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.

First Aid for the Farmer.

The really encouraging feature of the program as being outlined for the session of congress soon to assemble is that consideration is to be given first to the plight of the farmers. This will take the form of a revival of the Fordney tariff bill, vetoed by President Wilson, which measure will be taken up at once, and its early passage may be expected. President Harding undoubtedly will approve it, and whatever of benefit may flow from it will be for the direct advantage of the agricultural industry.

The measure will have opposition, particularly from eastern interests, who are committed to a revision of the tariff along such lines as will tend to encourage foreign trade. A singular development is noted here. When the doctrine of the protective tariff was adopted by the republican party as part of its creed, the opposition went among the farmers preaching that the law was all for the manufacturer at the expense of the grower of food crops. Opponents of protection now seek to array the manufacturer against the farmer, on a reversal of position. The position taken is not fair, and those who are endeavoring to arouse a sectional feeling over the tariff are doing the country a bad service. What is aimed at now has been all along the object of protection as popularly understood. Preservation of the home market to home producers is the greatest thing the American government can achieve. Foreign trade is desirable, but it should not be attained at the expense of so important a thing as our farming interests.

The middle west is for the Fordney tariff bill. The south wants it, and wherever in the east dairying and other allied industries are carried on there is a request for it. Cattle raisers and sheep men are for it, and the fruit growers have their share in it. It cuts off competition that threatens the food producers. It may appear anomalous that in a land that but lately was looked to to feed the world, and which did win the war by saving food, a situation would develop where those food producers would be made the chief sufferers from the result of their own efforts, but this has come to pass, and it is to remedy the situation in some degree that the Fordney bill is intended.

Scientific revision of the tariff may follow later. The Underwood law is to be completely and thoroughly overhauled as part of the general plan to work out a satisfactory system of revenue, but the Fordney bill is an emergency measure, designed to give relief to the farmers of the land, and as such deserves to have the earliest consideration. When a little help is given to the home folks, then we may take up the other task of straightening out the world muddle, but we ought to look out a little for domestic happiness first.

Harnessing Science and Industry.

No recent invention appeals to the imagination with the force of the reported discovery of a metal lighter than steel and yet strong and tough. The Germans hit upon this secret alloy during the war and used the composition for the framework of their Zeppelins, but no other nation was able to produce it until now the problem has been solved by researches conducted in a steel mill at Pittsburgh.

The first thought of the average man is that this might enable the weight of automobiles to be cut down, with the consequent saving in power and gasoline. Railroad men may wonder if it can be used to lighten the weight of their equipment. In thousands of ways a decrease in the weight of metal machine parts would be of immense advantage. The immediate effect concerns only the giant dirigible balloon which is being built for the government, but it is more than possible that the product will have its peace time uses greater than those of war. The progress of aviation is not entirely a military matter, and if by the use of this light metal dirigible balloons are able to be improved, this single item would assure the value of the discovery.

The Germans, driven by the necessity which is proverbially the mother of invention, first found this alloy, but great credit is nevertheless due the American scientists who found it for themselves. Research of this nature until late years was neglected in the United States, while Germany devoted the greatest attention to harnessing science to its industries. Now in a number of technical schools the great manufacturing corporations are paying for the education of chemists and engineers and financing their experiments in order to be sure of keeping abreast of the rest of the world in just such things as this.

Billion Eat Billion.

The jingle of B. L. T., written at the close of the war, in which he remarked, "We've paid our debt to LaFayette," and inquired who else we owed, is called into doubt by the latest sensation in France, where one Jean Barnard claims to have discovered that America never reimbursed the French nation for aid and loans made during the Revolutionary war. M. Bernard also claims that part of the purchase price of Louisiana also has not been paid, and these claims have even been discussed in the French Chamber of Deputies.

By compounding the interest on these items, a Paris newspaper estimates that the United States owes something like $7,000,000,000, more than double the amount due the United States for war loans to France.

