

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.

Mediation for Meat Industry Wages.

The next step in the wage dispute between the "big five" packers and their employees will probably take the form of mediation by the federal government. Secretary of Labor Davis has the matter in hand, and President Harding has urged both sides to accept the assistance from government agents in an effort to achieve a settlement short of a strike. This is in line with the policy of the president, who has declared in favor of conciliation wherever possible in wage disputes, and who advocates conferences before rather than after an interruption of work.

This is a matter affecting not only the workmen and their employers, not only the consumers of meat, but to an equal extent the producers of live stock on the farms. Each day close to a million dollars flows back into the country in return for the cattle, hogs and sheep that are shipped to the stock yards at Omaha. With this money the rural districts meet their debts and pay their running expenses. To cut off the stream of gold, to force the holding of stock that is ripe for the slaughter, is a deed that menaces the country even more than the city.

It is not to say that the packers are philanthropists, on the one hand conferring blessings on the producer and with the other feeding the consumer out of sheer goodness of heart. But the point is to be found in the fact that this industry, now highly centralized and grown immense, partakes of the nature of a public utility. Under no conception of freedom would it be permitted to say to the world, "Thou shalt not eat." Nor should it be allowed, through any course of action, to abandon its function.

A strike vote is to be taken next Monday unless the workers can reach an agreement with the packers. The men are outspoken in the declaration that their employers are not averse to a strike, alleging that it is designed to impress on the nation the power and importance of the industry. This is denied on the other hand, and yet no sign has been given of a sincere desire to reason things out with the workers. An appeal has been made through the unions for an arbitration conference to settle the controversy in peaceful manner. No such offer has been made by the packers, and in fact they have done away with the machinery of conciliation that served so well during the war.

Is there nothing to arbitrate? Is it unreasonable that the views of 200,000 workmen and women should not be considered at least to the extent of explaining to their chosen representatives the reasons making it necessary and advisable to alter the conditions of employment? It seems that human nature has been left entirely out of account. The management of the wage revision has been as arbitrary as the farmers often charge in the case of the market price of their stock and as the consumers sometimes feel in the price of meat.

Omaha is not willing to be made a battle ground between the packers and their workers. Knowing nothing of the rights of the case, it can not take either side, and can only demand that in the interest of peace and prosperity the contending elements be induced to sit down at a conference table and make a conscientious effort to get together. If the force of the federal government is needed to bring about a meeting of this sort, its use would be more than warranted.

Not a Spy.

Nothing that has happened in a long time could make as many friends for the United States in Japan as the action of Capt. Edward Howe Watson in exposing the treasonable offer of a Japanese naval lieutenant who attempted to sell his country's naval secrets. This is fair dealing, and leaves America in a much better position than if its naval attaché should have played the role that the German military representatives were popularly suspected of taking in our own country.

It is possible that the papers had considerable value, although so much use has been made of this plot in melodrama that the public may be suffered to be a little skeptical. Evidently the Japanese lieutenant who asked 1,000,000 yen for what he claimed were the "mobilization plans against a certain country" believed he had something of sufficient value to tempt honor itself.

The clean-cut way in which the American embassy officer turned over the letters of the faithless Japanese to the authorities at Tokio ought to go a long way in dispelling the popular suspicion of America that exists in that part of the Orient.

"Seeking Adventure."

"We ran away from home because we did not have enough work to do. We were seeking adventure." This is the explanation given by two young women who deserted their husbands some days ago, and were located after a search covering four states. What sort of adventure did they seek? Or what form of employment did they lack? Their husbands are ex-service men, taking a course of vocational training at a government school. These wives, who are but 17, might have found useful employment in plenty, if not in the homely cares of housework, then in any one of a number of ways open to an energetic girl of that age. Instead of that they sought adventure. Their young husbands had

had it; war had given them an opportunity to "see life," and had sent them back physically damaged, but mentally alert, aware of the fact that the great adventure was yet before them, that of life itself. To prepare for it they set about to equip themselves through special training, to the end that they might meet the giants and ogres that lie along the path of the future and overcome them through ability developed by study. If those young women really seek adventure, they will find plenty of it by their husbands' sides, each of them sharing the quest of every newborn day, so full of possibilities of chance and mischance. Life becomes humdrum and prosaic only to those who fail to understand what its simple duties hold. Next to death, life itself is the great adventure, and its fullest chance is found at home.

