puts the manufacturer in such position as requires him to operate on a much wider margin for safety than if he knew that he would be required to deliver as and when agreed upon. The remedy is not so readily applied, perhaps, but one way out seems to be for buyers to scrutinize closely all conditions, to refrain from uncertain ventures as far as possible, and to contract for the purchase of such wares only as their necessities demand. Such a practice may limit trade to a certain extent, but a limited number of orders certain to be delivered and paid for is much better for the makers than are more liberal contracts subject to cancellation or countermand. Both sides admit that a hard and fast rule to govern cannot be laid down or enforced, but all are aware that good business practice requires some modification of the custom now complained about.

Another of Omaha's Needs.

In the course of his musings "Senator" Sorenson discovers that the presence of 5,000 people at a "muny" concert on an inclement evening is proof of the desire of the public for music. If any such proof were needed, the masses who attend the Auditorium services when the City Concert club is putting on a program provides it. Another and equally important fact thus established is the willingness of Omaha musicians to assist in making the undertaking a success. Having thus made certain of a public desire and the willingness of qualified persons to aid in realizing that desire, is it not plainly a duty of the city government to make some further provisions for the proper presentation of music? With a number of projects in the air, all looking to the replacement of the present City Auditorium with a more suitable and better located building, certain definite suggestions made in the past by The Bee may still be held in abeyance, but we suggest that in any planning for a new auditorium the item of music be considered, and that some special facilities be made available. Among these should be included a great organ, such as adds so much to the pleasure Denver people find in their great city meeting house, or San Francisco's, or any of a number of other cities where the public hears the best of music from time to time, with all expenses borne by the community. Till the time when this can be cared for at the charge of all, much thanks to the enterprising local singers and players who have made the present concerts possible.

Mothers and Life's Struggle.

Of all the tragedies, the death of a mother is perhaps the most heartbreaking. It does not matter whether the children are young or grown, the loss of their mother alters the whole world for them. How easy it is to understand then the loneliness for his old mother in Sweden that drove a young and penniless immigrant to suicide in Omaha the other day. Stranded in a friendless community, he must have felt that the distance between him and the old home was so great as to make it as if she were actually in another world.

To most of us, however, no matter how far we depart from the old hearth, the knowledge that back there a mother is waiting, anxious to serve, is an everpresent help. If we fail in life's effort, or even if we bring disgrace upon ourselves, we know that there is one person in the world who is always ready to comfort us, and to encourage us to begin anew.

With the death of a mother it is as if the whole business of life alters. No longer is there any buffer between us and hard fate. The struggle becomes one without quarter, a bitter and merciless one. If we lose, there is no one to whom we can turn who will understand, no one like a mother to soothe a bruised soul or a suffering body.

No Disguises Needed.

Just what aching void will be filled by the revival of the Klu Klux Klan is enigmatic. The evil conditions out of which this secret force sprang in the reconstruction days following the Civil war have passed. Race hatred and intolerance or undue self-assertion by negroes are not prevalent enough in the north and west to warrant the reported intention to extend this masked order from the south. And even if these conditions did obtain, no such methods of terrorism as were used by the ancient clan would be necessary or advisable.

The traditions of the Klu Klux Klan are not such as to inspire public confidence. If the idea of violence and terror is absent from this reincarnation, the choice of the name fails to give the promise. What is needed in all parts of America is less heat and more light. The original Klu Klux Klan, was full of heat and shunned the light, and its white masked and shrouded horsemen have no more proper place in this age than does an African voodoo society.

Greece may have all the self-determination she cares to exercise, but will be required to choose between "Tino" and the Allies, just the same.

Young democrats at Lincoln will need more than a vision to get the old machine into good running order again.

A little readjustment of Nebraska freight rates might help more than potato growers.

No, gentle reader, the burning of Cork does not forecast a minstrel show.

Bandits are doing their shopping early enough

A Line O' Type or Two

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

TRANSFORMATION.

Sometimes I wonder if the Parthenon
Was just so perfect when it sparkled new,
Fresh from the Phidian mallet, when withdrew
First from its sides the builder's skeleton
And bade astonished Athens look upon
Its bright-hued splendor.—Now the winds imbrue
Its beauty with eternity, the dew
Paints it more perfect,—dew and Attic sun.
Like Alexandrian gem your face was cut
In gleaming candor, graven crisp and clean,
A pale intaglio whose lips between
No fragrance breathed. I found it faultless, but
Love it I could not 'til its classic cold
Warmed in Love's sun to ivory and gold.

PETRARCHINO.

