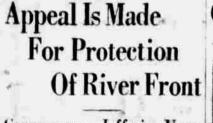
THE BEE: OMAHA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1921.



Congressman Jefferis Urges **Governmental Action to Stop Erosion From Florence** To Omaha.

Washlogton, Jan. 31. -- (Special Telegram.)-Hardly had . Commissioner Larson of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce reached Omaha from last week's trip to the national capital, to participate in a discussion of the housing problem conducted by the United States Chamber of Commerce when he wired Congressman Jefferis that the Missouri river was again liable to break out of ounds and again take toll of Douglas county's valuable lands. Mr. Larson wired: "The Missouri

river is cutting and is likely to break through the north of Carter and Old Florence lakes, endangering 3,-000 acres, where residence and industries are located. Protection is needed along five miles of river front. We should have \$150,000. Drainage districts are practically organized for building of a dike." Knowing the devastation caused by last year's freshets along the path of the river outlined in Commissioner Larson's telegram Congressman Jefferis and Randall K. Brown interview Chairman Rodenberg of the committee on flood control and presented to him conditions as they ex-ist along the Missouri river on the Nebraska side of Florence to Omaha. They urged that governmental action be taken to stop essin.

Mr. Rodenberg, who knows the situation along the Missouri river,

specially in its upper reaches, said would call in an expert from the office of the chief engineers to look over the matter and make such rec- sued yesterday by Dr. J. F. Edwards, ommendations as would start necessary relief, but he could not C. Herrold has been commissioned guarantee legislation in view of the to make a drive for cleaner dishes in crowded condition of the legislative all restaurants. program.

Corner Newstands Must

Pay \$10 Monthly to City The city council committee of the whole agreed yesterday to grant to the mayor authority to issue percondition. mits for maintenance of sidewalk news stands on corners at Sixteenth Farnam and Sixteenth and Douglas streets. A payment of \$10 per month to the city will be re-quired. It was the sense of the council that permits should not be issued for these or other locations for news stands it adjoining property owners object.



trict court.

TS TOASTED

Girl Student Who

Disappears Sought

Miss Blanche Spellman

Miss Blanche Speliman, 18-yearold student of Barnard college and daughter of Benjamin Spellman, prominent New York lawyer, who has mysteriously disappeared from her home. Several days ago she left home to go to school and has not been heard from since. Her parents can advance, no reason why she should leave home and believe she met with foul play. A nation-wide search is being made for her.

Restaurants Ordered To Sterilize Dishes

Dishes and drinking utensils in all restaurants must be sterilized after being used, according to orders isthe city health commissioner. Dr. W.

"Disease germs lurk in these cat-ing and drinking utensils," Dr. Edwards said, "and we plan to have every eating house proprietor scald tableware after it is used. Kitchens must also be kept in a more sanitary

TO THE PUBLIC To meet the changing conditions of trade and do their part in bearing the financial burdens that obtain, the Master Plumbers of Omaha have de-cided to reduce their charges for labor to \$1.75 per hour in place of \$2.00 as heretofore charged. Effective on and after February 1, 1921.

Illinois Central Directs Attention to the Grade Crossing Problem

For the four-year period ended December 31, 1920, there were 4.350 per-



New crisp, fresh spring dresses for little misses, 2 to 6 years; dainty baby models and a variety of harmonizing shades with hand embroidery; wee little patch pockets; some are smocked, others are belted;

13,936 yards in all, beautiful "Zion" wash laces, 1 to 4 inches wide, suitable for camisoles and underwear; val laces and insertions; Normandy vals; beading top vals; this is an extraordinary purchase; many patterns and

Pretty little checks and

stripes; also solid colors; va-

rious attractive models; all

these are new spring line

sons killed and 12,750 persons injured in automobile grade crossing accidents in the United States.

For the same period there were 158 persons killed and 659 persons injured in automobile grade crossing accidents on the Illinois Central System. Analysis of these cases shows that crossings considered the safest are actually the most dangerous.

A serious automobile grade crossing accident, involving personal injury or loss of life, is usually followed by a demand upon the railway for the elimination or "protection" of the crossing involved.

Crossing gates do not entirely eliminate accidents. People become educated to rely upon the gateman instead of upon their own faculties. If the gateman errs, the danger of accident is very great.

Electric warning bells do not entirely eliminate accidents. If they ring a great deal, automobilists disregard them. In addition, there is always the possibility that a bell may not be in order just at the moment of greatest danger.

Crossing flagmen are not infallible. The human element enters into most accidents, and crossing flagmen are like other human beings. Some of the most disastrous automobile grade crossing accidents have occurred at crossings where flagmen were on duty.

One of the results of crossing "protection" is to teach the public that cross-ings are safe. The opposite should be taught. All railway grade crossings are dangerous-the "protected" as well as the unprotected crossings. This should be impressed upon the minds of everybody, beginning with the children in the schools.

There are about 8,000 grade crossings on the Illinois Central System. It would cost approximately four hundred million dollars, or substantially more than the combined stock and bond issues of the Company, to eliminate them by separation of the grades. The following is quoted from the report made by the Grade Crossing Committee of the National Association of Railway and Utilities Commissioners at Washington in November, 1920: "To eliminate all grade crossings in the United States would probably cost as much as all the railroads in the United States have cost."

Outstanding features of this question are: 1-Inability of the railways to eliminate all grade crossings at any period within present vision. 2-The unreasonableness of some communities insisting upon the railways doing things for them that cannot be done for all. Every community has its dangerous crossings.

One state could not reasonably expect the railways to eliminate all of its grade crossings unless the same thing were done in neighboring states-in all states. The same principle applies to cities and towns.

The railway grade crossing problem is usually considered from two viewpoints-the railways and the public. There is the viewpoint of engineers and firemen, which should also be considered. Their duties are nerve-racking, and the habit of automobilists in racing to crossings, and darting upon the track immediately in front of locomotives, has a great tendency to confuse and distress them. They do not want to be involved in accidents causing personal injury or loss of life. They ought to have some assurance that an automobile will be brought to a stop before it is permitted to cross a railway track.

The benefits derived from the elimination of grade crossings by the construction of overhead bridges and underpasses-the only plan promising absolute safety-accrue largely to the public in safety and convenience. Therefore, when crossings are eliminated, the expense should be divided on some fair basis between the taxpayers receiving the benefits and the railway. If the people of a community paid in proportion to the benefits received when a crossing is eliminated, demands for eximination would be less frequent. More crossings could be eliminated.

The automobile, in proper hands, is an agency of safety at railway grade crossings. It can be driven up close to the tracks and stopped in perfect safety. That cannot always be done with a spirited horse. Therefore, the increasing use of the automobile and the decreasing use of the horse should be solving the grade crossing problem, instead of making it worse.

We recognize there are crossings that should be eliminated, but the crying need is for some plan of action that will prevent loss of life and destruction of property in automobile grade crossing accidents that can be put into effect immediately. One practicable remedy, which would cost but little, would be to inaugurate a great crusade against carelessness of automobilists at railway grade crossings. Require them to Stop, Look and Listen. No automobilist who does that will ever meet with an accident at a railway crossing.

Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited. C. H. MARKHAM, President, Illinois Central Railroad Company.