Equity in the Wage Cuts.

The expected is about to take place. Reductions in wages paid by the railroads, anticipated and talked about for many months, are being announced. It may be proper strategy that has animated the managers in proceeding against the unskilled workers first, but it is equally true that they will feel the reductions as keenly as any. They are, through the very necessity of their condition, most exposed, and therefore are entitled to the more consideration. Opposed to this is the fact that an equalization of wages on a downward scale is inevitable. In this revision due notice must be taken of the proper relation of compensation to the skilled and the unskilled workers.

Experience during the war, when the federal government operated the lines, demonstrated that receipts would not meet the operating expenses, chief of which was the labor item. The recently permitted increase in rates did not produce the added income expected, for the reason that business could not stand the tax so levied. Agriculture has especially suffered, but traffic has fallen off tremendously, while certain fixed charges, including labor, have continued. Railroad earnings are far short of the anticipated 6 per cent. In the last four months of 1920, even with the increased tariffs, the earnings were: September, 4.1 per cent; October, 4.6; November, 3.3, and December, 1.17 per cent. It is imperative that retrenchment be undertaken somewhere.

The necessary saving was sought in some degree by reduction in the number of men employed, and thus the idle wage earners in the country were increased. That is clearly not a satisfactory recourse, for idleness of workers decreases consumption and halts business. Only a reduction in wages or a further increase in rates is left. General business can not stand the one, and therefore the other must be adopted.

One week from Tuesday is now set as the date on which the new wage scale will go into effect. We believe that the managers should be governed in their action by certain obvious considerations, chief among which is that a sincere effort at equalization will undoubtedly aid in solving the wage situation more satisfactorily to all than a horizontal reduction. Equity should govern the proceedings, and if the men are convinced from the first that they are getting a square deal, the rest will follow in natural sequence.

The Gamble of Oil.

For the first half century of the oil industry the producers were in constant dread of an oversupply and new fields were regarded as a menace. Today not even the decline in the price of petroleum is interfering with the search for new pools, and almost as far north as the Arctic circle wells are being put down.

The increase in production for 1920 was almost equal to the total output of 1903, and with a daily average production of 1,227,097 barrels, two days' flow last year equaled the total amount produced in 1860, and a week's production was greater than that of 1875. The 1920 total of 449,117,153 barrels of 42 gallons each shows an increase of more than 82,000,000 barrels over 1919.

The profits from successful ventures in oil do not alter the fact that one who enters the industry is engaging in a game of chance. Some idea of the gamble involved is to be found in the statistics showing that one well out of every 4.4 wells drilled was a failure. Yet the speculation continues, and more than four wells were drilled in each day of last year. High prices stimulated the business, and in the various fields of the United States 34,000 wells were completed in the 12 months.

Those who look fearfully to the time when this source of fuel will become exhausted will find some significance in the fact that these new wells brought in only about the same amount of oil that was obtained from 5,000 fewer wells the year before. Whereas the average initial production per well last year was 144 barrels, that of the year before was 166 barrels.

With so much of the territory as yet untested, it can not be said whether oil production is due to fall off in the next few years or whether fields of gushers will come in to supply us with even greater amounts.

HAVE WE EVER? OH, MY DEAR!

Sir: Have you ever published the fact that Lewis McNutt lives on Walnut street in Brazil, Ind.?
L. M.
YES, the whisk-broom wheeze was aged. You can tell the old ones; they are very good.

And Speaking of Old Ones—

Sir: In the days when you were editing or inventing "Johnson Jottings," "Plainfield Pickings," and "Greensborough Gleanings" for Hiram Atkins, and I was sending mushy verse to the semi-secular Chronicle, advocate or opponents of bills held forth with humor and eloquence in the old legislative halls. Doubtless you heard some wag with a lantern jaw and a Yankee drawl make use of the following illustration:

The opposition to the administration is like the man who drove sharp bargains. He bought shoes three sizes too large because he got more leather for his money; his hat fell over his ears for the same reason; so when he married he knew the license and minister's fee would be no more if he took a woman globeet and ex-wife. He did it. He had a woman globeet and ex-wife. One day a friend met him weeping and asked what was the matter.