A CONSIDERABLE to-do is made over a letter receivtd at the postoffice in Lancaster, Pa., which was mailed 52 years ago. In fairness to Mr. Burleson it should be said that he is responsible for only a few years of the delay.

SPOTTED.

(From the Mt. Olive Herald.)

Notice.—The party who is keeping my dog is known. Please return same to me. —Mrs. Jacob Goetz.

THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

Sir: It was a Chicago public school teacher who, in the course of a conversation, remarked, "I used to wouldn't eat carrots." SAME HERE.

BEFORE the dry era it was possible to obtain at least strap room in a street car during the rush hours; but these straps are now fought for by the persons who used to stay down town to lap up a few. Add Horrors of Prohibition.

WHY THIS PREJUDICE AGAINST BREAKFAST?

(From the St. Joseph, Mo., News-Press.)

Park College, Parkville, Mo., has issued invitations to its supporters to a banquet at the Robidoux Monday evening at 6:30 o'clock. The dinner is given in order to better acquaint the people of St. Joseph with Park college. There will be brief addresses by Mr. Stanton Olinger of New York, and President Frederick W. Hawley of the college, who, with Mrs. Hawley and Mr. Olinger, will meet the guests before the luncheon and afterward.

"BUT," the Kenosha News reports a citizen as saying, "Since Socrates learned Greek at 81, I guess I can learn scouting at 42." Wasn't it Epictetus who learned Greek at 81?

EASILY ROUTED.

Sir: Speaking of embarrassing moments, I was talking to a few sweet young things at Va. Beach, and the subject of sunburn came up. I mentioned that my face and neck were badly burned, and one of the s. y. t. replied: "That's nothing, you should see me; I'm sunburned all over." That scattered the crowd, and I grabbed a handful of box-cars and left town. JOHNNY.

OUR Tokyo correspondent, Sib, is complimented by M. W., who says that Sib is the first white resident of that city who has not commented on the presence of Chinese officials in Japanese banks.

ROSE REVERY.

Do roses know the love that in us wakes
For them? I fancy so. Perchance they store
It up in us that it may strengthen more
And more the soul. Truly, for their sweet sakes
The throbbing heart with joy and rapture aches,
Beholding them, dew-drenched, beside the door,
Reminding us of old and treasured lore,
From which, it seems, their fragrant beauty breaks,
Aurora-like, in many a far off land.
Till lo! we see them lie on Helen's breast,
Or kiss the lips of Sappho, red as they;
Or see them tossed by Cleopatra's hand
To Antony; or yet behold them rest
Where Khayyam sleeps, dreaming of yesterday.

C. G. B.

ONE of our Immortals, Mr. Lemon Ice, of Sistersville, W. Va., has received permission of the court to change his name to Lee Ice. This retires him from the Academy.

THE CABARET BEAUTIFUL.

Sir: Suggestion for a Chicago cabaret: From "The Crime of the Boulevards," a French mystery story, by Jules Claretie:

"A small hall which a few months before had been a common wineshop had been transformed into a lugubrious place. The walls were painted a dead black and were hung with a large number of paintings, scenes from masked balls, gondola parades, serenades, with a balcony scene, some of the lovers' rendezvus of Venice . . . and in this strange place with its romantic pictures the tables were made in the form of coffins with lighted candles standing upon them; and the waiters were dressed as undertakers' assistants, with shiny black hats trimmed with crape, on their heads.

"'What poison will you drink before you die?' asked one of these creatures of Barnardet."

F. T.

ONE of the leaders in the hike of the Prairie Club yesterday was Miss Fahrenbach. At last account the hikers were still trailing.

THE CONVENTIONAL DISTINCTION.

(From the Elgin News.)

The service which will be read at 8 o'clock at the bride's home will be witnessed by a company of 130 relatives and a few close friends.

"ORLEANIANS Die Less Frequently."—Times-Picayune.

Because, perhaps, of the high cost of dying. By the way, is not Orleanders a better word?

TWILIGHT.

A single lamp is shining in the square,
The darkness drops down softly—everywhere
Lights twinkle out in answer, till each pane
Has blossomed in the grayness. The day's rain
Is swishing in the gutter, scattered white
With soaking paper boats sent out to fight
Dreadnoughts of orange peel—and get away.
All dripping quiet is the end of day,
Quiet as pain and dim as peace, while far
A single street lamp beckons to a star.

MARY.

"TWO seats on a motorcycle make a convenient place for two persons to ride," says the Illustrated World. It do.

A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE.

(From the report of the treasurer of the University Club.)

