

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.

RAILROADS, FARMERS AND THE PUBLIC.

Our good friend, Kortright, up at Wayne, believes that unless some means is found to relieve the farm situation, Townleyism will become supreme in Nebraska. We are inclined to think otherwise. Our farmers must be aware of the situation in North Dakota, where the blessings of Townley's creed have been applied, and where twenty-three country banks have closed their doors, and more are threatened with suspension. The experiment has not worked out to produce the prosperity that was promised. The way out has been pointed many times. It is along the path of work, productive effort, a daily contribution by each of his best endeavor to the good of all. No amount of legislative enactment can change this. The law of diminishing returns, as well as that of supply and demand, still is operative. It was hard work and the resultant good crops that paid off the mortgages and redeemed Nebraska from the despondency of debt and hard times. The prosperity of the nation was restored on the same basis, which is finally the only process by which "good times" can be established and maintained.

Nor is it true that the ebullition of populism in Nebraska had any real lasting effect. From the beginning of our history such movements have arisen, swelled, declined, emanations of the healthy unrest that is essential to human progress. To ascribe to any one of them virtue other than dwells in the expression of discontent with things as they are, a protest against the doctrine of laissez faire, "let well enough alone," is to give it undue credit. Each has been of service, just as the experience of Russia with the soviets is useful in proving what can not be done, but the good that has come is because of the reaction of the one force against another.

It is not quite fair to compare the railroads with the farmers in their present predicament. As far back as 1872 the granger and "anti-monopoly" elements found vent for their activities chiefly in legislation to regulate and restrict the railroads. This course was extended and the bondage increased, until in 1916 the roads found themselves tied by all the rules that could be laid down by the Interstate Commerce commission and forty odd state commissions, sometimes acting in unison, more often independently, until the whole transportation industry was enveloped in a maze of orders, schedules, statutes and regulations, overlapping, contradictory, frequently burdensome and unjust, and ruinous in their effect.

Capital no longer sought investment in the railroads, because of the uncertainty that surrounded the operation of the industry. Then came the crisis. The Adamson law was passed, enormously increasing the expense without adding a penny to the revenue of the lines; this brought inevitable loss, and the so-called "break-down" of the transportation industry. Then followed seizure by the government, with further increase in expense and no adequate increase in revenue, an experiment which cost the public at the rate of \$100,000,000 per month, taken directly from the Treasury.

On March 1, of this year, the roads were turned back to their owners after twenty-seven months of the most expensive experimentation the government ever engaged in. The chaotic condition of the systems, the deterioration of the properties, the inability of the owners to secure operating capital imperatively needed for rehabilitation of the lines, justified the establishment of a revolving fund of \$300,000,000, to be loaned to the lines, but all of which must be returned to the Treasury within ten years.

Without this assistance, the condition of the country would have been sad indeed. As it was industry of all kinds suffered, and no element complained of inability to get service more persistently than did the farmers. The increase in freight and passenger rates was but a recognition of the need of increased revenue to enable the companies to meet conditions created by the government.

Other big manufacturers have not been given government assistance; on the contrary, they have been pursued by the government with officious inquiries, with suits for dissolution of legal combinations, and in other ways. Restriction of credit has not fallen alone on the farmer, but has been felt by all. Deflation is a painful process, and everybody feels it, just as everybody felt the upward flight. Industrial institutions are shutting down or limiting their output, retail stores are cutting prices to move stocks, workmen are accepting reductions in pay, and all along the line may be noted earnest attempts to restore something like a stable relation between values and money. This is not a peculiar class does not get all it wants or all it thinks it ought to have.

Harding and the Senate.

Whatever the future may hold, the present relations between the president-elect and the senate of the United States are the most dismal. A few words spoken from the floor yesterday indicates the purpose of Senator Harding to keep his pre-election pledge to allot to congress its full share in the government of the United States. It will be the constitution of the United States, and

not in leading strings, nor will the executive be required to submit to undue dictation from the legislature. This is as it should be.

Most of Mr. Wilson's troubles flowed from his disposition to act upon the theory he had outlined when discussing the office prior to his election. He showed how it might be possible for the president to control even a hostile congress, and so long as he had a democratic majority back of him, even though he did now and then encounter the active opposition of a considerable group in his own party, he was permitted to have his own way almost exclusively. Especially during the time of the war, although he then found himself forced at several important and even critical junctures to depend on republican support in order to get his measures through.

It was this persistent refusal to accord to congress its proper place in the scheme of government that wrought the president's utter undoing and brought about the obliteration of his party's hopes as represented by Cox in the late campaign. The next president will be the chief executive of the country, but he will also recognize the fact that congress exists and has a function other than that ascribed to a rubber stamp.

