THE OMAHA BEE DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING-SUNDAY

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BEE TELEPHONES tate Branch Exchange. Ask for Department or Person Wanted. Tyler 1000 For Night Calls After 10 P. M.:

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The Bee's Platform

- 1. New Union Passenger Station.
- 2. Continued improvement of the Nebrasks 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.

Nebraska's Revenue Law.

When Governor McKelvie addressed the legislature on the occasion of his second inauguration, he advised that our "obsolete" tax laws be revised. He qualified this, however, in this language:

At once I would recommend that the complete revision of the tax laws of the state be not undertaken at this session. This subject is so filled with ramifications and is so farreaching in its effect that I think you may be fairly satisfied with a few initial revisions, contenting yourselves beyond this with the settling up of adequate administrative machinery.

Responding to this suggestion from the executive, Senate File No. 65 has been brought forward and is now under discussion before that body. It comprises 72 pages, modifying the existing revenue law in many essential ways, especially by the innovation of new and ingenuous forms of levying taxes. Some of these are morally certain to involve long and devious litigation, in order that definitions of terms used and purposes expressed may be finally determined. Particularly does this apply to the new provisions aimed at "intangibles."

In defining this word the language used is somewhat confusing. The bill recites:

Section 3-The term "personal property" includes all property other than real property

Section 4-The term "tangible property" includes all personal property possessing a physical existence, but excluding money. The term "intangible property" includes all other personal property, including money.

In thus arbitrarily locating money as an intangible, the bill paves the way for some further nice distinctions. For example, in the case of a coal merchant, whatever stock of coal he may have on hand when the assessor visits him is not to be included as a physical possession, but is added to the capital of the business. The same is true of a dealer in oils and gasoline. The bill does not make clear whether it is to be dealt with as capital employed or capital invested, and it is quite in the range of possibilities that some dispute Fill arise over this. All shares of stock are to be assessed and the tax collected at the headquarters of the corporation in Nebraska, except in the case of building and loan shares, and the tax on these is to be paid by the individual owners. Why building and loan shares should be thus discriminated against does not appear.

A number of devices apparently intended to entrap certain forms of property that has hitherto escaped the tax gatherer are incorporated in the measure, and all of which may take on controversial form before a settlement is reached. Perhaps it is intended that, in the matter of revenue reform Nebraska shall progress by stages, rather than take on a complete new system, as the governor suggested. However this may be, the novelties proposed in Senate File No. 65 are such as will definitely open the way to a proper application of the rational laws of taxation, if a legislature may be found courageous enough to embody them in statute form. Recognition of the truth that public revenue is only to be raised by taking a portion of private property, and that all taxes should bear equally on all property, that none should be taxed twice, and that none should escape its proportionate share, will help in the final solution.

The Necessary Y. M. C. A.

Go to any city worthy the name and it invariably will be found that the building of the Young Men's Christian association is one of the landmarks. Just as we expect to find a city hall and a public library, so do we all expect the Y. M. C. A. It has grown into an institution of real public service without which thousands of young people in the cities would feel lost. The first place most sensible young men make for on taking up work in a strange city is this one. It provides shelter, recreation and exercise at small expense, and saves many people from straying into temptation and false ideas.

It is as a public institution, and as such is deserving of wide support. A campaign for \$50,-000 to supply the budget for the year is opening. now. Good citizens are leading the solicitation of funds, and good citizens will give as freely as their circumstances permit to this cause. One of a city's assets is its younger generation, though through neglect it might be turned into a liability instead. The problems of the future are the young people's, and it is well to assist them in preparing to assume the burden with courage and ability.

Pink Preferred.

A few warm days now and the momentous question will confront the American people, Family councils will debate the matter and after decision is made there is sure to be some member of the home circle who will rap out an "I told you so" at every sneeze.-

Without any further circumlocution, let it be said that changing into lighter underwear is once more a national issue. There is a sense, too, in which the advisability of such move is not only o for individual consideration, but should also ome before all business institutions. Too many industries have been wearing heavy black garents of mourning and misgiving and would do

ell to change to something lighter. They are like the old negro mammy who into a dry goods store and asked for a suit black underwear. The clerk expressed some

curiosity, whereupon she explained: "You know my husband died the other day. Now I am putting on moahning, and when I moahns I moahns, I do."

