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 pave-ment 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.

Why Not Let the People Decide?

Whether the fight over House Roll No. starts on the floor of the house today, the middle of next week, or at any future period, one thing should be kept clearly in mind. That is that the bill as written merely adds a third to the already existing methods for obtaining an expression by the people on the question of municipal electric lighting.

This point is deliberately obfuscated by certain proponents of the measure, who persist in the attempt to deceive by insinuating that only through the Metropolitan Water District of Omaha can the sought-for boon be obtained. This is not true, Under existing law the city commission may, or the people by petition can compel it to, submit the alternative proposition of purchase of an existing or erection of a competing electric light and power plant. No power given the commission or the citizens is more plainly expressed in law than this.

Why not let the people of Omaha pass on this proposition?

If the Water board feels that the extension of the plant at Minne Lusa is essential to the well being of the community, it is within the exercise of the citizenship rights of its members to set on foot the movement by petition, without troubling the legislature to enact a special law, giving the Metropolitan Water District of Omaha "paramount" authority to submit the question.

The legislature should take full cognizance of this fact. Also, the members should be well advised as to the position of Mayor Smith, who has been brought into the controversy, and who has been misrepresented in the same manner as has the general aspect of the question. Mayor Smith was elected as an advocate of municipal ownership of public utilities. He was a champion of the purchase of the existing gas plant, ment he feels that certain provisions of House Roll No. 1 are inimical to the best interests of the public his adherence to the principle involved in the general question should not be challenged.

House Roll No. 1, if enacted, will permit the citizens to vote only on the extension of an existing plant. No option of purchase of another is granted. The bill also restricts the city in its right to contract for service, by giving to the Metropolitan Water District of Omaha a monopoly of street lighting to the extent of its ability to provide for public needs. Now the city deals direct with the company, regulating rates and other conditions of the contract; under the provision of House Roll No. 1, the decision is finally referred to the State Railway commission, taking the matter entirely out of the hands of the citizens.

Omaha is not suffering from the exactions of an unregulated monopoly. Relations between the city and the Nebraska Power company are adjusted on the decision of the city council, and not by a tribunal at Lincoln, where the community has only a collateral interest. Under the control of the city council, electric service is still furnished to Omaha on a prewar cost basis, while the charges for gas have been

greatly increased, as all users know. If the legislature really wants to assist Omaha in the management of its own affairs, House Roll No. ! will go to deserved defeat. for it does not provide for anything the citizens do not already possess, and does take away some powers they now have. Why not let the, people of Omaha pass on this question for themselves?

Protect Groups from Libel.

A bill is pending in the state legislature-Senate File 217, by Cooper of Douglas-which aims to define, prohibit and punish any "malicious defamation, expressed by printing, or signs or pictures, tending to impeach the honesty, integrity, virtue, reputation, character or patriotism of the people of any nationality, race, religious denomination or sect, thereby exposing them to public hatred, contempt, ridicule, prejudice or disfavor."

The Bee can see no good reason why such a bill should not pass. No one is particularly anxious to add to the legal restrictions placed upon his business. A newspaper is in the same position as any other industry in that regard. The fact is, however, that individuals now have protection from libel. It is right and proper that they should. There is no reason why the same protection should not extend to the groups named by Senate File 217, provided, of course, it be restricted to safeguarding them from malicious publication of untruths.

Hog Island Navy Yard.

Finally the United States is in full possession and undisputed owner of the Hog Island navy yard. This is one accomplishment of the war that may yet be of immense benefit to the world. It was called into existence at a time of great stress, and grew under terrific pressure from a swamp to be the greatest ship building plant in the world. It was not required to accomplish its full destiny, for the war ended just at the time when ships began to slide down the ways in "quantity production" at Hog Island. The total investment is less than has been represented, only \$66,000,000 being expended on the construction of the yard, with all its build- | them?

ings, shops and equipment. As turned over it has a property value of \$140,000,000, surplys material to the extent of \$60,000,000 and ships valued at \$22,000,000 being included in the transfer. It may or may not be continued as a government enterprise, but whatever its ultimate destiny, it will stand a monument to the spirit that Americans exhibited in the winning of the war. Possibilities of peace uses for the plant are as extensive and as alluring as those for which it was first called into being, and, if the government is to engage further in the transportation industry, it has here at hand a mighty

Politics Provokes Profanity.

good start.