The State and Treasury departments at Washington have now made a search of the records without finding any unpaid bills of this kind. The profound discovery of M. Bernard may have been a hoax, but in the eagerness with which it was received by his countrymen may be read the thrifty hope of wiping out the war loan without either repudiation or actual payment.

Square Pegs in Round Holes.

Employers often are heard to lament the lack of really good men to fill positions of responsibility, but that does not prove that there is any real deficiency of talent in the world. Rather must it be taken as evidence of a lack of system which prevents the right man getting in touch with the right job.

Chance, which plays a great part even in the vital matter of love and marriage, functions even more freely in the choice of human occupations. On the verge of college, most young men are uncertain whether they shall turn to the study of law, engineering, medicine, teaching or what other vocation, and their decision is more than likely to be purely accidental.

Almost everyone grows up without ever really looking inside of himself, not recognizing the points of weakness and those of strength. Special talent for art, music or scholarship may be detected, but beyond this is a region seldom explored. The factors of memory, will, quickness of understanding, sureness of touch, or acuteness of any one of the senses are seldom taken into account. Such qualities as these might make for success in some special line, or for failure in another.

In the same way young people going into the employment market know little of the requirements of any job. The attention is centered on the superficial aspects, such as its cleanliness, the hours, the treatment received from the boss, and the like. The possibilities of reward in the event of success may be considered, but whether one is fitted to discharge the duties with pleasure and efficiency is seldom or never pondered. Special capabilities remain undiscovered and perhaps the job becomes one of drudgery, even ending in discharge, whereas if the person concerned should have stumbled into a place for which he was particularly fitted, both the industry and the individual would have benefited.

Much is heard about conservation of natural resources, but there is need also for conservation of human resources. One who is thrown out of a position as unfit, stands small chance of gaining opportunity to start anew without being handicapped by the thought of failure. One of the biggest problems of life is how to avoid being a square peg in a round hole.

Dark Age Methods in Georgia.

A tale that smacks of the medieval comes to us from Georgia. There a farmer, accused of an offense against the law, calmly proceeds to remove all evidence against him by murdering the witnesses. If this had taken place anywhere between the eighth and the fifteenth centuries, it would have excited little wonder. Such doings were not uncommon then, but that the record of twentieth-century America can be so stained shocks even the mind attuned to strange things. Possibly some good may be extracted from the affair.

Consideration of the crime itself must lead to closer attention to the lesser crime. Wholesale murder will undoubtedly be dealt with sternly by the law, and maybe that same law may be brought to deal more sternly with the peonage proposition. One of the greatest of all the problems of the south has been that of labor, and laws that deal with it have been generally framed on a basis that gives the least of thought to the worker and lays greatest stress on the necessity for securing a certain amount of work from every individual. Harsh laws define vagrancy, and conviction on such a charge is followed by enforced labor, the contract system prevailing yet in some localities. It was so that the negro might be kept from idleness that these measures were at first adopted, but they have proven a source of profit, and have been extended until the white man suffers from them as well as the black.

On the other hand, the peonage laws were set up to give the man not under sentence of vagrancy and willing to work some protection from the oppression the greedy were wont to visit on the ignorant. Out of the present instance may well come such a discussion as will effect the situation in the south to where more humane and worthy methods will be adopted for handling the labor problem down there.

Quest for the Odorless Pig.

Esthetes of Lansing, Mich., stimulated by Henry Ford's mechanical cow, are now casting about to locate an odorless pig. They are a thrifty lot up there, and want to use the garbage collected to produce pork by feeding it to pigs in a municipal piggery. But, the odor! No need to tell certain Omaha folks about that. Similar experiments carried on here have come to a sudden end, merely because the residents could not abide the smell that came yelling up from the piggery, although we have not yet generally adapted that word for local service.