A great many people have been wearing black underwear ever since last fall. What they should do, now that spring is here and commerce reviving is to dye their garments a cheerful rose color and get away from their mournful thoughts and actions.

The Bee and Eugene V. Debs.

A friend of The Bee at Beatrice writes to express his surprise that this paper should contemplate unmoved the possible pardon of Eugene V. Debs by the president. This paper is not averse to the pardon of anyone when clemency is warranted. It has never agreed with the policy of Debs, and particularly has challenged his politics. Debs was not convicted on account of his politics, but was sent to the penitentiary because he deliberately violated the law of the United States. His punishment was richly deserved. At the time of his arrest, his trial and conviction, and on several occasions since then this paper has commented on the case, and at no time has it sought to mitigate the nature or extent of the offense. Any man guilty of the crime of sedition, flagrantly committed in time of war, as his was, merits punishment. Attorney General Palmer recommended that Debs be pardoned, but President Wilson allowed the case to lie over for his successor. It was this, probably, that induced Attorney General Daugherty to extend to the prisoner the unusual privilege of traveling alone from Atlanta to Washington. The outcome of that interview has not been made part of the public record, but may. What The Bee said at the time it reiteratees: We hope that Debs was not offered pardon on condition that he recant his views. Such a form of bribery is despicable. Also, that we fell he is no less a demigod in than out of prison, nor does his incarceration check the ardor of his followers. The law will hold him until satisfied or the president intervenes and says he has been punished enough.

Clearing Business Skies.

Progress toward better and sounder business conditions is reported in the monthly review issued this week by the Federal Reserve bank at Kansas City. Wholesale trade in the Tenth district, which includes Omaha, is said to continue its improvement, and February sales of dry goods equaled or slightly exceeded those of the same month in 1917, 1918 and 1919. An interesting fact is that the millinery sales in this district surpass those of February a year ago. This is ascribed to the new practice of retail dealers. who formerly visited eastern markets and who now are buying in small lots at their nearest home trade centers, saving railroad fares and high freight and express charges. That somebenefit to home markets ensues from the heavy costs of long distance transportation is worth noting.

A gradual expansion of retail trade is recorded, although the improvement is said to be spotty because "the slowing down of industries in some sections has a tendency to restrict the purchasing power of the people." Department store reports from the principal cities of this territory are said to show better sales in February than in January, and though prices are lower than a year ago, the total turnover is nearly equal.

Barometers such as these encourage the belief that the storm weather is ahead.

Are Vacations Sinful?

This is a poor time of year for Senator Smoot to come forth with the boast that he has never taken a vacation. No wonder he is quoted as saving that his life is very uninteresting. He has never known the pleasure of looking over the highly colored summer resort booklets and railroad folders. He knows nothing of sitting in a boat under the glare of a midsummer sun and coming home with his entire face peeling loose and two small fish. There are a lot of mountains sprawling around in his home state of Utah, but probably if he climbed one of them the senator would call it work and deny that he was just out for the fun.

The witness further confesses that he never attends base ball games nor plays golf, that he works sixteen hours a day, and would rather raise the tariff than attend a theater. His only recreation is sleeping seven hours each night.

It takes all kinds of men to make a world, and no doubt there is room for more such as this Spartan; given half a population of his kind, the other half could rest and play without stint, and still the world's work would be done. It is a mistake to idle away one's time, Senator Smoot declares, but the general verdict of his fellows will be that it is an equally sgreat mistake to be so bound up in the business of banking, wool manufacturing and politics as to find no time for or joy in what the poet calls "living by the way as we journey through life."

Place for Mr. Taft.

