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.

Is There a Meat Shortage?

At the beginning of each year the United States Department of Agriculture makes an estimate of the total number of head of live stock in the country, and once every ten years the census bureau, through its large staff of investigators, brings forth what may well be considered to be a more exact count. There is always a difference between the two sets of figures, and in 1910 the Department of Agriculture claimed 33,000,000 more cattle than were found by the census. Public attention is called to similar, although less startling discrepancies by a Chicago farm expert, Herbert Myrick.

According to the census report he finds there are almost 10,000,000 fewer sheep in the United States than were estimated by the Agricultural department, and 14,000,000 fewer hogs. Taking into consideration the increase in the number of people in the ten-year period, he declares that the per capita supply of cattle is one-third less; of sheep, two-thirds less, and of hogs, 41 per cent less.

Such a condition indicates nothing less than an impending meat shortage. If the Department of Agriculture estimates of last January are actually too high, a great wrong has been done the stock raisers and feeders who have received prices based in part on the belief that the supply is larger than it really is.

The census figures were gathered a year ago, before the process of deflation had started. Even if its findings approximated the truth at that time, they do not apply with full force now. Mr. Myrick calls attention to the decrease of 18 per cent in the number of cattle slaughtered in the last 11½ months. His opinion is that this is due to a shortage, but there is room for questioning if this does not signify an increase since the stock that is not killed is breeding.

In view of this confusion and the rapid changes that have befallen agriculture in the last year, a demand is arising for a new agricultural census. The committee of agriculture of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce is one of the advocates of such a plan. If, within the next year a careful count of the live stock on the farms of the country should be made, a start would thereby be made toward putting the industry on a scientific basis.

Problems in Race Multiplication.

Offhand, the rest of the world would say that there are enough Turks, but in Anatolia, it seems, the problem of depopulation is considered pressing. Under a proposed law every man of more than 25 years old must marry, any married man moving to another town must either take his wife with him or marry anew, and as an inducement to large families the father of three or more children would have the right to send them free of charge to a government boarding school.

Within limits such arrangements might have the desired result, but they could be too successful. Pressure of population in a few years might force large immigration or drive the race to conquer new territory. Japanese expansion is often excused on this biological ground, and undoubtedly if the overcrowding in those Asiatic islands should continue new outlets must be provided.

Anatolian statesmen wish more population; Japanese statesmen wish for less, or at all events, desire to lower the rate of increase. The head of the department of medical affairs of Japan is now visiting in Holland, Germany, England and the United States, studying birth control propaganda and legislation. That deliberate reduction of the number of births is to be encouraged by his government is his explanation.

A Bright Spot in Europe.

Nebraska and Iowa know the Czechs and Slovaks as thrifty, intelligent immigrants, the backbone of many a prosperous farming community. Of their home country, a fertile land in mid-Europe about the size of Iowa, but with a population six times as large, however, Americans know little. One of the new republics created out of Austria-Hungary, under President T. G. Masaryk, who is aided by a cabinet made up, not of politicians but of men thoroughly trained and expert in their chosen lines, it is settling down to its tasks and is said to be the most prosperous country in Central Europe today.

As such it well deserves the attention given it in the current issue of the Survey magazine. To point out that Czecho-Slovakia is rich in natural resources does not fully explain its progress toward recovery. Nor does the secret lie in its 200 shoe factories, its 450 weaving mills, 90 spinning mills, 100 steel mills and smelters, 600 coal mines, its sugar production, its forests, its porcelain factories and the famous Bohemian glassware industry.

Back of all these material advantages is something more. For one thing, as the writers in the Survey point out, Czecho-Slovakia is imbued with a desire to co-operate with its neighbors, to forget the sufferings and prejudices of the past in the desire for peace and reconstruction. It is interesting to note that while in most countries patriotism is usually associated with conservatism and emphasis on the achievements of the past, in this new nation it signifies instead an eagerness to press on to altered and better arrangements.

There is a wonderful story in the progress of this little state, hampered though it is by insufficient finances and the disturbed conditions about it. Much that it is laying out for itself is experimental, but the dogged courage of pioneers seems to characterize the people. Profit sharing under state regulation; social insurance for sickness, maternity, accident, unemployment, old age and invalidity; regulation of hours; child welfare; safety; sanitation; health and minimum wage have been provided by legislation. Farm ownership is being made possible by breaking up the huge estates and thirteen agricultural colleges are to be opened each year for the next ten years.

