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.

Concessions on Freight Rates.

Transcontinental lines have accepted the fact that water competition must be met, and that inland points must have some benefit from the existence of the canal, and consequently ask permission to make a 20 per cent reduction in certain commodity rates. Classifications mentioned in the dispatches from Chicago, where the announcement was made, include a number of articles of common use, and on which existing rates are all but prohibitively high. If the reduced freight tariffs find reflection, as they should, in retail prices the cost of living will be materially reduced in the central portion of the country.

When charges for the long haul have been properly adjusted, the short hauls will come in for consideration. They have been proportionately increased, and are correspondingly out of line. Jacking up prices without regard to consequences has had the effect that was foreseen from the beginning by those who took the trouble to look into the matter. An era of unwise and even reckless expansion brought about a situation that could not endure, but the way back to normalcy in business is not so pleasant to travel as was the upward route. Big business men long ago recognized the signs, and began to make preparation for the inevitable. Contraction of credits, and consequently of credit currency set in last fall, and has steadily proceeded. Dealers are wary about purchases, and sellers are equally chary, because the falling market affects all. When railroad rates were given the great uptilt the first effect was to put a damper on the movement to recovery, because it checked suddenly the slight current of business.

With rates readjusted to conform to the tendency of prices, it is not unreasonable to look ahead to a real revival of activity, and the summer months will almost certainly bring new life to enterprise. Word from Nebraska farms is most encouraging, and in general there is promise of plenty of tonnage for the carriers, if they only accept a rate at which the business can be moved. The labor board signifies a scaling of wages to become effective July 1, and with retailers following the lead of jobbers and wholesalers and revising prices downward, the railroad managers have no longer any place to shift responsibility, and so accord the relief that can not be postponed.

Stability is not yet attained, but the trimming process is going on steadily and rapidly, with the prospect that by fall business will be on an even keel again and the voyage may be resumed with confidence by all. Some peaks still project, but they will be much lower within another sixty days.

Extra-Illustrating the Wage Hearing.

The pay-rolls ought to be the best evidence of wages paid by the railroads, but these have not as yet been submitted. Magnates who appear before the senate committee come equipped with certain cases calculated to illumine the point they try to make. One of the latest of these is afforded by Howard Elliott of the Northern Pacific, who takes the case of certain Italian boiler inspectors at a New England terminal. These were increased under a classification that lifted them from the status of laborers to that of boilermakers from an hourly wage of 22 to 85 cents, and Mr. Elliott says that on a 10-hour basis they were enabled to draw $89 a week. If the latter figure is correct, then these men had to put in 92 hours a week, being paid for all over 70 at the rate of price and a half per hour. Two things are apparent here; the rate of 22 cents an hour is too low pay for men who are entrusted with the important duty of inspecting locomotive "front ends," and 13 hours a day and seven days a week is too long to require men to work. Four hundred per cent is perhaps too big a jump in wages, and deserves to be corrected, but the suggested remedy is too drastic. Debate on the railroad wage issue is not helped by citation of these extreme cases, any more than is the whole situation benefited by pointing out individual instances of profiteering in other lines. Effort should be directed to establish a relation resting on justice, and not on what prevailed in a day that will never return.

Improve the Farmer's Credit.

It is business as usual on the farm. That is proved by the survey of agricultural conditions in Nebraska made by The Bee with the assistance of the county agents of the state. The men who produce the greater part of the wealth of Nebraska are carrying on in spite of all the discouragements that have been heaped upon them.

It is business as usual, in the sense of digging away at the task of producing food, but in some ways there is a touch of the unusual about it. There has been no lessening of production except insofar as lack of labor or credit has forced limitation. The crops look good, and no one is going to starve. An increase in dairying is resulting from the unfavorable result of dependence on grain crops alone. Cattle feed lots are largely deserted because of the unfavorable prices paid by the packers, together with the lack of credit. This same inability to finance has resulted also in fewer cattle on the ranges.