"Oh—oh—wife sick!"
"Well, what's the trouble?"
"Oh—oh—appendicitis!"
"Well, don't worry—it will be all right. The doctor will operate."
"Oh—oh—that's the hell of it! The doctor doesn't know whether to operate or to blast!"
I swan to gosh if that wag's spiritual successor didn't spring the same story a few days ago in the legislature, for I cut the above from a Vermont newspaper printed last week.

"LOST—A plain, odd faced lady's watch."

Adv. Mebbe octagon shaped.
"LIMERICKS! Limericks! Write One Line and Win \$50 To-day,"—Chicago Journal.
"Limerick Chief Shot to Death."—Ibid.
Desperate diseases, etc.

AFTER you have made out your income tax schedule you feel particularly fearful over the colossal sacrifice that Germany must make.

B. L. T.

A Line O' Type or Two

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

THE MOTHER.
Last night the car was crowded, with the usual cabbit.
Of men sitting down and women standing up.
And I lily I wondered, as I clung to a strap.
If it is true, as men are asserting.
That the girl is getting loving from man.
All the chivalry of which she's deserving.
When a mother got into the shuffle.
She was an old mother, of children all grown.
And she clutched at a strap like the rest of us.
And was jostled and elbowed and bumped.
And buffeted and leaned on and squeezed.
And I looked at her face, all scarred with acceptance of life.
And the thin little figure, so negatively clad,
And the veteran faithful hands.
And the tightly held shabby old purse.
And tears came to my eyes for the rest that I saw.

For I realized that the mother had waited
For understanding and appreciation
Until her daughters were mothers.
And that she might never have it from her son.
Until she had gone where no voice would ever
United reach her.
But many a callous man cherishes the memory
Of his mother.
As of one involuntarily illusion of his life,
And his one great assurance.
Of a God of some kind, somewhere.
And it lasts him all through this life, and beyond.
And I knew that not one of those reading and
saw what I saw, because if they did,
No little old mother would cling to a strap.
Whatever their opinion of me, and my right to a
seat in a car.
MARGERY.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE WEST INDIES might consent to be sold to the United States provided a clause in the sale exempted them from the provisions of the Eighteenth Amendment for 99 years.

"I AM SURE," confides Rosalys Squiggs, "that Bill Nye would have approved Cook County English." Witness the preface to his History of the United States:
"Go, little booklet, go, bearing an honored name.
Till everywhere that you have went they're glad
That you have come."

AND surely it is another admirer who writes in the Atlantic Monthly of "history a la the newspaper."

EXCITING SUNDAY MORNING IN TOONVILLE.

(From the Fairfield Press.)
Mr. Yohe is the cashier of the Mount Erie bank. On Sunday morning he had gone over to the bank building for a shave. The fire in the office store was not burning to suit him, and he took a five-gallon can partially filled with coal oil, in which he had put a pint of gasoline, and did not mix it much. He threw some of the contents of the can into the stove and there was an immediate explosion. Mr. Yohe's clothing caught on fire and he ran across the street, passing the home of W. C. Ake, fighting the fire. Some one called to him to lay down and roll on the ground. When he did the fire was put out.

HERE is an arrangement of words that we have not seen before: M. Kirschbaum of Sioux City advertises that he is "positively the only man who pays his bill off clothing than any other dealer in the city."

THE THOUSAND AND ONE AFTERNOONS.