No Proposals for Disarmament.

Holland, relying on the League of Nations, is proceeding with its plan for disarmament, and is reducing its small naval force. No such faith in the league is displayed by Great Britain, where a political squall is brewing over the fact that the United States is building warships faster than its late associate in the world war. In Japan and America there has been a steady increase in the navy, but the English have paused in the construction of capital ships, largely through the fact that its present expenditures exceed its income.

Traditionally, Britannia must rule the waves, because it is not a self-sustaining nation and must import food and other supplies. The suggestion has been made that digging a tunnel under the channel and connecting England by rail with France would answer the purpose as well as any other plan, but no steps have been taken in this direction.

If there is anything in the oft-repeated assertions of brotherhood between America and England, and if each of the two nations are the great peace-loving and righteous democracies that they claim to be, there is no reason for Britain to be alarmed over the fact that America is getting a fleet as large as its own. Furthermore, England is now in the League of Nations, and with some forty odd other countries allied with it, America is not in the league, and has no alliances. But whether one is in the league or out of it, disarmament thus appears to be distrusted. If America were now a signatory to the covenant, the same feeling would obtain, as thus far no actual plans for disarmament have emanated from the international conference at Geneva.

George W. Holdrege.

In the news columns of The Bee this morning appears an announcement of peculiar interest to the people of Nebraska—the retirement of George W. Holdrege from his active connection with the Burlington railroad. Half a century ago this quiet, self-contained man, just out of Harvard, came to Nebraska as a clerk in the general office of the B. & M., then located at Plattsmouth. Fifty-one years of wonderful growth have passed since he took up his life work; he has seen the railroad he has served expand from a few miles of track straggling across the prairie into a mighty network of tracks, covering Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana; he has seen the state come up from a frontier to a proud position in the sisterhood of commonwealths; he has seen Omaha, the young and sprawling "camp," grow into a great metropolis, a center of cultivation and commerce, of intellect and industry. His years with the Burlington have been busy ones, covering the span of the nation's greatest development, of civilization's swiftest progress, and he can look over a marvelous record of human achievement and truthfully say: "All of which I saw and part of which I was." B. & M. headquarters without "G. W. H." will never be the same; orders no longer signed by those initials will make the operating force look twice at them, but a fine old gentleman can take a little rest, knowing that he built well, not only for the railroad he served so well, but for the people, in whose hearts he holds a place he never will fully realize.

Hoping for a White Christmas.

For all the cold weather that Omaha has escaped this season we are truly grateful, but not all are willing to sacrifice the beauty of a white Christmas on the altar of practicality. A little more of tingle in the air these next few weeks might be expected as a prediction in almost any well conducted almanac, but if one looked through the records of past years, it probably would be found that the present temperate weather is not at all unusual. Compared with last year, Omaha has saved \$300,000 on its coal bill, and Minneapolis claims an economy of \$1,000,000, but it is to be feared that sooner or later, cold weather will eat into this. Nature has a way of evening up, and prophecies will now appear to warn of a late spring, or a long cold snap. If this cold weather is to come, there could not be a more ideal time for it than at Christmastide. It may be that there have been as many green Christmases in the past as white ones, but we remember the ones that came in with snow beat, and thus we hope, without let it be said, exercising any influence.

A petition for the pardon of Victor Berger and others indicates a lack of faith in their final vindication by the courts. These irrepressibles will learn sometime that liberty is not license.

The Union Pacific has plans for remodeling the Tenth street viaduct, which reminds us that the union passenger station question still is open.

A Kentucky village, 126 years old, asks to be relieved of its charter. Its citizens should know by this time what they want.

No red ink will be used for writing balances on the city books this year, for which the taxpayers will be properly grateful.

Kansas proposes to adopt a "cabinet" similar to that of Nebraska. The idea is spreading.

The League of Nations also got some plain talk from Canada.

A Line O' Type or Two
New to the Line, let the quips fall where they may.

ASSURANCE.
I know you not, yet this I rightly know—The talk that sickens with its worldliness, The everlasting and the morbid glow, On what we wear and eat and how we go, The selfish, common, and unlovely show That swells my heart with heat and moodiness And chafes my spirit in a sharp dross, Can scarce impair your eyes' serene glow, And should we sometime meet, I think, indeed, That you would speak as to a fuming child, Pointing some good I, witless, failed to read, Revealing cause why I should rest, beguiled, With spring of hope, and simple-thankful hours That give off light and scent like breathing flowers.