Washington correspondents are uncommonly favored in the recess of congress by having Mr. Taft to write about. After disposing of Col. George Harvey as ambassador to the Court of St. James, the wise ones oiled up their typewriters again, and dispatched William Howard Taft to fill that place. Then another thought occurred to one, and he had Chief Justice White retire, Charles Evans Hughes named for the job, and Mr. Taft made secretary of state. Not entirely satisfied with this arrangement, some of them now propose to put the greatest-in a manner of speaking-living ex-president directly on the bench when Justice White steps down. Of course the latter has not indicated an intention to doff the ermine, but that is a trifling detail. The point is, Mr. Taft is available for any place the president feels like setting him in. He has served as envoy, as governor of a dependency, as a supreme court justice, as a cabinet minister, and as president. He is just at the moment the great and good friend of the American people at large, ready and willing to serve. If President Harding can find a place big enough for William Howard Taft, he will honor himself and the republic by securing his services.

Instead of seizing the city halls the German revolutionists are blowing them up. This would indicate that they don't want any government at all. Germany with "verboten" would be a strange land.

When the allies and the communists get through with Germany, Wilhelm will hardly be able to recognize his old home.

Sarpy county certainly is entitled to a plebiscite of its own.

French Loans All Repaid

United States Not Debtor to Great Sister Republic

(From the New York Times.)

An interesting chapter of American history has been opened by the assertion of Jean Rernard, published in the Eclair, Paris, that America received from France during the Revolutionary war days, in financial aid for which no restitution has been made, sums which if figured at comund interest would today amount to 90,000, 000,000 francs.

The inference obtained from the statement was that America had failed to meet obligations assumed at that time and the most authentic records available here disprove that theory. They show that America, after the formation of the present government, repaid all of the French loans acknowledged as such. These amounted

to \$6,352,000 in American money. The same records show that America, apparently accepted as gifts from France about 12,000,000 livres or \$2,287,080. Of this amount 10,000,000 livres were in the form of subsidies or gifts, extended during the period from 1776 to 1781, and 2,000,000 livres represented interest on an acknowledged loan of 18,000,000 livres, of which the principal, with interest that accumu-

lated in latter years, was repaid. The government of Spain also extended 1,000, 000 livres through France as a subsidy or gift to America in 1776. The total of these guits from France and Spain, which the records indicate were accepted and never repaid, amounted therefore, to 13,000,000 livres, or \$2,477,670.

Jean Barnard in his statement left the infer ence that the much larger sum of 280,000,000 francs was involved in the original sums ex-tended to America by France. There is nothing in the American records to indicate that any such

The further statement by Bernard that America has never paid 80,000,000 francs on the purchase price of Louisiana, apparently is discredited by the records, which represent full payment to have been made.

The statistics in regard to these financial transactions are of unusual interest at this time because of the agitation which has been carried on in some quarters to have the United States forgive a part or all of the debts incurred by France during the World war. Some have seen in the statement, now published by Bernard, another move to create sentiment in the United States looking to such a policy.

Treasury department officials refused to make any statement in regard to the assertions of M. Bernard. Records bearing on the financial relationship between America and France in the Revolutionary war days are available, however, although it requires exhaustive search to get at

A fairly comprehensive survey of the situation s contained in a volume entitled "History of the National Loans of the United States," prepared in 1882 by Rafael A. Bayley of the Treasury department. It is among the rare publications dealng with the financial transactions of the early

days of the government, From the records information is obtainable concerning four Ioans made by France to America to aid in carrying on the war against Engand. These apparently cover all loans from France, acknowledged as such, and show that these loans were paid. The following table gives

French loans to the United States during the Revolutionary period: 1777-Loan from Farmers General of

France under authority of resolution of De-cember 23, 1776, \$181,500. 1778-83-Loan from French government under authority of resolution of December 3,

1777, 18,000,000 livres (\$3,267,000). 1781-82-Loan from French government under authority of resolution of October 26,

1779, 10,000,000 livres (\$1,815,000). 1783-Loan from the French government under authority of resolution of September 14, 1782, 6,000,000 livres (\$1,089,000).