We would like to suggest to the Lansingites that they are going about the quest from the wrong end. What they should seek is the odorless garbage; the pig in general is not an unsavory animal. Take him as he is reared in Nebraska, under the clean sky, the happy denizen of broad meadows or carefully devised "hog lots," and his porcine presence is more an inspiration than a menace. If he suggests odor at all, it is that of crackling bacon or sputtering ham, sizzling sausage or savory chop, a fragrance that not only ravishes the sense of smell but delights the whole soul of man with such promise of gustatory joy as only can be experienced by the hungry man when he senses the presence of the dainty, delectable food through its heralding smell.

However, if the fastidious Michiganders feel they can be satisfied only by the deodorized pig, we suggest to them they do not carry their experiment too far, or they may deprive themselves of the purpose of their quest. Other ways to dispose of the accumulations of household refuse may be found (Omaha still needs information on this point), and pigs may be raised successfully and never taste the garbage gathered by a city, but no way is known of depriving a pig sty of the scent imparted to it by the persistent use of sour swill.

The Omaha man who explained that his mash was for the use of a sick pig perhaps referred to one of those poor, sightless ones that find so much comfort in the moonshine.

Germany's Industrial Leader

Brief Sketch of Hugo Stinnes Biggest of All Teutons Today

London, March 28.—Hugo Stinnes, generalissimo of German industry, recently accused of plotting a strike of several hundred thousand workers in the Ruhr district to make more difficult the Allied occupation of Dusseldorf, Duisburg and Ruhroot, is referred to by the Berlin correspondent of the Times as "an earnest and dangerous patriot."

Stinnes, a multi-millionaire member of the Reichstag, has put through some of the greatest financial deals of his career since the armistice. He has been called a "relentlessly efficient, human calculating machine." It has been said that he would sacrifice every mark of his enormous fortune to bring back the monarchy.

Mine owner and coal merchant, ship owner, landed proprietor, head of a great chain of newspapers, proprietor of the very finest hotel in Berlin, trader in oils, paper, hides, jute, peat and manufactured wares of many kinds, Stinnes, the Times correspondent says, "is today the wealthiest, most influential, best known, and at the same time the least well known man in Germany."

Publicity and notoriety are alien to him, it is stated, and he prefers to remain behind the curtains in the Reichstag, permitting his henchmen and lieutenants to do the talking while he pulls the strings.

"There is nothing in his appearance to betray the man of genius," says the correspondent. "Just 50 years old, of medium height and sturdily built, with black hair and beard that show up strongly against a rather sallow complexion, Hugo Stinnes is an inconspicuous figure as he slips in and out of the Adlon hotel, his bowler hat tilted slightly on one side, his hand in his pocket, and one or two secretaries following hard on the heels of their chief in his well worn black coat and black tie. He stops to speak to no one. He has no time for small talk in the lounge with other guests. He is a relentlessly efficient, cool, human, calculating machine."

The foundations of the Stinnes fortune were laid by the present Stinnes' grandfather and increased by his father. The youth was sent to a gymnasium and later worked as a miner and attended the School of Mines in Berlin. Embarking in business for himself at the age of 23, his remarkable career began. He went with success into the coal and iron trade, becoming a prominent figure among the magnates of Rhenish Westphalia, and branched out into the development of tramways and electric power in the coal fields.

But his "real great spring to fortune," says the Times, "came with the great war."

"His fortune before the war was estimated at 40,000,000 golden marks. What it is now he probably could not say himself—possibly 1,000,000,000 marks." Newspapers now owned by Stinnes are said to number at least sixty.

"People are eagerly asking with what ultimate object all this colossal wealth is being incessantly piled up," says the Times correspondent. "Does his present association with and financing of the Volkspartie mean that Stinnes is preparing to bring back the monarchy?"

"Stinnes," concludes the correspondent, referring to the alleged truculent conduct of the financier at the Brussels Financial conference, "has measured himself once with the Allies and received a severe snubbing. He is not likely to risk a second similar rebuff. Nor is he likely to forget. Let the Allies in their turn remember that, witness his unconciliating manner of the conference table, he is an earnest and dangerous patriot."