Unrest is said to be at a minimum where this adventure in applied idealism is being undertaken, for whether the feat is too great to be accomplished at one bound or not, and even if all these objectives are not warranted, at least a fair trial is being made. Americans are apt to think of these far-off lands as being poor and backward, and it is good that we should learn what remarkably promising strides are actually being made.

New Problems of Tariff.

The greatest question now before congress is that of the tariff. Party lines, it may be predicted, will not hold when the Fordney bill is brought to a showdown, for in the confused condition of world affairs many preconceived opinions are being shed and some things that formerly were true now appear false. Among the advocates of a high tariff to shut out foreign made goods are many democrats and opposing it may be found some republicans. It is necessary that a summing up of the differences of opinion should be made in order that the issue may be clarified.

First of all in opposition to a high protective tariff come the international bankers who explain that through war America has changed from a debtor nation to a creditor, with the annual interest on our public and private foreign loans amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. Financiers deeply involved in this matter declare that these loans can never be paid, nor even the interest, if we cut down importation of foreign products.

During the war American manufacturers entered export trade and today, while they have one eye on the home market, with the other they are squinting at the foreign market. Some of the larger export concerns fear the outbreak of a commercial war if duties on foreign goods are placed too high. In deference to this opinion provisions for what is called a "bargaining tariff" are being pushed in congress. Such arrangements would permit the president to raise or lower duties in accordance with the action of other countries.

The reason given for this is that the productive capacity of the people of the United States is in excess of its ability to consume and that foreign markets must be developed to take the surplus. Some of the more radical opponents of a high protective tariff make the point that although it would help some manufacturers to keep the domestic market, it would raise the cost of living and wages, thus making it difficult for export manufacturers to turn out goods cheaply enough to compete in the foreign field.

It may be seen that the question of tariffs is no longer a partisan one. The only question involved is by what means full employment at good wages may be assured to the people of the United States. It is conceivable that a nation producing what it consumed and consuming what it produced would be highly prosperous without any foreign trade. However, America now has a great merchant marine which ought to be used in ocean traffic.

It was just that the emergency act containing the farm tariff should have been passed. Against the dumping of products from Germany or any other country American labor and capital must be protected. Wages abroad are lower than here and living standards, too. The tariff is a handy weapon to be used against unfair competition, but its construction is a matter for scientific attention, removed from the prejudices of partisanism. The best interests of the whole people will be served if duties are not pitched so high as to bring in little revenue or to interfere with whatever interchange of goods will be advantageous to Americans as consumers and not injurious to them as producers.

A Tiff With Mother-in-Law.

An old lady 77 years old started for a ride in the family automobile, but just as she was about to step into the car a servant touched her on the arm to remind her to keep her place and let her daughter-in-law get in first. She may have been tired, for they had just gone through the exciting experience of watching a polo game, and it seems only natural that a grandmother should be permitted to climb up on the cushions at any time she likes. That is the way it would be in most families, even though relations with daughters-in-law may be strained.

But the car was a royal equipage, the old lady was Dowager Queen Alexandra and the daughter-in-law whom she attempted to precede was Queen Mary of England. An official tugged at the old lady and after this public rebuke she stepped back into her proper place.

This does not seem to be common sense or even ordinary politeness. It is said that Alexandra, who in her day was quite a lively queen, has constantly embarrassed her son and his wife by refusing to take a back seat when any royal homage was being passed about. Her love of display and insistence that merely because King Edward is dead she is not a back number no doubt has been irritating. But all this hullabaloo about who will enter the royal car first strikes ordinary folk more as poor taste and vulgarity than as a demonstration of regal qualities.

The Chicagoan who slew a merchant because of the price asked for a bed would have relieved himself more efficiently of the high cost of sleeping if he had made himself the victim.

Germans are now agitated by reports of a British-American alliance for world domination, which illustrates the point that one must go away from home to hear the news.

Fort Crook cars have been called immoral on account of their crowded condition. Ah, yes—there was a crooked man and he rode a crooked mile.

Two Chicago hotels have reduced their room rates, which is the first sign of deflation in any kind of rent.

The woman's party has formed an advisory council—probably with a member in every home.

Some folks say, "Fie on Fifi," and others say, "Plague on both your houses."