Total, \$6,352,500. At the organization of the present government the indebtedness to France included arrears of

Loan from Farmers General...\$ 152,688.89 Loan of 18,000,000 livres..... 3,267,000.00 Loan of 10,000,000 livres..... 1,815,000.00 Loan of 6,000,000 livres..... 1,089,000.00

Total....\$6,324,688.89

Various payments on these loans were made in tobacco, cash and otherwise. The balance due on the French loans of 18,000,000 and 6,000,000 livres, amounting to \$1,848,900, was merged into the 5½ per cent stock of 1795, final payment being made in 1815, and the balance due on the French loan of 10,000,000 livres, amounting to \$176,000, was merged into the 41/2 per cent stock of 1795, final payment being made in 1808. The records are definite in pointing out that

these loans were paid. As to the Louisiana Purchase, there seems to no reason for doubt that the obligations of the United States were met in full. The amount was finally fixed at \$15,000,000, of which France was to receive \$11,250,000 in United States bonds payable in fifteen years and bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. The remainder, amounting to \$3,750,000, was to be devoted to reimbursing American citizens for French depredations on their commerce. The act to issue the stock in payment for the territory, which became known as the Louisiana stock, was approved November

Under this act, the Treasury records show, stock for the portion of the purchase money due France, amounting to \$11,250,000 was issued. Its redemption began in 1812 and was completed in 1823, every dollar being paid. For the portion reserved to pay American citizens for spoilation (\$3,750,000) no stock was issued, but the claims were paid in money except the sum of \$11,731, carried to the surplus fund June 30, 1868.

The First Library.

Harvard college led the way in America to the first library. This institution was established in 638. Sixty-two years later, in 1700, a public library was founded in New York City. The following year the Yale library was founded and in 1781 Benjamin Franklin started a subscription library in Philadelphia, the first of its kind in America. The United States library, now called the library of congress, was established in 1800, but in 1814 it was burned by the British. In 1851 the institution was again burned. It rebuilt and now contains nearly 2,000,000 volumes, and is one of the finest in the world. As far back as 540 B. C. the first public library known to the world was founded at Athens, England's first library was established at St. Andrew's in 1411.-Indianapolis News.

Illinois Editor's Steady Income.

A child is born in the neighborhood; the editor gives the loud-lunged youngster and the happy parents a sendoff and gets \$0.00. It is christened and the minister gets \$5 and the editor gets \$0.00. The editor blushes and tells a lies about the beautiful and accomplished The minister gets \$10 and a piece of cake and the editor gets \$0.00. In the course of time she dies; the doctor gets from \$15 to \$100, the minister gety perhaps another \$5, the undertaker gets from \$75 to \$200, the editor prints an obituary two columns long and a card of thanks and gets \$0.00. No wonder so many country editors get rich. Have you paid your subscription?—Altamont (III.) Times.

A New Lackage Story.

Which reminds us that a new Lackage story is going the rounds—the story of Mr. Lackaye in a London's actor-manager's dressing room. Enters a friend of the actor-manager, who says, This is the fifteenth time I have seen this play, Mr. Lackaye. You in America do not go to see a play as often as that, do you?" "No," answered Mr. Lackaye. "If we don't get it about the fifth time, we give up."—S. Jay Kaufman in New York Globe.

Foolish Ouestion No. 71144.

Are mild winters followed by hot summers or by cool ones? asks a querier. Our answer is, Yes. -St. Louis Globe-Democrat

How to Keep Well

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 Bec. Copyright, 1921, by Dr. W. A. Evans.

WELL, "WHY WAS SAMMY?" "I read through your two columns about Samuel Rzeschewski," Antoinette writes, "I stuck to the end, hop-ing to find out 'Why was Sammy?" but when I got to the bottom I was just where I was when I started. I did not know 'Why was Sammy?' when I read the first paragraph, and

that question if you will tell me wh knows 'Why was Sammy? Maybe I should try again to answer the question "Why was Sammy?" Or, how could two ordinary, everyday, sane, normal Polish Jews, one of whom played an indifferent game of chess, produce a son who at 5 years of age learned to play chess? One week later he beat his father at the game. Six weeks later he was the local champion, and at 9 years of age was a world champion. None of his ancestors was a great chess player, or great mathe-matician, great soldier, great man, or a great genius. There is no history

of insanity or idiocy in the family. Why Sammy the boy chess wizard? Antoinette, your mind is clear. I gave no answer. Let me compress the whole thing into one sentence: "Th'ain't no answer." Lamarck, Buffon, Darwin argued that education, training, and experience are the an Mendel and Weisman argued that inheritance is the answer. De Vries differs with both of them. That great Hollander stated, in classica, English, "Th'ain't no answer." That's the meaning of such highbrow words as sports, mutations, and discontinu-

ous variations. De Vries said that every now and then a dog will be born that will have certain qualities that are unlike anything in the stock. That's how there came to be great strains of ers, pointers, ratters, retrievers, Wise breeders took these sports and used them to establish a strain. So on with cattle, hogs, sheep, and other animals too numerous to men-