Alleged "fantastic salaries" demanded by German film stars has caused film producers so much concern that a move has been made toward limiting their pay. The moving picture companies, in making this announcement, gave out a list of salaries which they believe exorbitant.

The salaries of a few women reached 800,000 marks yearly, it is said, although the usual pay for first-class work is about 3,500 marks daily while employed. It is customary to hire even well known performers by "the piece." Those under regular contracts are paid from 7,000 to 30,000 marks a month. Unknown players are paid as low as 150 marks a day.

German burglars face a new obstacle in the strongbox which a Berlin inventor has just placed on the market. The portable steel box is equipped with an alarm which can be set before the lid is closed.

When the box is lifted or moved ever so slightly the alarm sounds and can be stopped only by unlocking the box and adjusting the mechanism which controls the buzzer.

Hotel guests are buying the strongbox and placing it against their doors at night, or setting it on luggage which they wish to protect. The boxes are produced in various sizes and with alarms varying in strength from an ordinary buzzer to a fire alarm gong.

Paris March 28.—To mark the place where the German advance in the spring of 1918 was stopped it is proposed to erect pyramids along the entire front beearing the inscription: "Here was arrested the rush of the barbarians."

The number of pyramids and the places where they are to be erected will shortly be determined by Marshal Petain.

Taxing Vocational Students

Now the 100,000 ex-soldiers in the United States who are taking vocational training are informed that they must pay an income tax on the maintenance compensation they receive from the government while under instruction. This is not all they must pay. A tax is even demanded on the tuition the government pays for them at educational institutions and on the books, materials and appliances furnished them free of charge. Of course, congress has passed no law utilizing such an extraordinary source of revenue. The congress which exempted its own members from special war taxation until the war was virtually over would hardly invite the comparisons which a law of this sort would make inevitable. That the tax gatherer is sent in pursuit of the vocational students is due to the fact that the bureaus at Washington have been legislating again.

The most remarkable feature of this attempt to raise revenue from the government's students, which comes about by reason of a ruling by the internal revenue commissioner, is the assumption that the books, tools and other educational facilities "become the property of the recipients." But the voucher which the student is compelled to give when he obtains these necessary things specifically sets forth that they are "the property of the Vocational Training board," are subject to the orders of that board and must be returned when training is discontinued. The entire ruling seems ungenerous, arbitrary and unwarranted. If a desperately wounded ex-soldier requires hospital treatment with the continuous attention of night and day nurses, would the entire sum representing the cost of his care be credited to him as income and taxed? Some degree of disability incurred in the service is necessary to eligibility as a vocational training student. They are as much wards of the government as hospital patients; vocational training supplements hospital treatment. The ordinary citizen is not taxed on gifts made him. Why should these men be taxed on gifts from the government? Why, particularly, should they be taxed on the $3,000,000 worth of books already furnished them when the books are only borrowed?—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Chinese Revere Print.

To destroy a newspaper, even though it is a week old, shows, in the opinions of the Chinese, a gross lack of character; to crumple a printed advertisement shows the haste of unreason; to toss a book carelessly on the floor shows a tendency toward violence; to tear a printed page shows that you are mentally deficient. It is a sad commentary on the quality of much of our reading that we of the western world, where illiteracy is rare, have so little reverence for the printed page.—Chicago Journal.

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.

BEWARE SCAPHOID SCAPULA.

The palm readers tell me that one question patrons want to know about is the length of the life line. "How long will I live?" is a question that the phrenologist is called on to answer. Life is a great adventure and death is ranked as "the great adventure."

Some men glory in adventure while others cling to the beaten path. But all, bold and timid, some openly, some covertly, are anxious to pull back the curtain a little and steal a look into the future. Witness the wave of spiritualism that is sweeping over the land just now.

In the Osler Memorial volume I find a contribution by Dr. W. W. Graves of St. Louis which lays down a sign of longevity or its opposite which has more scientific foundation than the life line of the palm, the knots in the skull or the images in a crystal.

