THE OMAHA BEE

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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.

Speed Up the Relief Wheels.

President Harding again has urged that congress hasten its progress in the enactment of legislation needed for the relief of the disabled veterans of the World War. Representative Sweet of Iowa, author of a bill that has been approved by the house, says the need for the final passage of the law is imperative. But the senate moves slowly. Senator Smoot of Utah, chairman of the subcommittee to which the measure has been referred, says he is not certain if the Sweet bill is the remedy needed, and also says he has doubt if the members of his committee can be gotten together to consider the matter.

Four years ago little difficulty was experienced in getting together a subcommittee or any other group whose action was needed to get the present disabled veterans off to war. The display of similar interest just now would at least encourage some of the sufferers to think that perhaps we did mean the things we said to them when they marched away. It is true that most of the existing trouble has come from hasty and poorly devised attempts to make provisions for the relief of those who have a right to expect help from the government. But that is only an excuse and not a reason for the exasperating delay.

Experience has pointed out the defects of the existing machinery, and these may easily be removed or adjusted, if only given the needed attention. Senator Smoot will lose little in dignity or popularity if he assembled his subcommittee in emergency session to give the Sweet bill such examination as it deserves before enactment. A steadily growing list of victims of the war demands immediate relief.

Case of the Street Railroad.

Neither the State Railway commission nor the public at large should misunderstand the status of the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company pleading for increased fares.

The company's campaign has two distinct phases. In one proceeding the company is trying to prove that its property is worth approximately $20,000,000 and that it is entitled to dividends upon this value. In the other it is claiming that an emergency exists, that it is in dire straits and that it must have immediate increased revenue to maintain its solvency and continue operation.

The first proceeding is an effort to fix a basis for future regulation and permanent fares. The second is a plea for quick relief such as was granted the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. several months ago and which that company is now trying to have made permanent.

The immediate question is the emergency relief and that is likely to be settled within a very few weeks. It is a matter to which very serious attention should be paid. Omaha cannot afford to have its street railway company suspend operations; with just as much force, it cannot afford to have the people taxed a larger amount than is necessary for transportation at a time when dimes count in the average man's pocketbook as quarters did a short time ago.

The company's statement for 1920 showed net income of $168,413. It paid a dividend of 6½ per cent on preferred stock, amounting to $250,000. This created a deficit of $81,586, which was paid out of a surplus carried over from preceding years. It is noteworthy that this dividend is higher than the 5 per cent rate of 1919 or the 2½ per cent rate of 1918. Despite the fact that the company did not earn even a 5 per cent dividend, it raised the rate and drew on surplus to make it good. If its stockholders had been content with the former 5 per cent rate, the company would have just $50,000 more on hand to meet the present alleged emergency.

As The Bee has said before, other industries today are going without profits and counting themselves lucky if they can keep their heads above water. Some are drawing on surpluses of past years and thanking their stars they have such a fund at hand. The state railway commission should judge the street railway case in the light of this general situation and should take care that it does not add to the people's burdens unless the extremely critical nature of the emergency is fully demonstrated.

Uncle Sam, Brewery Owner.

On the same day that a senator from Louisiana attacked the bill prohibiting the supplying of beer on prescription the government seized six breweries in New Orleans on the charge of making and selling beer which exceeded the legal alcoholic content. Buildings, lands, fixtures, trucks and all the other property of these concerns are now public property, adding several million dollars to the public wealth.

Citizens who have thus been made stockholders in the brewing industry will not wax highly indignant over the execution of the law under which this confiscation is made. A few more such acts and the illicit manufacture of beer on a large scale will cease. No activity is long continued which is not profitable.

More complaint of the prohibitory law is heard on the score of lax enforcement than on the severity of it. As long as there are statutes against the trade in alcohol they should be enforced.

Is this new movie war over the question of lower prices or merely a contest to see who will get the biggest share of the receipts?

Hitchcock's Monumental Mistake.

The proposal of Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock for an international bank financed largely by American gold to provide credit to Europe and issue a world currency is important because of its dangerous nature. Stripped of its veil of idealism, it appears as nothing more nor less than a scheme to give fictitious value to the bonds of impoverished European nations by making them a basis of further extensions of credit at the expense of Americans.

Fiat currency is not a cure for the exhaustion of international credit of which the Nebraskan speaks. It is true that the world can not be prosperous without peace, economic, political and military, but the basis of this peace and prosperity must be work, not inflation.