Nobody knows the ultimate life of a building such as ours, but it is obvious that the building will become inadequate or obsolete and have to be rebuilt or replaced long before the expiration of our lease, September 30, 2105.

THE Bookfellows have just brought out a little volume of Miss Laura Blackburn's lyrics. Thanks, my dear, for the dedication.

WE HAVE NO OBJECTION.

Sir: Why not include Mr. Taylor Kussmaul of Newport, Ohio, in the list of Immortals? He is a superintendent of water works and can afford to.

W. N. C.

THE HAPPY HAM.

All smokers are inveterate;
Their vice becomes inured.
Only a ham can smoke and smoke,
And smoking still be cured.

PAN.

SHE passed a good night, but her temperature this morning reached 102.2 Fahrenheit."—The Trib.

Lucky it wasn't Centigrade.

LES PAUVRE POISSONS!

(From the Aberdeen, S. D., American.)

The Non-Partisan league state of North Dakota is going to have a new fish hatchery. The poor fish!

A CHICAGO man choked his wife because she pronounced a movie film poor, and a New York citizen was so thrilled by a screen melodrama that he kissed a policeman. Two schools of criticism.

B. L. T.

Harmony

What some men would like to know is why, if girls never put on long dresses now when they grow up, they shouldn't keep on wearing hair ribbons.—Boston Transcript.

Isn't Nature Wonderful?

. . . an extra good 4-year-old cow giving milk and other smaller articles too numerous to mention.—Sale bill posted at Rollo, Mo.

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.

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HOT DRY AIR BRINGS WINTER ITCH

"What can I do," J. B. writes, "to stop the itching in my legs from the knees down. It is worse at night than at any other time. I wash with salt water, but it does no good."

This is the first of a flood of letters which will flow in between now and next spring. It has been so every year for nine years. This winter will not furnish an exception. The letters begin coming in November and do not let up until about April.

Winter itch is a frequent complaint among people who live in warm, snug houses. In the main the complaints come from north of Mason and Dixon's line. A few southern people write in about it, but most of the letters are from people who live in the warmer, drier houses of the north. When I kept count one winter, it seemed to me a subject in which New Englanders were especially interested.

In winter itch there are no pimples, blisters, ulcers or anything else to see on the skin until marks made by scratching appear. The skin is dry and sometimes a little goose-fleshy in appearance. That is all that can be seen. The only symptom, itching, generally starts on the back part of the inner side of the leg, just above the knee. It extends up and down from the region of the knees, presently involves the arms, and sometimes affects all covered parts of the body. It is worse at night.

It results from living in houes in which the air is too dry and too warm. Rarely does it affect young people. It is essentially a discomfort of the middle aged and the old. Before the winter is over I suppose 50 remedies will be reported. Each has its merits. All remedies that relieve itching are of service. The best are those containing some carbolic, but there is some danger from absorption of carbolic acid through scratch marks. Greasing does some good. A trip to Florida cures in 24 hours. Living out of doors anywhere effects a speedy cure.

Those people who cannot go south for the winter and cannot live out of doors will be relieved of their trouble if they will keep the room temperature down and the humidity up. I doubt if there would be any winter itch if room temperatures were kept below 65 degrees except during sleeping hours. When one sleeps in a well covered bed the air about his body becomes very hot. I also am certain that there would be little winter itch if room humidities were kept above 50 degrees. A few old people might need to grease themselves occasionally, but that would be all.

Many Theories on Goiter.

H. L. writes: "The writer has been very much interested in the large percentage of goiter cases in the city of Cleveland. I would not desire my family to stay here if the situation along this line is very bad. I have familiarized myself with the experiments conducted by two physicians on young girls of school age of Akron and Cleveland, and noted very carefully the effect of administering certain quantities of sodium iodide once a year. I have come to the conclusion that the cause of this disease is the lake water and ask your opinion as to the correctness of that belief. What is lacking in lake water which causes a swelling of the thyroid gland, or what is contained in this water which causes this effect?

"I was advised to use distilled water for the women in my family.

"This subject is one that should interest every person in Cleveland, as every newcomer immediately recognizes the prevalence of this trouble."

REPLY.

While Cleveland lies in the Great Lakes goiter belt, other communities where the water supply is not taken from Lake Erie or any lake have as much goiter as does Cleveland. In the Pacific northwest they have more goiter apparently than in the Great Lakes belt. There some attribute it to drinking snow water. But it abounds in communities that do not drink snow water. McCarrison says it is due to drinking water that is polluted with sewage. In Portland some say it is due to drinking water that is too pure. The popular theory just now is that goiter is due to iodine hunger. No one can say definitely what causes goiter.