When you read in the news columns that Gen. Charles Gates Dawes used some sulphuric language before a congressional committee, keep in mind that he was under some provocation. He was being questioned as to certain transactions in the name of the United States while he was at the head of the "S. O. S." in France. We feel very much inclined to put in with General Dawes, at least to the extent of endorsing the general tenor of his remarks.

First of all, it is not fair to parade the doings of the army in France as a screen for the waste here at home. Those who were in command of the American expeditionary forces had a definite object to accomplish, and time was the first and most imperative factor. Any method or means by which the winning of the war was expedited was and is justifiable. If General Dawes contributed to the great end we all had in mind through his efficiency as an organizer, making of the service of supply a real agency of service to the army, and it appears that he did, he could only do so by co-ordinating all the various branches of the service, and keeping each keyed up to top speed. Perhaps it was wasteful, when compared with private enterprises operating under peace-time conditions, but it was war and at the front. A vast difference exists between the situation dealt with by the officer at the head of the "S. O. S." in France and that which engaged the disorganized and widely scattered agencies that pretended to perform a similar function in America.

However emphatic the following words may sound, they hit a mark at which others than General Dawes are aiming:

Look at the pinhead politicians who are raising hell about promotion for men who earned them in France. They're doing it for petty reasons. It's a dirty shame. I wasn't in the regular army, but I can be fair.

We trust the careful editor of the report that is to be made to the house by this committee will not expurgate or denature any of the remarks made by the peppery Chicago banker. He had not the patience of Job, perhaps, and he did depart from the exact proprieties. But he expressed the feelings of a large and respectable element of his fellow citizens, and, while he proved that he is no politician himself, he furnished a mighty good reason for being given a place in Warren G. Harding's cabinet. Another Simon Cameron or Edwin M. Stanton might help quite a little on the way "back to normalcy."

Wood for the Philippines.

Among the interesting bits of pre-inauguration gossip that floats out from Washington is and aided in bringing about the acquisition of an item to the effect that Gen. Leonard A. Wood the service by the city. Because in his judg- is to succeed Francis Burton Harrison as governor general of the Philippines. Such a change would certainly be beneficial. One of Mr. Harrison's latest exploits was at a dinner in Manila, where he said it would be a proud day when Old Glory came down for the last time in the archi-

> A Tammany congressman, trained in the political schools of the metropolis, Mr. Harrison naturally sympathizes with the Filipino politicians who are reaching out for the reins of power in the islands. These ambitious statesmen have dreams that are not yet to be realized, but that does not prevent them from publishing their propaganda on this side, deluding many into the belief that the islanders have advanced sufficiently to be entrusted with management of their own affairs. Well posted Americans know the truth, and understand that Uncle Sam has a big job yet before him over there. A man like General Wood will serve just now to remind' the schemers who are looking to their own interests rather than the good of all that the United States does not propose to abandon its big undertaking until the work has been well

Independence was promised the Filipinos when we went in there, but not until they are capable of taking a place in the world, when they can govern themselves, and when the plain people of the islands will be made secure from the exploitation of the comparatively small group of politicians who would profit most directly from power to rule, and who would suffer least were the natives to slip back to the condition in which we found them. We have done a good work in the Philippines, and should not abandon it uncomplete. Leonard Wood could do a lot towards reviving confidence in America over there.

The Art of Living.

A lecfurer in Omaha has spoken of the life of Christ as that of an artist, meaning, no doubt. that it was artistic. The personal actions of artists frequently fall short of the well-ordered harmony of their productions, and artistic liv-

ing is much more rare than artistic creation. The perfect balance of thought and conduct is scarcely possible in a human world. It can neither be said that such complete harmony of life is more or less possible today than formerly. The world has advanced far in the last few centuries, but mainly in the direction of comfort. The old faults of selfishness, envy, and all the other unlovely characteristics that are grouped under the heading of "human nature" still remain.

When that airplane comes to carry that Iowa farmer to the dentist, why couldn't he just tie a string connecting the machine and his toothand remain at home? /

Young women who giggle ought to be barred off juries, because one snicker might explode many a finespun legal argument.

The election recount which showed that Senator Newberry had a majority of 4,334 votes constitutes the latest Ford joke.

One of the father and son meetings you don't hear much about these days is the one that used to be held in the woodshed.