The acute condition of public finance, currency and exchange, international trade and credits was the subject of an international financial conference held in Brussels last fall, which was participated in by financial experts of the leading countries of the world. Its findings are to be credited as unbiased, representing no special interest and viewing the world as a whole. Its conclusions bear directly on the matters brought up by Senator Hitchcock and that its recommendations on the main point were precisely in opposition to his scheme is proved by the following excerpt from its report:

We believe that neither an international currency nor an international unit of account would serve any useful purpose or remove any of the difficulties from which international exchange suffers today.

"Attempts to limit fluctuations in exchange by imposing artificial control on exchange operations are futile and mischievous," this international conference of experts further declared. "Insofar as they are effective they falsify the market, tend to remove natural correctives to such fluctuations and interfere with free dealings in forward exchange which are so necessary to enable traders to eliminate from their calculations a margin to cover risk of exchange, which would otherwise contribute to the rise in prices."

There are in the proposal of Senator Hitchcock several expressions of praiseworthy ideals which he would hope to see realized by his bank of nations, such as limitation of armament, resumption of production and governmental economy by which national outgo would be limited to income. His provision that one-third of the $2,400,000,000 capital of the international bank might be composed of bonds of solvent nations is rendered ridiculous by his definition of solvency, which includes requirements of meeting all external obligations, a balance of revenue and expenditure, and decrease in armament. Unless a bare promise of performance in these respects were accepted at face value (as in the case of their bonds), there would be no nation eligible.

The public may remember that ever since the secret conferences in Paris from which the League of Nations covenant emerged there has been a desire on the part of some of our associates in the world war to pro-rate the total cost of the war and load the United States with part of the expense of the conflict which was incurred before our entry. In one way and another there has been a constant effort to shift the burdens of Europe to the shoulders of Uncle Sam. In this foreign interests have been aided by the international banking houses of New York, which provided the practical and far from sentimental backing of ratification of the covenant, largely it is to be suspected, in order to improve the impaired condition of their investments in foreign securities.

The coincidence of the views of Nebraska's democratic senator and these international financial institutions has long been evident. First, in the case of the league covenant, second in the opposition to the tariff act protecting agricultural products (a measure designed to benefit the middle west, and fought bitterly by the international syndicates), and third, in this comprehensive scheme for securing the O. K. of the United States treasury on foreign securities.

What is to be remembered is that, with half the world's gold now in our country, we are a natural target for blue sky projects aimed to redistribute it, not in return for labor and production, but for nothing. If this war debt is saddled on the American people it means not only a reduced standard of living in our country, but a mortgage on the income of every citizen.

Ministers Muffed Their Chance.

The belated and somewhat hysterical activity of the Jersey City ministers in their opposition to the big prize fight about to be staged there is not especially edifying. Preparations for that contest have been under headway for many days. Principals have been training three months, while the building operations in connection with the affair have been open and notorious. Excepting possibly America's entrance to the world war and the late presidential election, nothing has been more widely advertised or generally discussed in this country than the match between Dempsey and Carpentier. Yet the forces of reform have waited until the eleventh hour and almost the fifty-ninth minute to interpose.

The prize fight is not the less disgraceful in prospect at this time than it was when first announced as forthcoming at Jersey City. If it deserves to be stopped now, it deserved to be stopped then. Perhaps it might have been headed off if the same forces now arrayed against it had marshalled their forces back in April or in May and moved forward in a combined assault. To have remained more or less passive, permitting the affair to almost reach a culmination before vigorously protesting, is not creditable to the ministers.

They may not be able to prevent this exhibition, but if they are sincere, they can so organize and co-ordinate their efforts as to make another impossible. If they do not, the fact may be accepted as indicating that the power of the church is less than that of Mammon, for it is greed and not the cause of sound physical development that is being served in the arena at Jersey City.

The president's message to the disabled veterans is full of cheer and encouragement, but what the boys really need is a cutting of red tape.

The price of ice cream sodas has slipped to 11 cents in New York, which ought to discourage the bootleggers.

The Baptists merely acknowledged a fact when they selected a woman to head their church council.

Authors' Eccentricities

From the Argonaut.

Bret Harte, when the inspiration was on him, would hire a cab and drive through the darkness without stopping until the struggle for ideas was over and he grew calm enough to write. Nothing pleased him more than to be taken for an Englishman.