"Weakness of Psychic Research"

In the December number of Scribner's Winnifred Kirkland has given a most lucid, logical and effective dissection of modern spiritism, so direct and so well reasoned that it fairly deserves the reading of all who are interested in psychic research. The author resists and resents the claims made for "disclosures" reported by the advocates of the cult, and mercilessly holds them up to the test of common sense. When she has discussed the apparent futility of the communications so far received and set down by Lodge, Doyle, Cameron, Hyslop and others, saying they contain nothing but what might have been better said by the holder of the recording pen, she goes on:

"No spirit freed from the limitations of the flesh has yet been able to speak to those still held by it any words approaching an idealism, the beauty of life formulated by those teachers of humanity who learned to see and to express God as they found Him in this world. Those men who discovered God in this world are still the best teachers for us whose business is still so to discover Him. The wisdom that has come to us from the other side is but a feeble echo of the words that ring through the long, dim corridor of time, from the wisdom of Isaiah, or Confucius, or Buddha, or Jesus.

"What I ask of the writers of this new Book of Revelation is simply this: 'What have you found that is going to help me when I wake up in the morning to be a more vigorous human being, plucker for today's pain, more confident about tomorrow? And what have all your ghostly controls said that was not better said 2,000 years ago? Jesus still seems to me to speak with more authority than any ghost I have yet read about, perhaps because he speaks to my common sense, which is more concerned to know how I must live in this world than how I may live in another. The sheer human shrewdness of Jesus is undervalued; he was a most astute psychologist, and no one of his parables shows sharper insight than that of Dives. Dives, to whom death revealed a wasted life, argued that his brethren could be saved if they were addressed from the grave. The sad sagacity of Abraham's rejoinder has not affected the naive arguments of present day spiritism. If morals have not inspired them, thus runs the reply to Dives, neither will miracles. 'If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead.'

"When he said 'persuaded' the greatest psychologist of all time did not mean that the brethren of Dives might not be persuaded to sit down with ouija or an automatic pencil, and indulge in beautiful caperings about heaven, but that they would not be persuaded to stop guzzling and feed the beggars at their gates, even if one went unto them from the dead.'

"The essential weakness of spiritism is its naivete. It knows more about human nature after death than it knows about human nature before death. There is childlike simplicity in the implication of all spiritist argument that the certainty that we would live after we die would make us nobler men after we die. It might or it might not, but most assuredly there would be no automatic response of morality to the fact of immortality. To believe that an irresistible regeneration would follow a conviction of survival is to ignore both the force of human animality and the force of human spirituality. Being good is not so easy as all that. Being good is a matter of desperate choice, of blind bewilderment, of tragic failure. The fundamental claim of spiritism, the fundamental hope of all who demand material proof of survival, is that the souls of the living would be unnecessarily invigorated by this conviction. The essential point for the ordinary man or woman is not the proof or disproof of telekenisis, direct voice, materialization, automatic writing; but, granted the authenticity of all of these, what difference does it make to me and to civilization, which is but the slow, torturing emergence of a man from the beast? If there is something God-like, living secret and prisoned in our flesh, is this divine element strengthened or weakened by attempted communication with departed spirits? In other words, can we logically expect to be spiritualized by spiritism?

"It is not as a body of science appealing to mentality, but as a body of ethis appealing to morality, that spiritism fails. As we look back at the long history of our fallible race, and at the short history of our fallible selves, instinct and intelligence both pronounce that the only valid force from chaos towards capacity has been the force inside, not outside, of man himself. However feeble or staled our faith may be, most of us do believe that evolution has an upward trend. Most of us at bottom believe at least this much, that there was a purpose in making man physical and in planting him in a physical world, perhaps that he might have the transcendant privilege of discovering the divine in that world, and in himself—in other words that he might share his own creation by spiritualizing himself. He could hardly accomplish this except by self-dependence, by accepting his body as a means of revelation rather than by scorning it as a handicap. By our own clearing of our flesh-bound vision, by our own strengthening of our flesh-bound conduct, by recognition of the immortal within ourselves, rather than of the immortal outside of ourselves, shall we become men spiritual enough to spiritualize the world."

CUTICURA HEALS BOY'S ECZEMA

In Blisters On Face. Would Cry and Try To Scratch. Face Disfigured.

"Eczema started on my three year old boy's face with a kind of rash and then turned to blisters, and was red all the time. It must have burned because he would cry and try to scratch his face. His face was disfigured.

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