

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING)—EVENING—SUNDAY
THE BEE PUBLISHING COMPANY, NELSON B. UDDIKE, Publisher.
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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.

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.

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 equalled or slightly exceeded those of the same month in 1917, 1918 and 1919.

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 saying 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 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.

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.

curiosity, whereupon she explained: "You know my husband died the other day. Now I am putting on mourning, and when I moans I moans, 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 unremoved 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 reiterates: 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.

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 Bernard, published in the Eclair, Paris, that America received from France during the Revolutionary war days a loan for which no restitution has been made, sums which figured at compound 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 \$2,387,000. 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 accumulated in later years, was repaid.
The government of Spain also extended 1,000,000 livres to France as a subsidy or gift to America in 1776. The total of these gifts 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 Bernard in his statement left the inference that the much larger sum of 280,000,000 francs was involved in the original sums extended to America by France. There is nothing in the American records to indicate that any such sum was involved.
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 authentic facts.
A fairly comprehensive survey of the situation is 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 dealing with the financial transactions of the early days of the government.
From the records information is obtainable concerning four loans made by France to America to aid in carrying on the war against England. These apparently cover all loans from France, acknowledged as such, and show that these loans were paid. The following table gives the picture:
Loans to the United States during the Revolutionary period:
1777—Loan from Farmers General of France under authority of resolution of December 23, 1776, \$181,500.
1778—Loan from French government under authority of resolution of December 3, 1777, 18,000,000 livres (\$3,267,900).
1781—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, \$6,352,000.
At the organization of the present government the indebtedness to France included arrears of interest to France to January 1, 1790, and was as follows:
Loan from Farmers General... \$ 152,688.89
Loan of 18,000,000 livres... 3,267,900.00
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 on the French loans of 18,000,000 and 6,000,000 livres, amounting to \$1,848,900, was merged into the 5 1/2 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 4 1/2 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 be no reason for doubt that the obligations of the United States were met in full. The amount was finally paid 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 10, 1803.
Under this act, the Treasury records show, France 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 spoliation (\$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, 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 was 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 dozen lies about the beautiful and accomplished bride. 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 gets 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 county editors get rich. How many have paid your subscription?—Altamont (Ill.) Times.

A New Lackey Story.
Which reminds us that a new Lackey story is going the rounds—the story of Mr. Lackey in a London 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. Lackey. You in America do not go to see a play as often as that, do you?" "No," answered Mr. Lackey. "If we don't get it about the fifth time, we give up."—S. Jay Kaufman in the New York Globe.

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 diagnosis or prescription is indicated. Dr. Evans will not make a diagnosis or prescribe for individual cases. Address letters in care of The Bee. Copyright, 1921, by Dr. W. A. Evans.

WELL, "WHY WAS SAMMY?"
I read through your two columns about Samuel Rzeczewski, "Antoinette writes: 'I stuck to the end hoping to find out 'Why was Sammy?' 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 the article? But you did not answer that question if you will tell me who knows 'Why was Sammy?' "

Country Doctors.
North Bend, Neb., March 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I read in a recent editorial about a mother who had to take a child to town in Ohio 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 think the editor 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 one given.

High School Fraternities.
Omaha, March 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I was interested in the letter of Elia Hita Fle concerning high school fraternities, 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 fraternities" 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 years. The natural instinct of man from the earliest time until the present time to band 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 "gang," the high school bunch, the college organization and later in business or professional life he gets into some lodge or society. You can't keep him from it—if he can't do it openly there is always the other way. And as the writer looks back he real-

Get Either Kind.
A mother writes: "Which do you advise for a 6-months-old baby's hair, a hair mace or a comb? I am going to have a mattress made and would like to get the best."
REPLY.
Both are good. About on a par. Use either.

Probably Have Hives.
N. Y. Z. writes: "What causes temporary eruption or blotch on face, itching and resembling a mosquito bite? They come suddenly and last about thirty minutes and disappear leaving no mark. I am troubled with constipation."
REPLY.
You have a mild case of hives in all probability. The trouble lies with your food or your digestion.

The Bee's Letter Box
In the Matter of Debs.
Beatrice Neb., March 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I was sorry to note in your editorial yesterday a disposition to approve the pardon of Eugene V. Debs in case the president decides on that course.
I think it would be a great misfortune if the president should so decide and act.

Others Besides Bergdoll.
Omaha, March 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: I see where "Ar. American for America" wants to "get Bergdoll." What's the matter, is this guy jealous of Bergdoll's money? Why, if he had that much money himself, he'd pull the same trick. Bergdoll just made fools out of some of our worthy officials and kept away with it. You've got to hand it to him. He slipped out of this country like a greased pig and now he's over there enjoying life and making fun of the poor boob who said there's honor for a few paltry shekels. For that's the only way he got out—bought his way free. And while there's a hue and cry going up now among a few American Legion sisters about bringing him back to face his crime, why don't they take precautions to keep Eugene V. Debs behind the prison bars. It looks like Gene and all the rest of his ilk, who committed just as great a crime as Bergdoll, are to be freed. And then what about Henry Ford? Didn't he keep his son out of the army? Why not get Ford, if Bergdoll? BENNIE FINKELSTEIN.

First National Bank of Omaha
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.

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Every lover of music will be interested in hearing the reproducing performance of this wonderful instrument. It will give our sales organization pleasure to demonstrate its musical possibilities at any time.

To hear and see this master production of "musical age" is convincing.
On display at the Orchard & Wilby Pageant.

Advertisement for The Bee's Letter Box, containing various letters and replies from readers.

Advertisement for First National Bank of Omaha, featuring a large illustration of the bank building and text describing its services.

Advertisement for The Reproducing Apollo Piano, featuring an illustration of the piano and text describing its features and the quality of Hoffman's recordings.

Advertisement for A. Hospe Co., featuring the text 'NEW STOCK SHEET MUSIC' and 'The Art and Music Store'.