The Police Captain addressed the housebreaker. "George Barrington Wild," said he, "your connection with the robbery of the pink shirt is clearly established, and it is my duty to sequester you for a time from the world's eye; but I have been so well entertained by the adventures of this same shirt that I will request the complainants to withdraw the accusation if you or another person present can unfold as strange a tale. 'Your honor and gentleness,' spoke up Shagpat the barber, 'although I am, like others in my ancient profession, a man more given to meditation than to speech, I shall be well pleased to serve as an instrument of mercy, therefore you have but to bid me discourse and I will divert you with a strange narrative as mortal ears ever heard.' 'I should prefer,' said the housebreaker, 'to plead guilty to the charge of highway robbery, as I never could endure to listen to a story told by a barber.' 'Such, then, shall be your punishment,' declared the Police Captain. 'As you have resolved to hear the tale, which I am certain will be a marvel of conciseness.' 'May it please your honor,' said the bellhop, 'my uncle's story is stranger than any fiction, and deserves a larger audience than it is likely to obtain, but I will be glad to do once or twice if I am desirous to return to my position in the hotel, which I am by no means hopeful of retaining.' 'Valentine, too, looked at his watch, and Mr. Weather wax consulted. 'Improbable,' the Police Captain, noting their impatience, instructed the barber to proceed with his narrative. 'For,' said he, 'I perceive so great a desire to hear what I am about to unfold, that I bow, and twisting the waxed points of his very large moustache he began his tale.

Story of the Barber.

In the autumn of the year that has passed I was employed at my honorable craft on board the lake steamer Gull, which was a fast iron connected ports in Canada with a number on this side of the inland seas. The steamer was a freighter, accepting a small number of passengers, and this time I was engaged to carry a large number of military men, who were a soft hat and a cloak; of the conspirator type, your honors, if I may so describe him.

CURSE the pink shirt! We ought to go to bed for two or three days and cure up a particularly vicious attack of bronchitis, but we fear we shall not forget what happened to the miraculous garment, and not be able to recall it. So we are just walking around, as Dulcy would say, to save funeral expenses.

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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 a diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.
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FOR NERVOUS WOMEN.

All good educators hold that the purely abstract method of presentation is not worth much. They say people are impressed by the concrete and pragmatic. Therefore, educators make use of clinics, case records and self-determination methods in their teaching, from the kindergarten up to the universities. Having indulged in this amount of "high brow stuff," let us come back to an ordinary discussion of the nervous housewife.

Before dismissing the subject Dr. A. Myerson added a chapter in which he illustrates the various causes of nervous breakdowns in women, especially married women, by citing a dozen who represent 12 types of experiences to which women are subjected.

The first case was Mrs. A. J., a woman who developed a severe nervous breakdown because for years she was overworked and under-rested. The second, Mrs. A. D., went on the rocks because she was an over-keen, purposeless woman; well educated and marrying a rich man, she had no purpose in life except self-indulgence and vanity and no duties and responsibilities to keep her well.

His third was a group rather than a case. The type was the physically fit woman who displays nervousness, irritability and nervousness. Important factors in this group, Mrs. F. became a nervous wreck because of bad hygiene. She led a sedentary life and had very bad eating and bowel habits.

Mrs. J. developed symptoms of extreme nervousness because she was of the hyperesthetic type and never adjusted herself well to the environment of her home and family associations.

Mrs. G. got into trouble because she was overconscientious, a seeker of perfection, in vain.

Mrs. H. was an ambitious woman, discontented with her husband's ability—a person with a lot of drive, kinetic force, energy and capacity.

Mrs. I. was an ambitious woman, discontented with her husband's ability—a person with a lot of drive, kinetic force, energy and capacity.

No. 8, Mrs. L., was nondomestic. She had many of the characteristics of her husband, a domestic woman, was a member of her household. No. 9 was a childless, neglected wife. Next came perhaps the greatest tragedy of the series. It is labeled a case of hysteria in the home; the will to power through weakness. It is the story of a day dreaming, over emotional, incompetent woman. When young she was accustomed to getting what she wanted by having attacks of nerves or hysteria. She married. Having aspirations beyond the capacity of herself or her husband, she made use of her weapon—"nervous spells"—to get her way.

Mrs. C. became a nervous wreck because of an unfaithful husband. Mrs. E. was a nervous wreck because she was unfaithful to her husband.

In practically all of these it was possible to effect a cure. In spite of the fact that many of them had backaches, spine pains and tenderness, headaches, and a varied assortment of pains and other ills, the treatment employed was medicinal in only minor degrees. It consisted in investigation, study, diagnosis, revelation, frank discussion, social treatment and adjustment.

