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The Bee's Platform

- 1. New Union Passenger Station.
- 2. Continued improvement of the Nebraska Highways, including the pave-ment of Main Thoroughfares leading into Omaha with a Brick Surface.
- short, low-rate Waterway from the Corn Belt to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 4. Home Rule Charter for Omaha, with City Manager form of Government.

Time to Take a New Tune.

Hot weather is oppressive, sometimes almost unbearable, but it is inevitable. More than that, it is beneficent. Without heat the great food crops could not be raised. We know it is irritating to be told this, but grumbling about the weather will not alleviate any of its discomforts. Quit singing "the blues."

Business is not as brisk as it was a year ago, or two years ago, and a lot of men are out of work. Yet this is a temporary condition, and will not be permanent. However, business is not so rotten bad as it might be. During the month of June 3,053,307 revenue cars of freight were loaded in the United States, an average of 763,-327 for each of the four weeks reported, or 122,-221 a day. Railroad earnings for May showed a big increase. This is the best possible proof that some business is moving-not the swift. overwhelming tide that gushed over all during the years of the war, but a steady stream of such magnitude as disputes the assertion that the present depression in business is the worst ever

A big crop of wheat is assured, most of it already harvested and some sent to market. This crop was produced at a cost much below that of last year, and will yield the farmer some return for his labor. Another bumper corn crop is well on the way, far ahead of the season in its growth. Prices for meat animals are such as mean some profit at present. Many rifts are appearing in the clouds that have hung over the agricultural industry and the farmer smiles now and then when contemplating the future.

Prices on staples are descepding to lower evels, not pre-war, for that stage may never be reached again, but far below the peaks attained last year. All of these things are indicative of approaching resumption of activity, the beginning of a new era of production. One note encouragement in surface signs. It is easy and cheap to predict better days, when the country is at the nadir of a slump, but it takes no more of moral courage to sing a song of hope than it does to swell the moaning chorus

"Defeatists" should be sent to the rear now. Let all hands take a new grip on things, change the tune and quit singing "the blues." We are bound to have a revival, and there is plenty of reason for thinking it is not far ahead. At any rate, we are nowhere near as badly off as we might be and surely in no such predicament as some folks think.

Dear Credit and Omaha.

One of the unpleasant features of the reconstruction period is that credit has been set so high that it is difficult for anybody to secure funds, let alone municipalities, such as Omaha. Here we find a big plan for public improvement suddenly checked for lack of funds; not for the reason that the city's solvency is questioned, nor that the work is not necessary, but just because the bond issue proposed is not sufficiently "attractive." A 51-2 per cent, non-taxable city bond would have been snapped up by investors as a rare treasure once, and to casual citizen it looks like a good thing right now, but with public utility issues going around 8 and some as high as 10 per cent, buyers disdain for the moment the lower rate but better secured Omaha paper.

This condition will not be permanent. A New York firm already is advertising that the return to the 6 per cent basis is at hand, while another advises its clients to buy municipal issues at 5 per cent. That Omaha will outlive the present stringency, which amounts to little less than a hold-up, is very certain.

The plan of selling the issue over the counter ought to bring in enough money to make sure that the work of improving the streets can be carried on. Such expenditure of funds only serves to make more certain the security. to improve the credit on which the issue rests. Holders of money, bond dealers, bankers and the like, may embarrass the public for a time, but in the end the work will be done and the community will not have paid an unreasonable interest rate for its borrowed funds, especially when the law fixes the limit to which the city

Should Office-Holders Vote?

A suggestion that all persons on the public payroll should be barred from voting is made by a farm paper. "In the interest of good government and to prevent the office-holding class from perpetuating its power by controlling the casting vote at elections," the argument runs, "all people, from the president down, who are drawing national, municipal or state salaries, should lose their votes while in office. In other words, public servants should not be allowed to become public masters. That is the ten-

dency today." The total number of employes in the executive civil service of the United States last year was approximately 640,000. There are a great many other job holders beside this in the federal service, and when to this is added the army of state employes and those on county and municipal payrolls, it will be evident that a considerable per cent of the total population is engaged in the business of government in one heavy over the heads of the bakers. American.

way or another. There is no doubt that the list of officeholders has been greatly expanded, but a considerable portion of this is due to public insistence on additional governmental machinery. We can not have a host of boards, bureaus and commissions to do things for us that we should do for ourselves and not engage men to operate them. These still remain citizens and it is doubtful whether temporarily depriving them of the right of suffrage would tend to diminish their numbers, nor would there be any way to prevent a political machine being built up, as now, from

Judge Wray's "Program."

Arthur G. Wray, who is expected to be the candidate of the Nonpartisan league for governor of Nebraska next year, proposes a program of laws to be initiated that is interesting. The judge expects to run with the republican label, but that he may be assured of the nomination he wants matters fixed so that any member of the league, no matter what his party affiliations otherwise, may aid in nominating the republican candidate.