How Indians Grew Corn

Evolution From Wild Grass Reproduced by Burbank

R. H. Moulton in St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The plant which botanists have always considered the probable ancestor of our present varieties of maize is a wild grass called teosinte. They have long believed that the presence of Indian corn in America represented an evolution brought about by crude plant-breeding methods of the Indians, extending through untold centuries. Luther Burbank, in order to prove the truth of this theory, has now carried the plant through successive developments and produced perfect ears of corn in the miraculously short period of eighteen years. Public announcement of this prodigy, which has been proceeding quietly at Burbank's experimental farm in California since 1903, and which constitutes one of the most notable achievements of the plant wizard's life, has just been made.

It was a savage Indian, says Burbank, who gave us, here in America, the most important crop we have. It was the Indian who found the wild grass, teosinte, covering the plains, and developed it into corn. Or, to turn it the other way around, it was the desire of the Indian for a food plant like this which led the teosinte grass, by gradual adaptation, to produce maize. On Burbank's farm there grows, today, this same teosinte which the Indian found. It bears tiny ears, with two rows of corn-like kernels, on a cob the thickness of a lead pencil, and from two to four inches long—slightly less in length than an average head of wheat.

Found Indian an Ally.

From its earlier stage of "pod" corn, in which each kernel was incased in a separate sheath, or husk, like wheat, teosinte represented, no doubt, a hard-fought survival and adaptation like that of the flowering violet. And when the Indians came into its environment it responded to their influence as the pansy responded to care and cultivation in its new dooryard home.

Where teosinte had formerly relied upon the frosts to loosen up the ground for the seed, it found in the Indian a friend who crudely but effectively scratched the soil and doubled the chance for its baby plant to grow. Where it had been choked by plant enemies, and starved for air and sunlight by weeds, it found in the Indian a friend who cut down and kept off its competitors.

Planted in patches, instead of struggling here and there as best it could before, the teosinte grass found its multiplication problem made easier through the multitude of pollen grains now floating through the air. And so, by slow degrees, it responded to its new environment by bearing more and bigger seed. As the seed kernels increased in numbers and size, the cob that bore them grew in length. From two, the rows of kernels increased to four, to six, to eight, to fourteen. Here, again, the selfish motives of the savages served to help the plant in its adaptation—for only the largest ears and those with the best kernels were saved for seed. So, under cultivation, the wild grass almost disappeared, and in its place there came, through adaptation, the transformed Indian corn.

This, in brief, summarizes Burbank's theory of the original evolution of teosinte into corn. How many centuries were required to bring about the development we can only conjecture, for when white settlers came to America they found not the tiny wild teosinte, but Indian corn, or maize, bearing eight-inch ears, with fourteen rows of large kernels to the ear—nature's response to the simple plant-breeding methods of the savage. It is not even known how long the Indians had been cultivating this improved corn. That it was long before the appearance of Europeans, however, is evident not only from its early and widespread cultivation by tribes of the area now embraced in the United States, but from the fact that indications of its cultivation are found in mounds and in the ancient Pueblo ruins and cliff dwellings.

It was nature's scheme of producing variations—her apparently unalterable will to create no duplicates—that opened up to Burbank his opportunity to carry forward the evolution of teosinte into corn in a comparatively few seasons. In his experiments with the plant he produced more than 10,000 specimens on his grounds. Among these thousands he found some offspring which were an improvement over the parent plants. It was then simply a matter of continued and intensive application of scientific methods of selection, from season to season, until the final result was achieved.

During his experiments with teosinte Burbank not only changed the plant into corn, but incidentally created one of the most productive fodder plants on earth, and extended the latitude in which it can be profitably grown nearly or quite 1,000 miles farther north and south. Heretofore all teosinte had to be raised in southern Florida or some tropical climate, but Burbank's improved varieties, developed as a result of his scientific plant breeding, will produce, even in the northern states, fifty times as much fodder as the commonly cultivated teosinte of the south, and fifty times the amount of grain.

Burbank's experiment with teosinte is a striking example of the fact that the plant breeder, simply by taking the variations which nature gives him, can effect wonderful improvements in her plants, and, by urging nature into new variations through cross-breeding, can create at will an infinite number of new combinations or characteristics from which to select.

Christianity in Trade

From the London Times.