Bjornson kept his pockets full of the seeds of trees, scattering handfuls broadcast in his daily walks. He even tried to persuade his associates to do the same.

Robert Browning could not sit still. The constant shuffling of his feet wore holes in the carpet.

Zola would never accept an invitation to dinner.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, even in the coldest weather, never wears an overcoat. When he gives an afternoon lecture he removes his vest, and buttons his Prince Albert close to his body. He is a golf enthusiast and spends as much time as possible on the links.

F. Marion Crawford carried his own stationery, pen and ink, and never wrote with any other. He wrote every word of every novel with the same penholder.

Edmund Clarence Stedman had his favorite cat sit in a high chair at the table every day at dinner.

Ernest Renan wore his finger nails abnormally long.

Count Tolstoy went barefoot and hatless the year round. He was fond of French perfumes and kept his linen scented with sachet powder. There was always a flower on his desk as he wrote. Although very rich, he wore the cheapest clothes he could buy.

Alexandre Dumas, the younger, bought a new painting every time he had a new book published.

Edgar Allen Poe slept with his cat. He was inordinately proud of his feet.

Disraeli wore corsets. The older he grew, the greater became his desire to dress like a young man. He had a pen stuck behind each ear when writing.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson possessed a singular power over wild birds and could easily tame them.

Dickens was fond of wearing flashy jewelry.

Oliver Wendell Holmes used to carry a horse chestnut in one pocket and a potato in another to ward off rheumatism. He had a great fondness for trees, and always sat under one when he could.

Hawthorne always washed his hands before reading a letter from his wife. He delighted in poring over old advertisements in the newspaper files.

Thackeray used to lift his hat whenever he passed the house in which he wrote "Vanity Fair."

Sardou imagined he had a perpetual cold.

Darwin had no respect for books as books, and would cut a big volume in two for convenience in handling or he would tear out the leaves he required for reference.

Washington Irving never mentioned the name of his fiancee after her death, and if anybody else did so he immediately left the room.

Victor Hugo spoke little; his remarks usually were made in the form of questions.

Keats liked red pepper on his toast.

Longfellow enjoyed walking only at sunrise or sunset, and he said his sublimest moods came upon him at these times.

Robert Louis Stevenson's favorite recreation was playing the flute, in order, he said, to tune up his ideas.

Mr. Daniels' "Soviets"

The information that the crews of American warships have been voting on questions of discipline and deciding by ballot where the ship could go will come as a shock to the public.

These conditions have existed. Two officers who should have known better have been removed from command because they countenanced these "ship soviets."

The whole world smiled when Messrs. Lenine and Trotzky's red troops and sailors began voting on questions of discipline and tactics. Now we learn that Secretary Daniels had approved the ballot system of navigation and fighting a ship.

"The evil that men do lives after them." We had thought that we had done with all the little frills and purple inserts that Secretary Daniels had inflicted on the American navy.

Evidently the happily gone secretary was so strong a believer in democracy that he thought it a happy idea to run a ship on the democratic system. His smiled-upon and bless-you-my-children "soviets" breed the suspicion that there may be a good many other Daniels ideas tucked away in the navy.

Secretary Daniels cared very little about discipline. It seems that he cared very little about the law which specifically states that discipline must be enforced by the vessel's commanding officer.

Evidently we did not know how very thankful we should have been when Daniels stepped out of the Department of the Navy. His general idea seems to have been that a navy should be run as a kindergarten, an old folks' home and a town meeting.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Getting Rid of Trash.

"I think every family should move every few years," says a Kansas philosopher, "to get rid of the natural accumulation of junk."

Good! But what is going to become of the accumulation? Is the family expected to leave it behind—slough it off as a snake sloughs off his skin? That wouldn't be fair to the family that moves in.

Nobody likes to rent a house and find it half full of trash—all sorts of outworn stuff in the closets and cupboards, piles of refuse on the floors, abandoned furniture in the attic and barrels of shoes and empty bottles in the cellar.

Nevertheless, the Kansas man is on the right track. There is too much effort made to save valueless articles. The idea of the savers is that these things will come in handy some day, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred that day never arrives.

Let any reader of these lines ask himself whether, within his own domain, there is not a mass—or mess—of stuff that he would be better off without. It might be of some use to somebody, but it never will be to him. It will simply serve to clutter up the house, and to occupy space that might better be devoted to something else, or nothing at all. The saving habit is all right up to a certain point, but it can be carried too far.—Providence Journal.