Do you remember Katisha and her wonderful shoulder blade? Had Katisha been around Dr. Graves he might have robbed her famous bone of its romance and he might even have gone further and predicted long life for its possessor. The shoulder blade, known to the osteologists as the scapula, is the heavy triangular bone lying on the upper part of the back of the ribs. One corner of the triangle co-operates with two other bones to make the shoulder joint. The edge of the scapula which runs north and south lies not far from the backbone and nearly parallel with it.

In stooped shoulders the chest is barreled and the flat shoulder blads slips forward on the sharply curved ribs. In such people the shoulder blades stand out so that they are sometimes called "winged scapula." It is easy to feel the backbone edge of the shoulder blade in such people. It is not even difficult in flat-backed, heavily muscled people.

Now for the sign. In a vigorous, strong person this backbone edge of the shoulder blade is arched toward the backbone. In people without much vitality this edge is straight or it curves in the other direction—the concavity points toward the backbone. The sign of weak constitution and, therefore, of tendency toward short life is the "scaphoid scapula." The name sounds troublesome and maybe the description also is, but how about the life line of the palm or the knots on the skull?

The expert skill of the palmist, the phrenologist and the fortune teller sometimes commands diamonds, automobiles and liveried servants. Dr. Graves bases his opinions on the following observations:

Old people who have successfully weathered the storm of life were found to have convex edged scapulas.

In children the scaphoid scapula was frequently found.

A very large part of the sickly children had scaphoid scapulas.

Children with certain inherited diseases and defects generally had scaphoid scapulas.

Dr. Graves has had some people under observation for more than a dozen years and he observes that the scaphoids have a greater average tendency to succumb to the vicissitudes of life. Even the most sheltered life is full of adventure. The venturesome have more hazards. Dr. Graves' point of view is that the scaphoid scapula shows inferior physical constitution and that those who have it succumb to the hazards of life on an average at a considerably greater ratio than do the members of other groups.

Can Keep Up Lessons.

B. C. M. writes: "I have a daugter 16½ years old, who is attending the university. She takes vocal lessons. She has a goiter. I just noticed it last fall. It is small, but we are worried. Can I treat it in any way? Should she stop singing?"

REPLY.

A small anatomical goiter in a schoolgirl is not necessarily a matter of moment. Advise with your physician as to giving her small doses of iodide for a while each spring. There is no reason for discontinuing either her vocal or regular lessons. Be certain to teach her poise, equanimity and control.

Exact Nature Unknown.

Mrs. A. M. T. writes: "1. What is Raynaud's disease and is it fatal? 2. Please tell me about carbuncle of the urethra? Is it an unusual disease, does it terminate in cancer, is there a cure and does standing or straining at stool cause it, or what does cause it?"

REPLY.

1. In typical Raynaud's the tip of a finger, toe, nose or ear will become almost bloodless, then gangrenous and finally will slough. In mild cases during the attacks, the affected member becomes blue or white and the circulation is very poor. The mildest cases are related to cold feet, chilblains, etc. The exact nature of the disease is not understood.

2. Carbuncle of the urethra is not an infrequent condition. It seldom terminates in cancer or any other serious condition. All such cases get well under treatment. Some cancers of the urethra resemble carbuncle.

The Mental Age

(From the Boston Transcript.)

In the midst of many troubles comes what would be a new source of anxiety and alarm, were some current ideas concerning human mentality to be taken at their face value. It is well known that during the war the men in the American army were subject to a variety of mental tests. Since then tabulations based on the results of these tests have been made for the purpose of showing the mental ages of the American population. The conclusions that some of the students of the statistics draw from them are enough to convince the pessimistic that human progress must come to a standstill.

Volumes have been written about the government's psychological experiments with the men of the army. One of the commentators announces that the tests indicate that 70 per cent of the people of the United States have a mental age of less than 15 years. He wants to know if we can hope to have a successful democracy where the average mentality is 13. He reveals in figures by means of which the great number of men described as posessing C-minus intellects are compared with the select few who form the band after the letter A.