No objection can possibly be urged against Judge Wray's ambition; he is freely entitled to aspire for any office in the gift of the people. In fact, he has aspired to a great many of them already. Last year he was a candidate for governor on the farmer-labor ticket. If he wants to run as a republican next year, he has that privilege, but he ought to permit himself to be passed upon by republicans only. It is hardly fair to ask the democrats or Townleyites to name the candidte for another party. .

One of the laws Judge Wray propeses to initiate provides that:

The legislature must be prohibited from any further attempt to repeal the state-wide primary law. The party circle must be removed from the ballot; and the legislature should be forever prohibited from passing a law requiring a voter to register his party

Forever is a long time. Suppose the lawmakers of 1871 had passed a law that would have bound the state forever to a political program as then laid down, what would the unlifters of today be saying as to the injustice of such a condition? Or, does Judge Wray admit that his plan is the climax, the apex, the seekno-further of political science, and that any change posterity may want to make will be a step backward and from which he now proposes to interpose his sapience and save them from themselves? We understand his objection to party labels, for the present law makes it difficult for a democratic leaguer to vote at the republican primary. It also works the other

The Nonpartisan league is nonpartisan to this extent: It does not care what party label it wears, if it can get its candidates into office. Why does it not come out into the open, as did the Farmers' Alliance or the people's independent party (the populists), or the farmerlabor party? Judge Wray's plan for breaking down party lines is well calculated to forward his chance-if he can get away with the goods.

Tariff and the Merchant Marine. A southern democrat in congress asks if the republican majority is moving to kill the American merchant marine again. He assumes that under the proposed tariff bill there will be no importation at all, consequently the ships flying our country's flag will have cargo only one way. He, and those who are minded like him, will take comfort if they only study the question a little closer. Chairman Fordney, when reporting the bill for the committee, estimated that it will produce \$700,000,000 in revenue; this contemplates the importation of two billion dollars' worth of dutiable goods, while the free list is ample. Under such circumstances the cargo-carriers that make up the revived American merchant marine will find considerable freight for the return voyage. It will not, as under the democratic free trade idea, be at the expense of home industry. Foreign manufacturers will compete with Americans in the United States on the basis of American cost of production. Import duties are to be levied on the basis of American valuation, and all advantage secured for the domestic product. Our democratic brethren may be assured that, whatever befalls the new merchant marine, it will not be employed to bring goods from abroad to break down the home factories.

Between Man and Man.

Eamonn de Valera, on his way to meet David Lloyd George, smilingly said the outlook for peace in Ireland was the brightest in history. We may believe this, if the conference is carried on in the spirit in which it has started. When the premier of England and the acknowledged head of the Sinn Fein movement meet alone, they are apt to lay aside for the moment the fact that one is executive head of a great government and the other the accredited representative of a powerful faction opposing that government, and become for the time just men earnestly seeking a way out of a great difficulty. Each is looking for an approach, and both may find it easier than appears on the surface. Concessions will have to be made on both sides, but these will be reached more readily because the bargain can be struck without the influence of advisers who are not responsible. When James Craig comes into the consultation chamber, he ought to find the atmosphere considerably cleared because Lloyd George and de Valera have talked it over, and so opened a way to a settlement in Ireland. And if only the "Battle of the Boyne" can be put into the background, and eyes turned to the future instead of the past, a happy outcome will follow.

George Ade, now that he has been mentioned as the recipient of four cases of bootleg whisky, ought to write a fable in slang concerning "The Hospitable Citizen Who Prepared a Thirst Shower for His Friends Which Was Attended Only by Revenooers."

If movie-goers wish to show their disapproval Clara Smith Hamon going into the films, the best way to do so is to stay away from the performance. Hissing the silent drama can' never be effective

Dry agents have seized a brewery in Minnesota, which ought to stimulate the demand for jobs in the prohibition enforcement bureau.

One of the worst things about the war is the disappointment of the great expectations of

The one-pound foat seems to hang heavy,

A Financial Sermon Why Credit Is Dear, Taxes High and Business Upset.

(From the New York Times.)

At the budget reform meeting President Harding preached a sermon on public finance of broader application than the eloquence of Budget Director Dawes. "There is not a menace in the world today like that of growing public indebtedness and mounting public expenditures.