Nebraska may lack several things, but who would have dreamt that a state flag was among Arkansas Gazette

A Line O' Type or Two

IN WHICH THE MINNESINGER ATTEMPTS TO INAUGURATE AN OPEN SERIES OF "BLUE LAW BLUES." sat in the mournful Campus Club,

On a Sunday afternoon. Atlantic Monthly on my knee. stared through the window at the snow the diamond flashing, Scintillating snow!

On my melancholy meditations A golden tinkle crashed: "I'was the Baron, who teaches German.

Tuning his mandolin in his cell off the reading

O, the requiescent, Oblivescent reading room! Now blessings on thee, Baron,

For thy mandolin this day! When these plinking music-petals pink the coruscating air. [result of reasonable discontent and Minneapolis on Sunday is wonderful honestly! it follows that a self-satisfied com-

O, the plinky pinky, Bebelinky Sunday! SOME people can't indulge in the occult and one that is justified by the facts let it alone. Poor old Conan Doyle appears to which stimulate a desire for im-have gone completely off his bean. He believes provement and which bring forth in fairies and exhibits photographs of them. Bill

MY WORD!

chase them with a camera.

(From the London Times.) Justice Avory, summing up: "I regret that such a warning should be rendered necessary by the pernicious practice which prevails of pandering to the prurient proclivities of the public by aublishing pictorial and otherwise lurid details of the ghastly tragedy which we are now investigating."

IN New York one may have liquor with his IN New York one may have liquor with his meals in hotel or case, but one is not permitted will strike a balance between the to lean out of the window and wave the bottle at passers-by. Yet some people say prohibition is will be a somewhat gradual but a growers were offered 5 cents the growers were offered 5. Cents the growers were o

A TIDAL WAVE.

(From the Daily Northwestern.) Crime ran rampant in Oshkosh Wednesday night and as a result a motorman on a street car was held up and robbed and an automobile

AS we quoted from memory, we did not do full justice to the great pome about Attica, Indiana. The original runs: "I've traveled East.

I've traveled West, I've been to the great Montana, But of all the places

I like the best ls Attica, Indiana." EITHER Mr. Kipling has revised his notion of the Seven Seas (which is unlikely), or the classification recently ascribed to him was incorrect; for in 1914 he advised one of our readers that the Seven are the North and South Atlantic, the

North and South Pacific, the Mediterranean,

Indian and Channel seas. Good Programmes and Bad.

(Albert Spalding in the Musical Courier.) Drinking contaminated water is known to be the city and the milk is carefully isonous to the body. Listening to bad music tested." poisonous to the body. Listening to bad music is no less poisonous to the mind. Mme. W., who sings in the town of ABC, gives a trashy programmes. Why? She says it

what the public wants. I say it is because she 16 not an artist. There seems to be a fairly prevalent belief that violinists' recital programmes suffer through overty of literature for that instrument.

But is the literature so poor? There exists a wealth of sonatas in the classic, romance and modern periods, Why are these works, the most beautiful examples of violin literature, so conspicuous by their absence on recital programmes? Is it that the public does not wish to listen to them, or the violinist does not wish to play them? How can the public, the general public, know them? And not knowing them, how can we expect the public to

want to hear them? He does not stop to consider that "the greatest artist is he who is at his best in the interpreattention with his partner, also incidentally with the composer, he is in reality commanding a far greater respect and position in his calling than he ever could do as a mere fiddler.

REMARKED Our Mary to a sympathetic friend, before she started cast, "As managing director, I shall not of course, reduce my sing-ing price." Quoth the S. F.: "Come over here where the Lord High Treasurer can't hear us." THE TRUTH AT LAST.

(From the Iron Mountain Tribune-Gazette.) I wish to correct an error made by me in Monday night's paper. My wife did not leave my bed and board, as stated, but I left the home myself as she told me to.

Jaimer Gustafson. ONE writing of "opera in the vernacular quotes from the official version of "Tristan":

Why in hell must I bide Without hope of heaven?"-But the real vernacular would make it "Why the" instead of "Why in WHEN FLIV MEETS FLIV.

(From the Elmhurst Press.) Last Thursday two Fords collided at the Butterfield and State road, two miles east of York Center. One was driven by Mr. Kaup of the Mammoth Hatchery, the other driven by Mr. Littleford of the Littleford Nursery of Downers Grove.

KIDNAPING should be made a capital crime; and when the kidnaped person is a child the death sentence should include drawing and

POEMS OF SENTIMENT AND REFLECTION St. Joseph, Missouri.