It would be very depressing were it not for the fact that we are all familiar with what those mentally 15-year-old boys did on the battlefields of France. It is not forgotten that the speed with which those psychological infants, taken from civil life, were transformed into soldiers amazed the world. When sensible folk are told that the American people, or 70 per cent of them, will never grow up, and that this sad prediction is based on army tests, the sensible folk are likely to receive the news with derision. They are not alarmed about the perpetuity of American institutions. They know that the government at Washington will still live long after the gloomy deductions from the figures made by the psychologists have been forgotten.

The Bee's Letter Box

Showdown Is Called.

Omaha, March 27—To the Editor of The Bee: Who is this fellow, "Welfare Sponsor," who raps the Welfare board? Is he afraid to sign his name and come out with his complaints into the open like a real man? His argument is no good. He has no argument in fact, for he gites no specific instance where the board has failed, while many cases where it has done good can be enumerated.

I believe this fellow, "Welfare Sponsor," is really a midnight prowler who wants to go to underworld places where he can do those terrible dances to his heart's content, drink all the moonshine he wants to, and cut all the capers that a fellow with his peanut-brain craves. Otherwise, he would come out in the open and sign his name to the letter he wrote you. Let's hear from him again, only make him tell who he is and just what he means when he says the Welfare board is no good. I'm for law and order. What's he for? ROBERT W. DANIELS.

For the Fags.

Omaha, March 26.—To the Editor of the Bee: And now, the dear souls want to take our cigarets away from us.

Well, when they draft a bill against cigarets, why don't they draw up a sister bill against skirts that reach but to the knee and have a hard time doing that, silken hose that gives the leg the apperance of being bare, dresses that droop in front almost to the waist-line?

The war is over—for the sake of argument, although no peace treaty has been signed—but during that time millions of men learned the sweet pleasure of a cool cigaret smoke; and they don't propose to lose that pleasure now.

While the boys were overseas, they oozed the dry law through, but there's going to be some difficulty in passing an anti-cigaret law.

Why make all these laws, just to force young Americans to become lawbreakers?

America may be dry, but many a youngster who would have been afraid to go into a saloon until he had reached the age when he didn't care much for hard liquor, reaches eagerly and craftily for the moonshine. And every time these High school boys take a drink "from the hip" they get a little bolder, snap their fingers a little quicker at Uncle Sam, and pretty soon they're on the high road.

And as sure as shootin,' if this anti-cigaret law gains momentum among the dear sisters who hang onto Pussyfoot Johnson's skirts and won't let go the apron strings of dear Lucy Page Gaspipe, there'll be more law-breaking and this crime wave that's causing so much worry among leading police officials of the country will develop into a veritable typhoon.

Lay off the cigaret—it's doing mighty little harm the way it is now, but just restrict cigarets, and there will be lots more harm done.

ONE WHO KNOWS.

Interested in Ringer.

Omaha, March 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: What about Mr. Ringer? We pause for reply.

Of course, Mr. Ringer, at least to the naked eye, appears a bit balmy in the bean, so to speak, and the wheels in his attic revolve upon one subject—licker; but who do you pick to succeed him?

Look the list over carefully, boys. Give it the north, south, east and west. Is there a candidate who is likely to do better?

We'd like to know and we've given it up.

PERPLEXED.

Sees the Issue Plain.

Omaha, March 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: Rally round the flag, boys, rally once again, for now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their city. The city campaign is on and the issue has been made as plain as day, for isn't Judge Sutton leading the forces of right, and United States Marshal Dahlman opposing him. It's down to a case now of standing by organized government as it has been for the past two years, or falling back into the grasp of the old Third ward gang.

How is it that United States Marshall James C. Dahlman may run for a public office and still hold his job. Isn't there some kind of a restriction to that? Seems funny to me there hasn't been a little more said about that. And while I'm writing to you, I want you to know that none of the women in my neighborhood will ever vote for him.

MRS. H. G. R.