The Hardy Reporter.
W. B. H. writes: "I am a reporter in my 27th year. On January 6 of this year at Boston I swam more than fifty strokes in water thirty feet deep. Then I walked three miles after that I ate a hearty dinner and then slept soundly all night. I have been doing this stunt of winter swimming for sixteen years. My son has asthma. He has been in the hospital for a long time. He smokes. On days when he smokes little his asthma is better. He now

When Greek Meets Greek
(From the Washington Star.)
The Old North state will resound with politics, if Josephus Daniels and E. M. Simmons contest for the next democratic senatorial nomination. They know the political game. They are in the prime of life. Each enjoys a national reputation.

Mr. Daniels has been for eight years prominently before the public and especially so during the half century that he came conspicuously into the picture when the United States entered the world war. The navy's part in the great conflict was very important, and Mr. Daniels directed it. Since the armistice, naval matters have been much under discussion, and they still are.

During the two Wilson administrations Mr. Simmons has been much in the picture. A chairman of the senate finance committee—the most influential committee of that body—he directed the revision of the tariff, and he has been passed by the house, and also took a leading part in the shaping of the legislation bearing on the liberty loan and war taxation. He lost his chairmanship when the republicans gained control of the senate, but now stands at the head of the minority membership of the committee.

Since entering the cabinet, Mr. Daniels, whose profession is journalism, has become a ready and effective public speaker, and this accounts for his standing high in the hand if he succeeds in his quest, and graduates into a national legislator.

CENTER SHOTS.
Presumably the woman with bobbed hair tried everything else first.—Kansas City Star.

Think what Mr. Wilson is giving us for Lent this year.—Columbia (S. C.) Record.

What has become of the old little girl who put on long skirts and danced her house?—Quincy (Ill.) Whig-Journal.

The more we see of history as written by Henry Ford the better we like it. His production concerning those two American patriots, Benedict and Matthew Arnold.—Memphis News-Semitar.

The country will relish nothing more than a base ball game between the two houses of congress, with Judge Landis as umpire.—Indianapolis News.

There is one consoling thought about the army of unemployed. A great many of its members were formerly oil stock salesmen.—Baltimore Sun.

The republicans have enough of a majority in the house of representatives to make every vote look like a miniature landslide.—Washington Star.

The Bee's Letter Box


Example Set by France.
Crawford Neb., March 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: The news that the allies intend to invade Germany in case of refusal to comply with the terms of the indemnity, comes to many throughout our own country with a sense of exhilaration. A good many of us are human enough almost to wish that the allied demands would meet with a flat refusal, that they might feel justified in going into German territory and doing damage in some measure as was done by the German army in Belgium and France. But at the same time history points a warning finger at any too rash action on the part of the allied governments. After the close of the war of 1870, when France had been reduced to extreme poverty, her army defeated and her people disgraced, Germany taxed her to the extreme limit. They demanded that France could pay or borrow. Her purpose was to tax France so heavily that she would never be a competitor with Germany again. When Paris was captured, and the German emperor was crowned at Versailles, there was weeping on the part of the French people. They had been defeated, and now they were to be taxed so that they could not retain the common necessities of life. When someone spoke to the great statesman Gambetta, of the sad condition of the people, and how their taxes would eat up at least 40 per cent of their income to pay Germany, he said, "Never fear! Never fear! France will recover. If it were a year before you will find that the French people have readjusted themselves, and so far as appearances go, France will be as prosperous a year after the war as she was before the war began." The people of France met and talked over their condition.

Obstruction Removed.
Hobbs—Why was the will set aside?
Dobbs—It kept getting in the way of the lawyers who were settling the estate.

Not Interested in Girls.
He—Where you come from are all the girls as smart as you are?
She—I don't know, sir—I only notice the boys.—Sons-Gene (Paris.)

Them Were Happy Days.
Seems like good old times to meet a man now and then, again, with egg on his vest.—Detroit News.

TRADE MARK
WHY NOT NICHOLAS OILS
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Automatic Heater
The Automatic Janitor
The NOKOL has no soot, dirt nor ash. It has perfect combustion. It is the only oil burner approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.
IT IS SAFE
See the one we have operating in our office. Ask your friends about the NOKOL.
—Nicholas—
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Kranich & Bach, slightly used, walnut case, only . . .	\$350	
Bondoli, mahogany case, bargain, only . . .	\$175	
Geo. Steck, ebony case, in excellent condition . . .	\$175	

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