Mr. Sydney W. Pascall presided at a conference at the Central hall, Westminster, the other day, with the object of starting a national movement towards a Christian order of industry and commerce. The idea of the organizers, he said, was that it would better become them, as business men, to confer together and make their position perfectly clear before they tried, as employers, to point out the faults and failures of trade unions.

Lord R. Cecil, opening a discussion on "The Purpose and Motive of Industry in the Light of Christian Principles," said that the popularity of the two theories of evolution and political economy, in their insistence on the principle of competition, had to a great extent dehumanized business relations. "Business is business" it was said. A soul-destroying maxim if ever there was one, meaning that when it came to business all they had to consider was what was profitable and successful, and that humanity, consideration for others, and such ideas were out of place in a business transaction. Conceptions of that kind were at the root of our trouble. We had to get back to Christian morality. At the root of that was co-operation for the common good, and the aim must be to get all those engaged in industry imbued with corporate feeling.

No Sleep at the Switch.

A sufferer who lives close to a railroad yard in the suburbs, wrote the following to the railroad company, complaining about the racket made by a switch engine:

"Gentlemen: Why it is that your switch engine has to ding and dong and fizz and spit and clong and bang and buzz and hiss and bell and wail and pant and rant and howl and yowl and grate and grind and puff and bump and click and clank and chug and moan and hoot and toot and crash and grunt and gasp and groan and whistle and wheeze and squawk and blow and jar and perk and rasp and jingle and twang and clack and rumble and jangle and ring and clatter and yelp and howl and hum and snarl and puff and growl and thump and boom and clash and jolt and jostle and shake and screech and snort and snarl and slam and throb and crink and quiver and rumble and roar and rattle and yell and smoke and smell and shriek like hell all night long?"—Boston 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 stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

AGE OF RETIREMENT.

In the January Cosmopolitan Dr. Woods Hutchinson had an article entitled "The Pace that Kills Is the Crawl." Dr. A. T. Goldwater of the Medical Review of Reviews sent Dr. Hutchinson's story to a few hundred business men of superior achievement asking for brief comments based as largely as possible on their personal experiences. He publishes abstracts from the replies of 141.

When these distinguished, clear headed men tackled the case we find that doctors disagree. In Dr. Hutchinson's article I find no considerable justification for a discussion of the question—Shall a man of 60 retire to southern California or Florida and play for the remainder of his days?—and yet that is the major theme of 17 of the number, though some of them may not have had California in mind. But, then, they were asked to write opinions based on their own experiences, and doubtless that was the question they were wrestling with.

Charles H. Sabin of New York writes: "I have seen many instances where men of activity have passed away within a short time after retiring."

J. S. Jetton of Atlanta writes: "I have observed that when an active business men once releases hold on his work his decline physically begins almost immediately."

Fifteen prominent men subscribe to the opinion of Messrs. Sabin and Jetton. Every section of the country is represented. Among them are W. B. Clark of Hartford, who is hard at work at 80 years of age, and James Dinkins of New Orleans, who writes that though he and his wife are 76, they go to dances regularly and dance all the new fangled steps as soon as they become the vogue.

No one spoke in favor of the policy of retirement of business men. Unless somebody had his fingers crossed southern California and Florida real estate men are due to lose their customers of this class.

Many thought it was worry and not work which killed. Julius Kruttschnitt wrote: "I could not see that any injurious effects could be traced to the amount of work done, provided, however, in was done in a way not to cause irritation or worry." Seven representative men agreed with Mr. Kruttschnitt. Seven wrote that in their opinion hard work, stressing the hard, did no harm.

The group who advocated hard work, but specified that those who worked hard must pay attention to the laws of personal hygiene, was a large one. Play as an element of personal hygiene was stressed by seven successful men. Systematic exercise was emphasized by two, care in eating by six, two emphasized the need of plenty of sleep.

William Jennings Bryan wrote: "I regard a sufficient amount of sleep as the most important item of personal hygiene." He also mentioned the harm of worry. F. G. Crandell of Toledo agreed with Mr. Bryan.

Give Fruit Juice.

Mrs. R. T. F. writes: "My baby girl is 9 months old, is 25 inches long and weighs 19 pounds. She is a breast fed baby and is fed every three hours. I come to you for advice as to what to feed her between the feedings."

REPLY.