Sir: Realizing your wish for a poem to rival that deathless tribute to Attica, Indiana, I sat down with one hand tied behind me, and dashed

Of all the cities in this land
I think the finest, surely,
Is the one that's known to many a man
As St. Joseph, Missouri.

It has buildings high and buildings low And if in winter you should shiver. When summer heat comes you can go And jump in the Missouri river.

It has street car lines and electric light, And steam heat to make you warmer, To say nothing of an afternoon paper That is owned by Charles M. Palmer.

There are many scenes that are very fine Which are the work of the Creator, And if you want to have a good time Drop in at the Lyceum Theater.

Folks still like to drive on Lovers' Lane. Made famous by Eugene Field

And the saloons will be opened again

As soon as the Volstead act is repealed.

The landscape it has won renown With eminence and foothill, And the biggest bank in all the place Is owned by Milton Tootle.

The citizens are all modest folks Who talk without any buncombe; And one of the finest sights of the town Is a handsome man, Jack Duncan:
W. S.

"AMERICA," says Mr. Chesterton, "began with the Declaration of Independence and ended with prohibition." And it was an unidentified sage who remarked: "We fought for the ircedom of the seas; now we can drink 'em.' "ESCAPED LIFE Termer Given Thirty

Years More."—Dallas News.
Surely that is cruel and unusual. NOT TO MENTION TOPSY AND LI'L EVA. (From the Cornwall, Ont., Freeholder.) Those who have seen Uncle Tom before will realize the grandeur of this particular

WHY is it that in nearly all decisions of the supreme court the most interesting opinions are delivered by the dissenting justices?

Conservation Begins at Home. Those excited folks who are determined to save the country could make an excellent start by saving their breath.-Greenville News.

There Are Others. Cuba's trouble is said to be economical, financial and political. Put 'er there, old dear!-

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanita-tion and prevention of disease, sub-mitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally, subject to proper limitation, where a stamped, addressed envelope is en-closed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee. Copyright, 1921, by Dr. W. A. Evans.

MAKES PARKS OF ASH

HEAPS. I have just read the report of the Cleveland hospital and health survey and I was upset by the volume of things, conditions, procedures, and methods which they found occasion to criticize adversely. Of course, all progress comes as a result of reasonable discontent and being burned to boost or hold the munity ossifies and rather retrogrades

effort to remove as much of the Yeats, too, believes in fairies, but he doesn't cause of the discontent as can be removed with due regard for all the circumstances. Not all the methods and conditions adversely criticized can be remedied with a reasonable regard for all the circumstances, If they could be Cleveland would the consumer is content with the not only be in advance but far in tail end and the retailer with a smill not only be in advance but far in advance of all other American is milking the cow. Ther cities.

On the other hand, not all the adverse recommendations of the re-The if there was a wedge driven in be-iment tween the consumer and this organport will create discontent. steady and sure improvement in the

methods which Cleveland employs. however, was refused. Still we have The report found much to rec to pay from 5 to 15 cents for a ommend in the Cleveland situation. cigar, which, when tested, proves too It found a fine community spirit. No often to be only a stinker in dis-guise. One half of the pipe tobacco would be better fitted for a gas bomb city has gone further in organizing for community action. The report advises that the many separate than what we old smokers call a private agencies now doing health good smoke after supper. work weld themselves into a Cleve-To my mind, trusts or organiza-tions—which is the same—are reland Health association. The advice is good and should be followed sponsible either directly or indirectly for much of our complaint and ills by the private health agencies of of today. Real estate men through

every state and city. The climate of Cleveland is pronounced excellent for health. much of the advantage is offset by smoke and fumes. Cleveland's low typhoid rate may

be attributed to the purity of the

The rubbish and ashes have been used in building 100 acres of land on the lake front. Cleveland's wise use of rubbish and ashes to build public parks and playgrounds might well be followed by other cities. "No uninspected meat is sold in

Patent predicines also are analyzed by the laboratory bureau and many have been excluded from Cleveland, thanks to the co-opera-

tion of the druggists.

The school buildings are in good sanitary condition. However, they adversely criticized the ventilation of these buildings.

Cleveland is adequately equipped with legislation for the prevention of the spread of the great white plague. The care given in the seven health centers is worthy of high commendation.