One conclusion is becoming apparent, looming up as a menace that must be removed. This is that the banking system of the nation is better adjusted for helping commercial lines than for assisting agriculture. Thus, when loans to stockmen should have been expanded for the sake of production, they were contracted. Money has been hard to get even to carry on the necessary functions of farming, and interest rates have been high. Under the direction of President Harding the Federal Reserve board is now at work on a more liberal credit program. Governor Harding of the board is now visiting in the middle west to ascertain just what is needed and what can be done. He should have made this investigation months ago, but it is better late than never.

Poland as a Danger Spot.

Consternation is reported to exist in Poland over a threatened invasion of Silesia and possibly of Poland by the Germans. A demand is made for immediate action by the Allies to prevent what may easily become a serious situation. Until the commission now at work has made its report, and the supreme council has taken action, the fate of Silesia is undetermined. On the basis of the plebiscite, the region belongs to Germany, and that is very likely what will be decided, unless it be established that the election was unfair. Then the council will prescribe what further steps are to be taken.

Poland has shown a peculiar course through the entire affair. That nation was revived as a result of the war, not through its own action, but by reason of the generosity of the Allies and the United States. As pointed out by Lloyd George in his speech, Poles did not fight for the liberation of Poland; some were in the Russian army, and others were on the side of Germany, but none of them aided in bringing new life to their own land. Unfortunately, since the nation was revived, its record has been one of annoyance, when not of defiance, to the powers that set it on its feet and have aided in maintaining its life. The Korfanty revolt in Silesia is but the latest of these unruly manifestations.

Discussing the responsibilities of the nations signatory to the Treaty of Versailles, the Baltimore American says unless the provisions laid down in that faulty document are carried out, anarchy must result and there will be no peace for the United States. That paper goes on:

> In the matter of Silesia both the British and the French are profuse in their contention that they are living up to the treaty, but it appears to us that Lloyd George's way of doing this is a better way, a sounder and a far less questionable way than that of Briand. The question of Silesia may be of only secondary importance to ourselves, but the question of the faithful observance of the treaty, with which is bound up the whole future of the world, is one that touches us most directly.

Unless whatever of faith there is in the treaty be kept, Germany can not be held to the mark, save by the expedient of "sanctions," and these will lead to utter confusion. Poland is, indeed, the naughty child of the treaty breaking china, not only on the shelves of Europe, but in every pantry of the world. Delay in putting a stop to the fantastic pranks of those national zealots will be costly to everybody.

Why a "Christian" Newspaper Failed.

A Chicago minister, wiser than his generation, has given his local brethren some information with regard to the newspaper business that it would be well for all to understand. Referring to the failure of a so-called "Christian" daily newspaper, he explains that it was "doomed to failure because it is an effort to go into the business game without being willing to abide by the rules of business, and because the public is not in a Sunday mood when it buys a daily paper."

Two of the prime factors in the publishing game are here shown. To succeed in business, the publisher must play the game according to the rules. He is confronted from the outset by the fiercest of competition, and only as he has the ability to meet and outstrip that competition is it possible for him to make headway. A paper must be saleable, and to sell it must be attractive in appearance and content. Permanency demands that it enter the homes of its readers, and to get into the American home it must be fit to go there. Many minds must be touched. Sixty thousand copies of The Bee are delivered to subscribers every day, and each of these is read by at least two persons, a daily congregation far greater than the most popular of preachers reaches in a year of pulpit oratory. Unless the paper contains some appeal to each of these myriad of minds, it will not hold them.

Therefore, the daily newspaper is required to treat of many topics always in an entertaining way, devoting some portion of its space to the serious things of life, giving sound and gracious advice and direction, that the public thought may be kept clean and wholesome. But the public is not in a "Sunday mood" when it buys its daily newspaper, and it is no reflection on the morals or taste of the American people that a "Christian" daily could not make headway.

Playgrounds Under Welfare Board.