Abraham Lincoln to be explained? Perhaps he was a man of superior ability rather than a genius; but be that as it may, how can lie be explained on any Lamarckian basis on the one hand or Mendelian basis on the other.

Or take Henri Fabre. Read his story of his family tree and of his early education, and then explain On any Lamarck, Darwin, or Mendel basis you cannot. Many other illustrations might be offered.

De Vries' explanation is, of course, no explanation. He says they "jes' growed," like Topsy. They just happened. No doubt in the racial stock the foundation was laid. The raw material, we might call it, was there because of instincts, education training, and experiences of multitudinous individuals.

But when it came to fashioning the individual, what was the force that picked here and there forgotten, inconspicuous experiences and used them to fabricate a combination which men call genius? There is no answer. It just happened. Is is possible to hold the strain? Llewellyn proved it possible with "gang," the high school bunch, the bird dogs. It does not follow that it will be held in the case of any human.

Get Either Kind. A mother writes: "Which do you advise for a 6-months-old baby's bed, a hair mattress or floss? I am would like to get the best."

REPLY. Both are good. About on a par. Use

Probably Have Hives.

N. Y. Z. writes: "What causes temporary eruption or blotch on face, itching and resembling a mos-quito bite? They come suddenly and last about thirty minutes and disappear leaving no mark. I am trou-bled with constipation."

REPLY. You have a mild case of hives in I probability. The trouble lies with your food or your digestion.'

Mrs. D. F. S. writes: "1. Is the use saccharin harmful? I am dieting and use saccharin in my coffee and in cooked fruits. "2. Are peanuts fattening?
"3. What can be the cause of

Carrots as Cosmetics

yellow skin in one who is naturally fair? I eat freely of fruits, vege-tables, and drink coffee only occa-

"4. Could the use of a mild face soap cause the skin of the face to turn yellow?" REPLY. 1. In the quantities you use it sac-

charin will not harm you, but if you still cater to your sweet tooth you are reasonably certain to go back to sugar. Why not train your taste away from its perverted craving for the high sweet flavor? 2. Yes, if eaten in any quantity.

Count peanuts among the fattening 3. Perhaps you eat too much and exercise too little. Maybe you are being yellowed through eating yellow

vegetables such as carrots. Have Tonsils Removed. Mrs. E. A. G. writes: "What is the cause of quinsy sore throat? I have had it this month for the fourth

time in nine years. Do you think the tonsils are diseased? Do you think it necessary to have the ton-sils removed or do they have anything to do with it?" Quinsy is an infection of the tissues beneath the tonsils with pus

germs absorbed through the tonsils

Have your tonsils taken out. H. A. S. writes: "Will you please tell me how to get rid of winter itch?"

Keep the air in your house cooler and more humid. Grease your skin. in hot water and locally applied are

NEW STOCK

1513 Douglas Street. The Art and Music Store.

The Bee's Letter Box

Fraternities are not organized for

Editor of The Bee: I was sorry to immoral or

note in your editorial yesterday a They are organized to promote feldisposition to approve the pardon lowship and brotherly love and in of The Bee: I see where "Ar, of Eugene V. Debs in case the presi- order to keep up the standard of American for America" wants to dent decides on that course.

Debs is an enemy to good govern- leaders, those who go beyond their trick. ment and always will be.

lock him up again.

The sentiment—if the people are opposed to showing him any favors -President Harding has made a when I read the first paragraph, and I did not know 'Why was Sammy?' when I had finished. If you did not know 'Why was Sammy?' why was Sammy?' why was a little thing like this. We think he the article? But you need not answer is the right man let him prove it. is the right man let him prove it. S. C. SMITH.