OUR opinion, already recorded, is that if Keats had spent fifteen or twenty minutes more on his Grecian Urn, all of the stanzas would be as good as three of them. (And I think that if A. B. had put in, say, a half hour more on her sonnet she would not have rhymed "worldliness" and "moodiness." Of the harmony, counterpoint, thoroughness, etc., of verse we know next to nothing—we play on our tin whistle and make remarks as "My coffee is things which we avoid, perhaps needlessly. One of these is the rhyming of words like utterly, monody, lethargy, etc.; these endings seem weak when they are bunched. Our assistants will apprehend that we are merely offering a suggestion or two, which we hope they will follow up by exploring the authorities.

THE SIDE-SPLITTING "DAMN" AND THE "BOLLYWOOD" END.
Sir: Is there anything you can do to stop the virtue humor of my lady friends which finds expression in the merry quip, "You go to hell," or the interlarded "damns" used to make witty such otherwise dull remarks as "My coffee is getting cold," or "We had a good time at the dance last night." My erstwhile roar of laughter became first a little, little, trill, then a mild grin, now a fixed faint smile, and I am losing my reputation for appreciative humor. As I hold you, in a sense, responsible, since you began it (in my refined circle) with your w. k. poem on spring, I now ask you to help.

B. GRUMP.

"TOWARD" sunset of a California evening, Peter B. Kyne and I—no man ever had a better companion than Peter B. Kyne—drove up to one of those picturesque old missions in southern California. "Ray Long in the Cosmopolitan." May we not congratulate Peter?

THE S. S.
Sir: The w. k. jingle sent in by C. D. F. reminds me of another old-time verse applicable to the same standard of excellence: "Folks like to pamper the prodigal son, Maybe no more than they'd oughter; But no one as yet has been able to get Any veal for his prodigal son."

JAY AYE.

THE attitude of our universities and other quasi-educational institutions toward Greek is that 81 is the proper age for beginning the study of it.

Sweet Are the Uses of Advertisement.
Sir: The funniest thing you ever put in the Column will never be named; it doesn't exist. The most beautiful thing about a Greek column cannot be found among its dismembered parts; it isn't there. Your paragraph, for instance, about the couple who were fired from their apartment because they brought forth their infant who hid fair to wreck the place, and that other about the careful young couple who told children who advertised for rooms—neither of these alone is a smile-compelling world-beater, but together they are delightful.

The funniest thing in your column is the beautifully deft assemblage of its component parts; its shapely philosophic shaft shining with personality, throwing into ridiculous shadow the pretense of a Los Angeles and the mediocrity of an Iowa, and fluted and polished with the charms of the whole world, the capital of adoring verse and a restrained foil, age of Pagan indecencies daintily infolding its fronts; its pedestal of true knowledge of its material, its base, best thing in the Column is the Column itself.

B. B.

MR. BERTRAND SHADWELL would be obliged if some reader could put him on the track of an antiquated poem, the first stanza of which goes somewhat like this:

"I love all doges both small and great
No whelp or hound more a stranger;
Yet there's one kind of dogge I hate,
The doggerel in the manger."

"GRABSKI Urges Polish-German Trade Contract."
When grab meets grab

Perverseness.
Sir: Why is it that when the thermometer is a flight of steps below zero, and no steam in your apartment and you are huddled in a shrunken bathrobe waiting for the laundryman to bring home your other shirt, why is it, I ask, that the family across the court selects that precise moment to hang up their laundry?

J. F. B.

ONE might say, as the philosopher said when he capsize his inkstand, "Damn the nature of things!"

FROM the order of services at the Englewood Baptist church:

Offertory—Andantino B. flat. Lowden Duet—"Lead Me Gently Home." Thompson

WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR ONE.
Sir: Every one who tries to write English must sympathize with your endeavor to find a word which will designate an assemblage of spectators as "audience" does a body of listeners. But "optence" is not happy; it is a hybrid—a Greek stem with a Latin suffix. It will not do, even though that dreadful hybrid "automobile" has fastened itself upon the language. I have determined never to buy an automobile; I shall have a Ford instead. But to return: One might say "vidience," but the Latin stem does not permit that formation. How would "speience" do?

CALCITHROUS.

THE first recorded life insurance policy was issued in London, 1583. It was typewritten by 13 individuals.—Milwaukee Journal.

The machine must be in the British Museum.

The Second Post.
(Concerning a somewhat used ford.)
Ritting you in regard to the ford I got from you the Engin was cracked all down the right hand side and it had to be opened and it never would pull and all the barings was out of the front wheels—I had to have it pulled in every time I went out it no good now I thought I would ride and tell you so if you want to come after it you can for I have done payed you a big price for it for it was no good at all I liked not got home with it and you could hear it whisel for a mile or tow though the crack.