A disposition is manifest by the new city commission to do away with the so-called recreation board, and assign whatever of duties were under its control to the welfare board. Possibly this may be done without hardship to anybody, and without diminishing the reasonable care of the city for the playgrounds. Proper oversight of the parks and recreation centers is necessary. Omaha is fairly well provided with these places for the youngsters of all sizes, and they have been well managed on the whole. Supervision is essential, that order and safety may be part of the proceedings. A separate branch of the government charged solely with this does not seem necessary, especially as paid monitors are in charge at each of the playgrounds. Direction of these may well be left to the welfare board, whose activities are quite as appropriate to the conduct of playgrounds as of regulation of dance halls.

The sales tax plan may be abandoned, but Uncle Sam will have to get the money from somebody.

With Mrs. Stillman and Clara Smith Hamon both in the movies, next winter's releases ought to go big.

A lot of people in this world are living on less than $500 a month and keeping comfortable at that.

Omaha will remember Dr. Edwards as a health comissioner who tried to do his duty.

If horses are all that is needed, King Ak's race meet will be a hummer.

A 21-story church will be novel at least.

The Case of the South

Following Strange Paths Has Led People Into a Morass

(From the Baltimore American.)

Sydney J. Catts, erstwhile governor of Florida, is in bad with a couple of grand juries in his state for alleged bribe-taking and peonage while he held executive office. Mr. Catts is a minister of the gospel and he was elected to the chief state office in Florida on his personal appeal to the voters. The democratic party, usually supreme in Florida politics, lost out in the election to this itinerant spellbinder whose knowledge of the science of government was about as keen as an Eskimo's knowledge of equatorial conditions. Mr. Catts had a rough term as governor and finally landed in the legal net. The officers of the law are having a job of it to locate him and federal warrants have been issued for his arrest. Of course, it may turn out that Mr. Catts was merely more ignorant than guilty as far as the serious charges against him go. The trial, if he is found, will determine the extent of his alleged criminality.

But the troubles of Mr. Catts are illustrative of the strange paths followed by the south as a whole in governmental matters in the last generation. That section of the country, once noted as the chief source of administrative intellect, has delivered itself by and large into the hands of the mental bolsheviks. In Florida Mr. Catts rampaged around while the citizenry stood openmouthed in wonder. In Georgia Tom Watson, populist-pharisee, copied the same game and won it. In South Carolina Blease, jehu of the hill-billies, played circus and got the executive mansion.

In Virginia for fifteen years a politico-religious has been running things to suit itself and the result has been the disbarment from public office of men of capability. Westmoreland Davis, a man of fair promise, was elected governor through a split over the fleshpots among the heavenly element, but his day of doom is near; in the coming election Virginia has the choice between an ancient fellow, whose chief ambition is to have his name go down as governor of Virginia, and a young hopeful of unimpeachable morals from the mountain section. The latter will likely win, since he has the better God-fearing reputation of the two. Carter Glass is an outstanding man, but he made his mark before the present crowd came into control.

Texas sent the sweet-visioned Mr. Sheppard to the senate and his moral speeches have been his chief contribution to the cause of progress. The exceptions which prove the rule are Alabama, which hung on to Underwood, one of the ablest men of the day, and Mississippi, which "canned" Vardaman and supported John Sharp Williams. Arkansas and North Carolina have done neither bad nor good, though apparently they have failed to sink into the extreme intellectual depressions politically characteristic of some of their sister states.

A part of this political debacle in the south is due to the severe and long-continued after effects of the civil war, which forced the south to let education go largely by the board. The educational efforts all through that section are gradually picking up now and an improvement ought to come within the next few years. Indeed, an improvement is noticeable in spots already. But the lack of education in itself is not the whole story. Before the civil war, when democracy was not so prominent in the best society as it is today, the bigger men throughout the south ran its politics. The so-called hoi-polloi stood aside and listened to their "betters" and voted as they were advised. But democracy, the great leveler, changed all that. The war shattered the real aristocratic element in the south and left the fate of the section in the hands of whomever could grab control. Everybody began to run amuck; it was very much a case of "first come, first served." Finally, in many states, various among the ministry who yearned for political power began to take hold of the reins. They managed to convince the majority that the real test of a man's capability was measured in the extent of his horror of sin, sin being whatever happened to be enjoyable to the unchurched. These religio-political enthusiasts were hard workmen. They welded what amounted to splendid political organizations which voted in a body, while the opposition, unled and frightened, succumbed.

