

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 Highway... 3. A short, low-rate Waterway from the Corn Belt to the Atlantic Ocean.

Railroad Problem Looms.

In spite of federal legislation that was designed to give the railroads all they needed, it is declared that the transportation system of the United States now faces bankruptcy.

Market conditions, together with the penalization of shippers by high rates, have resulted in a surplus of cars and locomotives, and the roads are laying off men and putting others on part time.

Instances of the burden of freight rates on all bulky products from lumber and coal to corn lead one to doubt whether business depression has limited freight traffic much more than high freight rates limited business.

Whatever the fundamental cause, the effect that is now being seen is a demand for cutting the wages of the railroad workers.

Are any other economies practicable? The public knows nothing of the problems of railway management, but engineers of note have been calling attention for a long time to the waste of coal in the railroad business.

It is conceivable that other methods of preventing waste lie close at hand. Cutting the wages of labor is one way, but science may have something additional to offer.

The Unknown Dead.

General Pershing gives his voice in support of the plan to honor "an unknown dead" soldier in the name of the nation.

Redistricting in Nebraska.

The omnibus bill, setting up congressional, judicial and legislative districts in Nebraska, is merely tentative, we take it.

having one-sixth of the population of the state. It is not fair, then, to cut this to 13, and so allot to others three members that properly belong here.

The legislature is going to have a delicate task in subdividing Douglas county into districts, also, but may accomplish that without much friction if the job be approached in a spirit of fairness.

The Will of the Few.

The case for moving picture censorship is fairly summed up in two letters, published in The Bee today.

Has man's moral fiber so deteriorated that divine law must now be bolstered up by human enactment? Are we as a nation become so flabby in mind and conscience that we must select an anointed group and clothe it with power to determine for us what is good and what is to be forbidden?

The Bee believes that ample authority exists under the law as it now stands for the suppression of any improper exhibition; that law is and has been operative for a long time.

The proposed censorship of moving pictures is a thing apart from the so-called censorship of text books to be used in public schools.

The main question, however, is: Have the people of Nebraska sufficient moral stamina to stand for themselves and make a deliberate choice between right and wrong?

Give Hitchcock an Ear Trumpet.

Even the democratic members of the state legislature join in the resolution calling on Senator Hitchcock and Senator Norris to vote for the farm tariff bill which is now up in congress.

The state legislators have their ears close to the ground, and know what the people are thinking. Senator Hitchcock, who has opposed the farm tariff bill and finds himself in company with the various interests who wish to exploit the farmer for the benefit of the manufacturing industry.

Enormous Waste by Fire.

Incendiaries caused \$21,596,915 damage in the United States, in the five years from 1915 to 1919, but this is small when compared to the loss from other and unintentional causes.

The national board of fire underwriters makes these figures public after an analysis of 3,500,000 adjustments. Electricity was found to lead as a cause of fires, with a total of blame of \$84,086,471.

With the exception of lightning and incendiarism, every one of these items can be reduced by added vigilance.

France starts out its national economy campaign by forbidding government clerks, who earn \$27 a month from wearing diamond-studded hairpins.

When a Japanese sentry killed an American officer, a note was sent to the mikado, and now that an American sentry has killed an American officer, Uncle Sam has no one to write to but himself.

A new source of taxation that would at least seem healing to the naked eye is suggested by the governor of Pennsylvania, who asks a license tax of 5 cents a square foot on billboards.

Any gentleman believing that the world will end in 1925 will find plenty of people willing to hold his money for him while he goes to meet Gabriel's foot.

Germany no doubt thanks France for the compliment conveyed in the \$36,000,000 indemnity bill.

A Line O' Type or Two

Along the sky the turrets go High-towered, and adorned with the fire. The sunsets. Never rovers there Who move so tirelessly and slow.

Through Grecian seas the bright oars sped For one like you in days of yore. Goaded to some exotic shore. For good red gold to crown your head.

STUDENTS in the School of Journalism should know that a non sequitur often enlivens a news item.

THE TRACERS ARE AT WORK. Sir: Please consult the genealogical files of the Academy and advise me if Mr. Harm Poppen of Gurley, Nebraska, is a lineal descendant of the W. K. Poppen, famous in profane history.

A GRAND AND GLORIOUS CLIMATE. (From the Los Angeles Times.) Wanted—Competent white maid, not over 35 years of age, for general household work.

ACADEMY scouts have left for Eau Claire, to seize Miss Attapella Boote, who has resigned from the faculty of the high school.

The Pipesmoke Carry. Sir: Your recent reference to Tawab and his leg-eredman brought back delightful recollections of the north woods.

Did you ever have with you Pets Biran or "One-Eyed Charlie"? In later years, when Tawab was not available, these two attempted to fill his place.

ASIDE to contritis: It will not be necessary to copy out the wheeze beginning, "I got your letter about my account please be patient," etc. Just send us your clipping.

George Moore as Playwright. (From "The Coming of Gabrielle.") The wise man knows that it would be stupid to attempt to continue his youth; for even if he could do so by the aid of striped trousers and morning coats, he would be robbing life of its variety.