Do not feed her oftener than once every four hours. Do not feed her at night. In addition to the breast milk give her fruit juice and thin cereal gruel. After a little have her gnaw hard bread and meat bones. Later thicken the cereal gruel and give strained soups. She can take a little mashed potato. It is best not to give her eggs.

Keep Him Outdoors.

Anxious Mother writes: "I have a boy 4 years old who has had two severe spells of pyloric stenosis in three months. Small doses of atropin and good nursing cured him. Upon examination I find the child suffers from poor liver and spleen function. The child from birth has been troubled with poor peristaltic action of the bowels, and although large and well formed, is very anemic, easily takes cold, and is easily fatigued. Bowels are generally swollen. Will nux vomica help the paralyzed condition of bowels? When there is no organic trouble what can be done to relieve the condition of this child?"

REPLY.

I do not think nux vomica will help him. Have your physician see the child once or twice a year. He will advise you as to his habits. I doubt the advisability of giving him any medicine for his liver, spleen or bowel peristalsis. He needs out-of-door life. Freedom from excitement should be a feature of his training.

The Bee's Letter Box

In Which We, Accept a Dare.

St. Louis, Mo., June 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: Has The Bee the courage to publish the following question, I fear not:

Is it not a fact that the cost of living has increased 100 per cent since 1914. Is it not a fact that the increase in union wages during same period was less than 83 per cent. Why then all this boisterous talk about union labor radicalism? Is it because they have dared to keep within hailing distance of the cost of living?

Is it not a fact that the wages of the unorganized worker — clerks, etc., has increased much less, probably not more than 40 per cent during the same period, and that taking all labor collectively, organized and unorganized, the increase has been less than 50 per cent? Is it not a fact that the difference between this increase in the cost of living, 100 per cent and the increase in wages, 50 per cent, represents what was handed to the profiteers—the 18,000 millionaires made during the past four or five years? Do not the above figures indicate that it is first the turn of high cost of living to greatly descend before talking about reducing wages? Why is it, however, that wages are being clipped in 20 per cent slices, while the cost of living is rambling along gracefully about the same, or possibly be reduced 2 or 3 per cent a month?

Is it not a fact that Belgium before the war was taking care of 18 people where we today are taking care of one; in other words, area considered, the population of Belgium was 18 times that of our own? Is it not a fact that economic conditions in Belgium before the war were comparatively good—no extensive unemployment, and more farm owners per capita than any country in Europe, while we with our one-eighteenth population, have between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 people out of work?

In view of the above, is it not about time that we quit kidding ourselves about the matchless wisdom of our system, get busy to rectifying it, and then hold the glorification afterwards?

WM. H. FARLEY.

Putting It Up to Jesse.

Sutherland, Neb., June 16.—To the Editor of The Bee: I would like to have this person defending Sims in your issue of June 14 and signing himself Jesse, kinder give a defination of Americanism. It will be pretty hard to convince the most of us that the vaporings of Sims are an expression of true Americanism.

J. J. M'SWEENEY.

Overseas Ties.

Burwell, Neb., June 17.—To the Editor of The Bee: In an old book I found the following unsigned article. I am sending it in hope it may help someone to look on the propaganda of today in a different light, also I would be glad to know who wrote it.

The Land of Our Forefathers.

For myself I can truly say that, after my native land, I feel a tenderness and a reverence for that of my fathers.

The pride I take in my own country makes me respect that from which we sprung. The sound of my native language beyond the sea is music to my ears beyond the richest strains of Tuscan softness or Castilian majesty. I am not—I need not say I am not—the panegyrist of England. I am not dazzled by her riches nor awed by her power. The sceptre, the mitre and the coronet, stars, garters and ribbons, seem to me poor things for great men to contend for.

But England is the cradle and the refuge of free principles, though often persecuted; the school of religious liberty, the more precious for the struggles through which it has passed; she holds the tombs of those who have reflected honor and all who speak the English tongue; she is the birthplace of our fathers, the home of the Pilgrims; it is these which I love and venerate in England. I would feel ashamed of an enthusiasm for Italy or Greece did I not also feel it for a land like this.

In an American it would seem to me degenerate and ungrateful to hang with passion upon the traces of Homer and Virgil and follow without emotion the nearer and plainer footsteps of Shakespeare and Milton. I would think him cold in love for his native land who felt no meltings in his heart for that other native country which holds the ashes of his forefathers.

S. O. S.