That sort of business has been going from bad to worse and is doing the same thing still in spots. In other spots there are signs of unrest, of weariness in obeying the bunkumites. Until the south as a whole throws its bondsmen out doors and looks for leadership measured by intelligence it will never assume its proper proportionate influence in the councils of the nation.

An American National Council

Recognizing that the need for Americanization work will continue for many years to come, representatives of various patriotic societies met this week in New York to lay plans for the creation of the National American council. At this meeting a national committee of twenty-five members was appointed, with full power to act; and the officers elected included President Warhen G. Harding, honorary president; Vice President Calvin C. Coolidge, Herbert C. Hoover and Mrs. Finley J. Shepard, honorary vice presidents; David Jayne Hill, president; Charles D. Orth, first vice president, and F. W. Galbraith, jr., of the American Legion, second vice president. The men and women, therefore, who are cooperating in establishing the National American council are broadly representative of the best elements in the American character; and under their leadership all loyal Americans should give their unqualified support in carrying out the underlying purposes of the new council.

"The enemies of Americanism within our gates are our most dangerous menace," said Dr. David Jayne Hill, at the initial meeting in New York. "Some of these enemies are open, others are under cover, and many are in foreign pay. However, in a general way, they may be classified as ignorance, malice and false doctrines." To combat these three foes of an effective Americanism demands intelligent team work and co-operation between all Americanization agencies, and all groups of Americans interested in maintaining throughout the country a high standard of individual citizenship and a pure and undefiled patriotism. In the accomplishment of this end, duplication of energy and machinery must be avoided, and our united strength concentrated on the task of assimilating the foreign born in our midst, and implanting in their hearts and minds a consciousness of the principles upon which American greatness has been builded."

The proposed National American council promises to provide just such a co-ordination among the various Americanization agencies. When fully organized it should be a powerful force in purging American life of insidious influences which are seeking to undermine its health, and a force no less to be reckoned with in driving from cover the enemies lurking within our national household.—Boston Transcript.

Every Time He Knocks, He Boosts.

It was expected that President Harding's policy with regard to the League of Nations would provoke some controversy in his own party. Senator La Follette has opened fire on him, and if the president were not an honorable man it might be believed that he had subsidized him. A knock from La Follette is worth a dozen boosts from anyone else in American politics.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The Symptoms Are Suspicious.

Judging from the way the nations are asking Uncle Sam's advice it might be supposed that they were preparing the way to approach him for a loan.—Chicago News.

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.

DETECTING PYLORIC STENOSIS.

"What is the cause," Mrs. A. E. B. writes, "of pyloric stenosis in an infant of 5 weeks? Is the child born with it? If so, why does it not show up before the fifth week? Is operation the only cure? Can the presence of pyloric stenosis be detected by X-ray examination?

"I think more publicity should be given to the symptoms of pyloric stenosis in infants. No medical books I have read make mention of it as a cause of vomiting."

I agree with you that the symptoms of pyloric stenosis should be better known. Doubtless some babies die who could be saved if the symptoms which suggest this disease were recognized promptly and acted upon at the proper time.

In pyloric stenosis the ring of muscle which shuts off the passage from the stomach to the intestine is thickened. It may be thick enough to form a marble sized tumor. That tumor can be felt in the abdomen above the navel and to the right of it. This muscle is not only large but it is irritable, and in consequence when food enters the stomach it claps down spasmodically and not only shuts off the opening into the intestine, but it starts wrong way muscle waves which usually throw the food out of the stomach, or in other words, cause vomiting.