Plenty of Literary Talent.

Of course, at the big prize fight, as at presidential nominating conventions, there will be the usual number of freak writers. Irvin Cobb has already been signed up. Naturally Ring Lardner will be on hand and perhaps Clara Hamon Smith and little Guy Stillman and Fred Beauvais, his reputed father, and Pat Harrison, not to mention Prof. Einstein and Kenesaw Mountain Landis.—Nashville Banner.

Farmers' Tax Views.

In ten states 40,000 farmers have voted strongly in favor of retaining the excess profits tax, but are divided regarding the sales tax. Against it are 17,947, but 22,393 are not opposed. The division of opinion thus shown lends larger interest to the rest of the poll of a million farmers.—New York Times.

Everybody Out for Mayor.

They were going to have a procession of candidates of the mayoralty in New York, but it was given up because the storekeepers objected on the ground of the obstruction to traffic.—Boston Transcript.

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.

MILK POWDERED BABIES.

The advantages in feeding milk powder are several. It is convenient. The powder is carried by the regular grocer and sold in the regular grocer way. It does away with the milkman. It can be carried in places where it is difficult to get liquid milk, and still more difficult to get it cold, fresh, and clean. It is economical in that none need be wasted. When a solution is needed for the baby the required amount, and no more, can be made up. None sours and none spoils. It requires no ice. It is therefore adapted to those homes where ice is difficult to get and the homes where there is no ice box.

The cost of feeding a baby on dried milk, or milk powder, is no greater than that of feeding one on liquid milk. When the trade becomes established it should be less.

Some babies thrive better on milk powder than they do on liquid milk. This is especially true of those babies that have had prolonged diarrhoeas and are considerably emaciated and those which vomit a good deal. Considerable experience proves that these two groups of babies can take a paste made with milk powder, or even milk powder in solution when they will not tolerate liquid milk, and everyone knows that no other groups of babies are so difficult to feed successfully as are these. Many a baby worn down by prolonged diarrhoea until it was skin and bones has been saved by the use of milk powder.

The disadvantages of feeding powdered milk are these: Feeding with it is a new art, and mothers, nurses, and physicians are accustomed to the old way. The flavor is not the same exactly, and some babies do not like the taste of the new product.

Dried milk is a cooked product, and every cooking process may destroy some of the anti-scorbutic vitamines. It is true that experiments have shown that some of the brands have plenty of anti-scorbutic vitamines, more than some fresh liquid milk, in fact, since milk produced in winter has very little. Nevertheless the industry is a new one. Which methods of manufacture best conserve the anti-scorbutic value, and which commercial brands have plenty of it, remain to be found out. Nor is it entirely an answer to this objection that most city babies should have fruit juice or tomato juice as an anti-scorbutic, whether they are fed on liquid milk, baby foods, or dried milk.

The mothers whose babies have most trouble are those who know enough to give milk, or think they do, and who have never heard about these new-fangled notions about fruit juice for babies and feeding babies canned tomato juice.

A United States public health service report on dried milk powder in infant feeding says: "Reconstituted, reconstructed, and natural milk differ in their effects when fed to infants." By this they mean that, while milk powder may be as good as liquid milk for a baby, or even better, it is a different food, and should never be sold for infant use without the purchaser knowing what she is purchasing, and that it differs somewhat from the liquid milk she has been feeding her baby. In the investigation on which this report was based it was found that milk powder was even a little better than good liquid milk for babies.

In the more extensive British report most of the investigators said that milk powder was better than liquid milk for babies with long continued diarrhoeas, long continued vomiting, and great emaciation. Some thought it superior to liquid milk for the ordinary baby. But more preferred good, cold, clean, liquid milk.

Calls for Operations.

Interested Reader writes: "My little boy, 3½ years old, has never been well. He has a bad color and is almost green at times. He does not want to eat. He plays all day and never seems to get tired, but at night he jerks in his sleep, even his eyelids and the muscles in his face. He sleeps soundly and goes to bed at 7, sleeping until after 6 in the morning. Have given him worm medicine, but do not think he has worms. He has trouble with his ears once in a while. They do not seem to hurt him much, but run. He had two spells with his ears this year. He weighs 35 pounds. Is he underweight?"

REPLY.