Fully twice this amount of space could be filled with extracts from commendatory findings contained in the report.

G. B. P. writes: "What does a persistent subnormal temperature indicate in a man of 40 whose band has a daily subnormal temperature of 97 to 97.5, excepting about once or twice a week, when it registers 98.5 -- usually about midday. Within a few hours it drops back to 97.5, or very often 97. Is a very low temperature as important as a fever?"

REPLY. A persistent low temperature is not of as much significance as fever. In fact, in the absence of any symptom it generally means nothing People with persistent low temper atures generally have low blocd pressure and are a little short on

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Now conveniently located and attractively arranged on first floor. The most modern sound proof booths have been installed, a pleasant and home-like waiting room arranged, a complete line of all models of Grafonolas on display. Our Record department is now so stocked that any Columbia Record you wish you will always be able to get it here—a personal visit will bear out these facts.

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IF SO, READ THE ANNOUNCE-MENTS PREPARED BY THE THEATERS AND SELECT THE DESIRED ENTERTAINMENT.



COMMERCIAL PRINTERS - LITHOGRAPHERS - STEEL DIE EMBOSSERS LOOSE LEAF_DEVICES

How to Keep Well The Bee's Letter Box

Suggestions for Readjustment.

Omaha, Feb. 1.- To the Editor of

The Bee: I read of a good deal of

complaints of the farmers and I

hink justly so, from their stand-

point, of prices of all farm products

and retail prices of what they have

to buy, as it must be conceded the farmer cannot live wholly by what

ne produces on the farm. He must

a producer. When he goes to

muslin or any kind of dry

be reckoned as a consumer as well

goods, is it any wonder he says things that would not sound good/in a Sunday school? Especially when

he sees the millions of pounds of

of the country and no buyers, no, not

one. Then he reads of the cotton

gins in the south and their contents

the woolen and cotton mills in the

east running on part time or wholly

shut down; the cellars of the pack

ing houses bulging out with raw hides and no sales or no bids, and

shoes as high as \$15 to \$20 the pair.

hold of her horns, the other her tail,

pulling in opposite directions, the lawyer sitting on a stool milking the

cow. The lawyer, of course, had a smile. In the case of coal the whole-

sale coal men have got the horns

the consumer is content with the

Then there is the butchers' and

grocers' association. It seems to me

something more than smoke. It was

their organizations are trying to

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or financial gratuity

in seeking a perfect

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APOLLO

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For the best reproducer the

For every one the Gulbransen

expression of their

art.

influenced by price

indispensable to

termed "sublime"-

makes the

beautiful, so pure,

pound for their crop.

Then on

two litigants and a cow

wool stored up in the warehouse

spring. But it's the same old story of leading the horse to water. To my mind there needs to be a more radical readjustment of all things think they ought to be long enough to appertaining to the building of houses—wages as well as materials, and without the legs, and vice Men who have saved a few hundred no good without the legs, and vice for the foundation of a home are versa. Let us get together. not slow to see that a house that costs them, say \$4,000, cannot be

sold for that amount when Uncle Sam's dollar is worth 100 cents in purchasing power, which may or

may not occur in the next four years. I may be criticized for advocating lower wages, but as Abe Lincoln said when asked by a smart alex how long a man's legs ought to be: "I think they ought to be long enough to reach from his body to the

S. C. MALIN, 4527 South Twenty-third Street.

San Francisco, California

Dear Folks:



Rates at Hotel Whit-comb from \$2,00; 400 outside rooms. Write for folder containing map of city.

J. H. VAN HORNE,

Let me introduce Twin Peaks, two tall hills at the head of Market Street. Today, we followed a winding road around these hills. At the top. San Francisco Bay and five counties lay stretched out before us like a Turkish rug -it's wonderful! 13 minutes ago, we got back to our cosy rooms here at Hotel Whitcomb. We are now preparing to raid the Dining Room. P. S.—The raid was successful-we had a splendid dinner.

Belly Low

AN FRANCISCO



It couldn't be put into figures, could it? You wouldn't have anything happen to that baby of yours for all the wealth in the word.

Baby's nourishment-its health and growthdepends entirely upon the wholesomeness and purity of the milk you buy. It is important then, if baby is to have the right start, to MAKE SURE of the milk supply.

Don't risk giving baby any but the BEST—milk that you can always "bank on" as being scrupulously clean, pure and SA*E—and best means

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