Country Doctors,

North Bend, Neb., March 28.—To country and the high school frater- all the rest of his lik, who commit-the Editor of The Bee: I read in a nity is a factor in aiding them to ted just as great a crime as Pergrecent editorial about a mother who gain the all-around education that doll, are to had to take a child to town in Ohio is daily becoming more essential. So I say long live the high sch to see a doctor, (a distance of two miles.) This was taken to indicate that there was a dearth of M. D.'s in rural communities. A careful survey of the situation by the American Medical association proves conclusively there is no dearth of physicians in rural communities. There may be isolated instances of which I would call the one mentioned no sample at all as there are a great many reasons why that woman might have had to bring a child to the doctor other than the

Country doctors are still answering calls day and night over all kinds of roads and in all kinds of weather as of yore. The rural communi-ties as a whole have two and three times the number of M. D.'s necessary to take good care of the peo-England has only half the doctors in proportion to the population that the United States has and this

percentage has always been maintained. France has still less. In 20 years of general practice in eastern Nebraska I cannot recall a single instance where anyone ever really suffered for lack of medical attention except of their own free will, (and these weren't poor folks either). There is a tendency among the rural population to enrich the patent medicine vender, go to the city to see the specialist for almost any ailment and leave to the rural M. D. what is left. They do not assume the least interest in his welfare except when they are in dire need

PAUL R. HOWARD, M. D.

High School Fraternities. Omaha, March 28 .- To the Edir of The Bee: I was interested in the fetter of Eta Bita Pie condemning high school frats, but before we arrive at a too hasty conclusion let us take into consideration all points to this question. It is all very well to say "down with the frats," and condemn and abuse them, but let us have some reasons for abolishing them from the high school.

The writer has gone through high school and was not a member of any fraternity during his four rears. The natural instinct of man from the earliest time until the present time to hand together for moral and social benefit is one of which we are all aware. From the time he reaches the age of reason until he passes from this life he is a member, in turn. of-the neighborhood into some lodge or society. You can't keep him from it-if he can't do benly there is always the other way And as the writer looks back he realalma mater, injecting punch and pep interest of all and promoting that feeling of friendship and brother!

Others Besides Bergdoll. Comaha, March 28 .- To the Editor of The Bee: I see where "Ar. their chapter they realize that their "Get Bergdoll." What's the matter. I think it would be a great misfortune if the president should so
medical and act.

school work must be kept up in good is this guy jealous of Bergdoll's shape and their morals carefully money? Why, if he had that much watched. You will find the school money himself, he'd pull the same Bergdell just made fools out He is every day school studies in order to of some of our worthy officials and ment and always will be. He is every any school studies in order to a some of our worthy officials and guilty and admits it. Why bother with him now?

Let him finish his sentence—then lock him up again.

The sentiment—if the people are is too much at stake.

There is over the sentence of our worthy officials and got away with it. You've got to as a generia rule member of frater hand it to him. He slipped out of nities. A fraternity does not stand for drones, loafers or idlers. There is too much at stake. and making fun of the poor boobs In the letter condemning frater- who sold their honor nities it was stated that college paltry shekels. For that's the only Greek-letter societies are a good way he got out-bought his way thing but "bar the high school kids." free. And while there's a hue and Such a statement is nonsensical. The cry going only "kids" in high school are the American gottig up now among a few orienn Legion sisters about freshmen and they are not interested in frats. The young men of the high school are being moulded into keep Fuzene V. Debs behind the the future citizens of this great prison burs. It looks like Gene and

doll, are to be freed. And then what about Henry Ford? Didn't he

A MESSAGE TO HOUSEWIVES You are a very vital factor in the financial affairs of your home. While your husband devotes his energies to providing the money, you plan and economize in order to make the money cover the living expenses, provide recreation. and still leave something to add to the family savings. Your experience makes you a decided success in handling the savings account. If you have not already joined the ranks of housewives who maintain savings accounts at the First, talk it over this evening and arrange to open your savings account in this popular department. acce or. First National Bank of Omaha



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