Now, vomiting is the long suit of almost every baby. When his stomach is overfilled up comes the excess. Therefore, mothers are not disturbed by habitual spitting up and they should not be. But the vomiting of congenital pyloric stenosis is a different matter.

All the food comes up rather promptly. If the child is given water, that comes up, too. If the abdomen is bared, wrong way muscle waves can sometimes be seen or felt and in many cases the little tumor can be made out with the hand. The vomiting is something more than a spitting up, even more than an ordinary vomiting. It appears that the stomach forces the food up with some force.

Whenever a child gets any bowel trouble it is apt to have fever, vomiting and diarrhea. Children with congenital pyloric stenosis vomit as if they were quite sick, but they have no fever and no diarrhea. Any young baby with no diarrhea and no considerable fever should be suspected of having pyloric stenosis.

Presently the child with pyloric stenosis begins to waste away from starvation. Even then it does not have the facial expression of a very sick child, as it would have were it being food poisoned. Long before the facial expression of great weakness, due to starvation, has appeared congenital stenosis should have been suspected and its presence confirmed by observing the type of vomiting, the relation of onset to the taking of food, the waves of griping without pain in the upper abdomen, the tumor, the absence of diarrhea.

X-ray examination and the examination with the duodenal tube clinches the diagnosis. In some cases it is possible to make a diagnosis right away. In others some days or even weeks of observation are required for diagnosis.

When congenital pyloric stenosis has been recognized what can be done about it? That's tomorrow's story.

Proper Treatment Helps.

A. M. writes: "1. Can a girl of 17 be cured of leakage of the heart and acidosis?

"2. Is there a remedy for either? If so, what should be done?

"3. If acidosis can be cured by diet, what should the diet be?

"4. I am 5 feet 4 inches tall. How much should I weigh?"

REPLY.

1. If the leakage of the heart is due to a deformed heart valve she cannot be cured of that, but the heart muscle can be put in compensation, whereupon the symptoms will disappear. Most cases of acidosis can be cured.

2. For heart trouble regulation of exercise and work, medical control, digitalis properly used. For acidosis change of diet.

3. As a rule cases of acidosis do best when eating no fat, but living principally on bread, cereals, sweets, vegetables, and fruits.

4. A 17-year-old girl 5 feet 4 inches tall should weigh 120 pounds.

Irritating to Stomach.

H. R. M. writes: "It might be of interest to the public to be advised if the peel of the orange contains any ingredients injurious to health. It is a general opinion that one should not eat that portion of the orange."

REPLY.

It contains considerable essential oil and this is somewhat irritating to the stomach. Therefore, eating orange peel belongs in the same class with eating pepper, mustard, catsup, pickles. All highly flavored condiments are somewhat trying on the stomach.

Radium for Goiter.

F. M. writes: "If Mrs. B. W. will try radium treatments for her goiter I feel sure she would be satisfied with the result. I had a goiter and was going down very rapidly until I took radium treatments."

New York Woman Is Victim Of an Assault by Burglar

Yokohama, May 25.—Mrs. Isabel V. Sturdevant of New York, who arrived here May 21 on board the steamer Columbia from Honolulu, was assaulted last night while asleep in the residence of friends by a burglar with a club. She was taken to a hospital where her condition is reported to be serious.

Mrs. Sturdevant was found in a semi-conscious condition bleeding from a wound in her head. The burglar made his escape, leaving behind a large sum of money and a quantity of jewelry in the bedroom.

Harding Returns to Capital After Very Stormy Voyage

Washington, May 25.—President and Mrs. Harding and their party returned to Washington today, the presidential yacht Mayflower reached her dock at the navy yard at 10:20 a. m., on the return trip from New York.

The Mayflower had a rough voyage, virtually all the way from New York. It was said, however, that the president and his guests returned in perfect health, although their rest had been disturbed during the night by the rolling of the ship.