Germany's idea of art is somebody crowning somebody, and generally a fat woman does the crowning.

A woman in love believes easily. Henrietta's intention in sending for me was to make plain a truth often overlooked; that it was not absolutely necessary to forget to eat one's husband's dinner if one intended to misbehave oneself in the afternoon.

A REAL novelty is reported by the Minneapolis Tribune, in an account of a wedding. The bride's bodice, we read, "was made in surplus effect."

THE WORK WILL BE DONE AT NIGHT. (From Engineering and Contracting.) Mont, Whitehall—T. T. Black awarded contract for grading road through Cottonwood canyon, known as the Nigger Hollow, at \$50,000.

THE new leisure class having had its fling, it is now possible to buy silk shirts for about one-third what they were selling for.

SEND US A BARREL. Sir: I'll tell you a good Ed Eyer's older is this time. Usually he keeps two hired men this winter he's getting by alone. H. B. K.

APPLICATION is made by J. K. Hogbin of Omaha to change his name to J. K. Baldwin. Ben Davis please write.

Wow, indeed! After You have been consuming Pork chops, lamb chops, veal cutlets, Hamburger with and without Pot-roasts, chicken, and ham For some time— And then, One fine day Your butcher winks at you and says, "Member that fancy stuff Been hanging couple weeks now." And you get a real Porter-house, Firm, pink, well-marbled, Thick white layer of corn-fed fat— "Boy, ain't it a—oh, boy, ain't it a—oh, Briggs— What I mean to say is, Wow!"

SH-H-H! On Main street in Buffalo, near the Hotel Ironopolis you can have "Tattooing Done Privately Inside."

GETTING ACQUAINTED. (From the Merrill Wis. Herald.) John Boeckel called at his home on Tuesday evening.

SHALL we not revise Shakespeare? The chariest maid is prodigal enough If she unmask her beauty on the Bough.

A NEW FIRM IN FISH. (From the Kearney, Neb. Democrat.) Fresh Smoked Fish & Haddies at Keller's Market.

OUR interest in base ball has waned, but we still can watch workmen on a skyscraper throwing and catching red-hot rivets. B. L. T.

Blissful Ignorance. Noting that a correspondence school urges that lots of people can write scenarios and don't know it, the Boonville Republican rises to remark that they are far outnumbered by those who can't write them and don't know it.—Kansas City Times.

The Bee's Letter Box

Wants a Censorship. Omaha, Jan. 31.—To the Editor of The Bee: In your leading editorial of Friday you objected to moving picture censorship because it imposed the will of the few on many.

I heard of a legislator who complained of a picture he saw last week in which only 12 men had been killed. The Western Laborer quotes another man who saw a show in Lincoln that was "2 per cent moral and 98 per cent rotten."

These pictures are made by men, some of them were formerly bootblacks, race track gamblers, prize fighting attaches or white slaves.

I believe that a generation raised and fed on the trash that children now see will be educated to be godless, lawless, lewd and vicious.

The press should hold America for American ideals, which those unscrupulous adventurers have pushed to the last frontier.

I speak for myself alone in this communication, and not as representative of a committee. ELMER E. THOMAS.

Bad for the Eyes. Rushville, Neb., Jan. 29.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have read with care your editorial in The Evening Bee of the 28th on "Public Morals and the Censor."

But I fear you err when you farther say "that father and mother know what sort of amusement is wholesome—and what is bad."

Even should we admit that the fathers and mothers know what sort of amusement is good and bad, and the fathers and mothers attend some of these picture shows and point out to their children some things they fall to approve, the average child will assume that this is the only one that ever has been wrong.

In short, it is all but impossible where there is a "picture show" every night and where the parents of the picture show, in a town where the young people are "picture show crazy" it would be about impossible for the average father and mother to keep their children from them.

Why permit improper and immoral exhibitions to be nightly shown in brilliant colors on the canvas?

We have (and justly, too), a state board of education whose duty it is to examine and supervise with care all the books that are to be as a guide to the young mind in our public schools.

REPLY. 1. A well ripened banana is excellent food, easily digested and of high value, if it is well chewed.

2. I think tuberculosis experts are agreed that consumptives should eat more than normal people of the same weight taking the same amount of exercise.

3. Would not something in this line and as to whether the old idea of stuffing or eating, appetite or not, is discarded be of help?

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an alluring imprint on the young eye that will reflect its baneful influence in mature age. Why censor the instructions to be given the other senses and leave off the all important one—for it is well known that far more evil is taken in by the eye than all the other senses of the body.

"An Investment in Contentment" Is what some one has called a Savings Account. Shares in The Conservative are such an investment. It arouses ambition—behind the growing account is the desire to make it worth while, to make your capital count—to own property—to buy or build a home.

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How long? How long will its tone last? That is a question which you should ask of any new piano, the tone of which charms and delights you. It will last as long as the sounding-board retains its arch.

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