"FIVE Couples Are Freed of Martial Law."
—Dayport Democrat.

Naturally the p. r. let it ride.

HARROWING UNCERTAINTY.
Sir: I suggest some means be devised for proving one is not the reporter seeking Chicago's politest. A gent held an L station door open for me today because I was carrying a big bag, and man lurked near me all the way up the stairs, very evidently awaiting bestowal of the \$50 accolade.

A CANDID butcher in Battle Creek advertises "Terrible cuts."

ANOTHER candid merchant in Ottumwa, Ia., advises: "Buy to-day and think to-morrow." Ain't it?

(From the Kewanee Star-Courier.)
Hatter calf, all black, trade for hog, 8 months old, the calf is Geo. Brandy, 121 West Sixth street.

ANOTHER B. B. (we shall have to number them) asks us how far back goes the announcement, "Shortage of Christmas trees this year." Durno. It was one of the first things we remember reading.

B. L. T.

Ban the Brood.
Senator Poindestar favors a protective tariff on peanuts to keep out the Asiatic product. We favor legislation to keep our foreign nuts of all kinds.—Augusta Herald.

Or Man, Either.
An advertisement in a Western paper reads: "Found—An untrimmed lady's hat." We did not know the profilers had left an untrimmed adv in the land.—Louisville Post.

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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UNCLE SAM, M. D. AUTOCRAT.
When the United States takes charge of a people very foreign to its people, habits, customs, habits and environment and governs them automatically it rarely makes itself popular, but does make a record which, pity is, America seldom take to heart in ruling themselves.

The latest illustration is our government's record in the Virgin Islands. In 1917 we purchased three islands—St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John—from Denmark. At the time it looked like a transaction in the real estate, since the population, which in 1855 was 43,178, had dwindled to 26,051. The death rate being considerably higher than the birth rate, it seemed safe to predict a time when the islands would be no population.

The Navy department worked out these several lessons for us.

Surgeon, Hakonson, says: "The gradual extinction that threatened the Virgin Islands was not a race suicide, but a race homicide. Plenty of children were being born, but the average life was short with the enemies of life killing at the average annual rate of 31 per 1,000."

A part of the decrease in population, estimated at about two-thirds, was due to excess of emigration over immigration. Another part, estimated at one-third, was due to excess of deaths over birth. Since 1917 the birth rate has gone up from 24.6 to 29.1 and the death rate has gone down from 31.7 to 20.7. In the time the people suffered from the after effects of one hurricane disaster and from the influenza epidemic of 1918.

More than 92 per cent of the population are negroes or persons of mixed white and black race. There are American communities with large negro populations, but they probably ask the Navy department for detailed information as to how it was done.

There was no typhoid fever. This in a rural negro community living on the border of the tropics is remarkable. How was it done? By vaccination. In addition to the health department took charge of sanitation of privies. There was only one death from malaria. The report says "it is not clear that malaria will claim any more by death as long as the present control of mosquitoes and rational medical attendance is maintained."

The decrease in diarrhea among babies was by far the largest reduction in any unit of disease. Better care of the infants given credit for most of this improvement.

X. Y. Z. writes: "I. How does radium cure fibroid tumor of the uterus? Does it break up the tumor or shrink it? Is the treatment always effective? 2. Do fibroids of the uterus ever become cancerous? 3. Are x-ray treatments beneficial for fibroids of this nature?"

REPLY.
1. (a) By slow destruction and absorption of the fibers. (b) No, but nothing is more so.
2 and 3. Yes.

It's Not Beneficial.
D. F. writes: "Would a spoonful of sodium phosphate taken every morning be harmful?"

REPLY.
I think so. Habitual use of any mineral salt in considerable quantity is bound to do some harm in time. For one thing, taking a daily dose of a teaspoonful of sodium phosphate causes constipation.

The Mountain Section.
E. L. B. writes: "I. Is the climate of North Carolina beneficial in cases of lung or bronchial trouble? 2. If so, which part of the state would you recommend?"

REPLY.
1. Yes.
2. The western or mountain section.

Better "Forget 'Em."
M. S. writes: "I am a girl, 21. About four months ago I noticed a great many red veins on my thighs. I have tried hot baths, very little walking, and rest, but they do not disappear; in fact they do not bother me in any way."

REPLY.
I suggest that you "forget 'em."

Try Some Self-Control.
C. McP. writes: "I would be very thankful that know if there is any cure for insomnia or if there is any method that can be used to induce sleep?"