In all probability you will find that your child has adenoids and enlarged tonsils and that this is responsible for his ear trouble, his color and his nervousness. When these are operated on he will get well in all particulars. Feed him considerable green vegetables, fruit, cereals and milk. He needs lime and iron, and these he will get from milk, vegetables, fruit and cereals. He is not underweight.

Fall Didn't Hurt Him.

Mrs. J. F. M. writes: "My 15-months-old-baby has always been well since birth, but a month ago he was seized with a peculiar spell, appeared to be nervous, his hands shaking and he seemed to be unconscious. The spell lasted perhaps five minutes. I thought it was convulsions, as I have heard that babies that are teething frequently get them. Although he is 15 months old he does not walk. He stands and walks around in his bed. Is this backwardness in walking around anything unusual? He is perhaps overweight and his legs are short and plump. Perhaps he is too heavy for his legs. He has had several bad falls on his head out of a little chair. Could this injure him in any way and would it affect his intellect?"

REPLY.

Many children who are not backward cannot walk at 15 months. I do not think the falls had anything to do with the convulsions. Should there be a repetition of this convulsive seizure have your physician see if he can find a cause for it.

Careful in Summer.

Mrs. B. J. T. writes: "Please give me a diet suitable for a baby 8 months old during the hot months. He weighs 18 pounds. Have been feeding as you advised for three months. He takes modified milk and cream of wheat gruel. What vegetables can he have?"

REPLY.

You must not everfeed during the hot weather. Do not try to get much weekly increase in weight or length. If you get him to cool weather with a good digestion he will gain enough before Christmas to make up for what he does not gain in July and August. Give him a mixture of two parts milk and one part water. Continue using cereal gruels. He can take strained vegetable or meat soup. Let him have a little finely mashed potato, spinach or carrots.

The Bee's Letter Box

Rural Registration.

Sutton, Neb., June 26.—To the Editor of The Bee: Within three weeks referendum petitions must be signed with the secretary of state to preserve the freedom of the ballot. If this is not done, fully half of the rural voters will be disfranchised. Senate File No. 305 compels rural voters to register with the county clerk or with a deputy whom he may or may not appoint. Voters must swear to their political affiliations or they can not vote at the primary. The registering officers are authorized to cross-examine persons asking to register and, in the language of the bill, "If the person so challenged shall refuse to answer fully any question touching his qualification as an elector which shall be put to him by the registering officer, the registering officer shall refuse to register him." How do you like that?

The nomination of candidates for office is of the utmost importance, but the independent voter has no choice in their selection. Fully half of the rural voters will neglect to register and thus be disfranchised. The object of registration in cities is to prevent illegal voting. This is not necessary in small towns and among farmers. Then why this asinine law? That voters may be kept well in hand by scheming politicians, who for the most part serve selfish interests. A few public-spirited men are circulating petitions free of charge. The affect of filing these petitions is to suspend the law until the people have a chance to vote on this and three other propositions in November, 1922. If you believe in majority rule you ought to sign these petitions. You would suppose that every person, whether for or against these laws, would be willing to adopt or reject these laws. Not so. There are some who refuse to sign. They believe in majority rule where it comes their way, but are against it when that majority goes against them.

A. G. GROH.

Worldly Ministration.

Omaha, June 27.—To the Editor of The Bee: There are a good many smart people in the world, the smartest are those who set out to expound the gospel to us according to their own notions. There are a good many things, words, customs, doctrines, Chirstians accept that are not specifically mentioned in scripture. A few are the words Sunday, Bible, trinity, etc. In reference to ministers riding automobiles and being worldly, Christ positively said, "The laborer is worthy of his hire," meaning the gospel preachers, saying also not to take even an extra coat, nor money in their purse, but that they would be provided for. St. Paul instructed that they be "all things to all men." Is there work more heroic, more praiseworthy, more commendable than preaching the gospel? Let us not be jealous of the seeming easy time ministers and priests have.

A LAYMAN.

"Not a Drop in the Bucket."

Tilden, Neb., June 28.—To the Editor of The Bee: Under the above headline you state that the Japanese form only a thousandth part of the population of the United States. There was a time when there was not an English sparrow in the United States or a hare in Australia. It is different now.

F. L. PUTNER.

CENTER SHOTS.

Even the seashore is dry. No sea serpents this year.—Bridgeport Telegram.

If we are to have a naval holiday let it be understood that the officers are not to go visiting and talk too much.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

The old writers were considered great because they hadn't the competition writers have now.—Magazine. The same thing can be said of Jesse James.—Birmingham News.