REPLY.
If you will go to bed quietly soon after supper, at peace with the world, with no problem on your mind, resigned to stay awake if you have to or to go to sleep if you can, you will get plenty of sleep. If you want to take a warm bath or to make use of the counting sheep formula there is no objection to them provided you do not keep yourself awake working them. Some people get themselves on edge in prolonged preparations for sleeping. Some concentrate so hard on counting sheep that they keep awake. There is very serious objection to the use of sleeping drugs. Insomnia is a result of lack of peace and calm, mental or emotional. It may be caused by wild, disorderly or intense thinking or by unbridled emotions. The only permanent cure is the cultivation of mental and emotional control.

Dieting Most Important.
Mrs. E. C. writes: "Is there any water in Sharon Springs or its surroundings that will cure diabetes?"

REPLY.
There is no spring water that will cure diabetes. It is claimed that certain mineral waters are of service in the treatment of diabetes, but dieting is the backbone of treatment.

Not Very Dangerous.
Mrs. S. R. S. writes: "I have one child, a boy 4 1/2 years old. He suffers with his throat and tonsils at the least change of weather. He gets blisters on his tonsils. The doctors told me his tonsils should be removed."

REPLY.
1. Is it a dangerous operation?
2. I heard that there are some new machines which cut them by electricity. Is that true? Is it dangerous?

REPLY.
1. Not very.
2. Many tonsils are removed under local anesthesia without ether. It is about as dangerous as the other.

Gunsight
We Don't Care.
It is announced that there will be no reduction in the price of diamonds. This is a tough jolt for the plumbers, paperhangers, electricians and others of the prosperous class.—Los Angeles Times.

A Difference.
"Hold-Up Man Refunds Victim Carfare." Showing the essential difference between a footpad and a profligate.—Kansas City Star.

Worth Her Wait.
"So the young heiress has promised to marry you in three months. Isn't that a good while to wait?" "It may be, but she's worth her wait in gold."—Boston Transcript.

SHORTS GAVE AWAY A FORTUNE
"TO PLEASE ONE WOMAN" WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WHEEL

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At Bowen's at Falling Barometer Prices.

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The workmanship, material and the genuine Tennessee Red Cedar is the best we could buy, realizing that nothing is too good for our customers.

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The Bee's Letter Box

Some Words of Warning.

Omaha, Dec. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: It seems that European diplomatic cunning has taken control of the League of Nations at Geneva. But the western hemisphere, through Argentine republic, Canada and Australia, has given notice of its action to the big European powers. The western continent will not under any pretext surrender its principles to an antiquated European diplomacy. The United States should compliment Honorable Pueyredon for his true American spirit as a delegate of Argentine republic to the League of Nations. England and France have met their match in the Argentine delegate.

Let us not, as Americans, take the friendship of England and France too seriously. The attitude of England, France and Japan in the far east, especially in China and Siberia, is not any too bright. The Vanderbilt deal with the soviet government of Russia seems to create a friction that causes a cold chill up the spine of England and France, who wish to monopolize the oil industries of the world as well as the seas. Drunk with the victory of the late world war won by America and Russia, England and France dream of getting a strong foothold in China and Siberia. A Monroe doctrine would no doubt protect China from the danger of European greed of conquest. Vanderbilt's deal with soviet Russia should not concern England, France or Japan. America has a right, by the consent of soviet Russia, to develop the resources of Siberia, which is Russian territory. Let America keep her vigilant eye on China and Siberia and not tolerate a European conquest of these countries, and let us beware of European diplomacy that might land us into another world's war.

JESSE MARTEL.

N. B. America has paid the price; let us be grateful to her by refusing to play into European diplomacy.

Nickels and Dimes

Built one of New York's most wonderful buildings—the Woolworth—the highest in the world. Not many of us

Want to Build Skyscrapers

But we want a home, we want a Savings Account. We want a fund for old age, we want money to educate the children, to give them a chance.

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make hay while the sun shines

Why not be governed by that old, wise proverb—that good, sound logic—"Make Hay While the Sun Shines"? You are in the best years of your life, your best earning days—your "Hay-making Days"—they will not last long. You are getting along nicely, everything is rosy, you are perfectly contented; but bear in mind there are rainy days ahead—Prepare for them now!

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Are you making hay while the sun shines—are you preparing for the rainy days? SAVE a little of your income EVERY week! Open a SAVINGS ACCOUNT in our SAVINGS DEPARTMENT! SAVE! Assure yourself of Comfort and Contentment in old age, and they will be Chery Days—Sunny Days!

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