. . There has seemingly grown up an impression that public treasuries are inexhaustible, and a conviction that no efficiency and no economy are ever thought of in public expenses." That strikes at the root of the heresies which have given the world a delusion of wealth and prosperity, while all the time it has been squandering capital as though that could go on forever. Labor is not able to see why the government can not keep wages up permanently mark them up from tax money. Social reformers pile duties on the government which are not governmental, and marvel that taxpayers are not so grateful as the beneficiaries of what they do not pay for. Many such measures are pressed by those who ought to know better than the nultitudes who think that the government has funds of its own, and does not merely spend the money of one man for the benefit of another No government governs in a manner above criticism, although regulation of conduct is simplicity itself compared with the many duties of social reform, benevolence and business heaped on government already overtaxed in its

appropriate functions. It leads too far affeld to consider this text throughout the world. The figures are astronomical and baffling in their intricacies. Merely in passing, it may be remarked that the British government paid a subsidy of \$50,000,000, a bounty to miners who had reduced their output as their wages were raised, and who had caused their country untold loss. There is no humanity, but a parody on government efficiency and economy, in procedure which causes the governments of Europe to consume in taxes rom 20 to 40 per cent of the national income. Normally, national savings accumulate at the rate of 10 to 16 per cent of national income. Now national expenditures take from taxpayers and spend on others several times the sum which should increase the capital savings, and special discrimination is shown against those whose offense is that they earn and save most. There can be no real prosperity anywhere until there is budget reform everywhere. We are interested in the foreign reform budget almost as much as in our own. We can not sell abroad if foreign governments take in taxes the funds which would do more good if left in the chan-

Taking a home view of the same subject, it to be remarked that all records are eclipsed by the flood of public bonds, whose interest is at a rate proportioning the benefit of coupon clippers to the burden on taxpayers. For the first five months of this year \$366,667,901 of public bonds were issued. During the same months trade was declining, and industrial capital issues were smaller than last year by \$455,-003,000. It has been long since railways have enjoyed borrowing credit. The great losses of rallway credit came earlier. There are on the horizon billions of road bonds and soldiers' bonus bonds and public improvement bonds of all degrees of merit, but all with the demerit of swelling taxes and starving trade.

It is contrary to the interest of rent-payers that public buildings should be erected at a cost in twenty-five northeastern states of \$1,694,384,-600 compared with \$739,548,000 for all business, industrial and residential buildings. It is contrary to the interest of all using credit that public credit should absorb funds at interest rates which business can not pay, and should throw tax exemption into the unequal scale. How can farmers expect to borrow cheaply when there are twenty billions of federal bonds tax exempt in varying degrees, and twenty billions of other bonds totally exempt from federal taxation? Here is the explanation of the shrinking movement of shares in June and the swelling total of bonds. In the last three years the Stock Exchange business in bonds has totaled over five billions, for the first half of the years. In no other half year has the bond business totaled a billion, rarely a half billion. The current bond business is several times the normal volume, and the over-counter business is an abnormal addition. Here is the explanation why credit is dear, taxes high. Here is a menace to this nation as well as to other nations. The president's words are fit and timely.

Women's Independence

He must have been a sour misanthrope who, in describing the changed conditions of England in a recent letter to the New York Times, said that "the English women have gained their independence and seem to take a delight in pushing the men off the sidewalk when they are all rushing for a motor bus or trying to enter trains in the tube railways." The plain intention is to attribute such feminine behavior to the fact that, after a long struggle by Mrs. Pankhurst and others, the women have gained the right to vote. The same correspondent implies that they smoke cigarets in public places, wear bobbed hair and short skirts, because they have

gained their "independence' We should hesitate to attribute such tendencies in feminine behavior to the mere fact that voman now has the vote, and wants everybody to understand it. But even were it so, have not women the right to make their own use of their independence? Isn't independence within a short skirt, with bobbed hair and a cigaret better than slavery without them? Woman suffragists from Miss Anthony down to Alice Paul must have thought so or they would not have been so earnest and persistent about it. We see no reason why men should become so misanthropic because women have gained equal rights. Men must take feminine independence as they find it, and if the women push them off the sidewalk to show their equality, the men, instead of grumbling about it, should climb back and push the women off-if they are big enough. If not, they better not write about it.-Springfield

Wilson on His Job.

Woodrow Wilson is not doing what some republican strategists would like to have him -Springfield Republican.

But he is doing what the American people by the greatest majority ever developed decided he should do and must do—and that is quit the White House and get out of the way of the government of the United States.—Hartford

One Cause of Rejoicing.

Gasoline is getting down to a price at which man whose income is \$5,000 a year can afford o own a small pleasure car. That this is true is the cause of rejoicing among the hundreds of thousands of \$2,500 a year men who own cars of considerable dignity.—Louisville Courier-

In These Confusing Times.

Sometimes we do wonder how we got the 18th amendment, the Volstead act, the anticigaret laws, the Lord's Day Alliance and the name for Liberty bonds all in the same era.— Worcester Telegram.

The Thrill to Come.

At last, Senator France has been permitted to enter Russia. But the really thrilling part of his trip will be when it comes to decide whether he will be permitted to get out.—Baltimore

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.

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PROGRESS IN ALABAMA.

Dr. S. W. Welch, health officer about April 1: "If I can find the noney to continue the work now being done against venereal disease in this state two years from now syphilis and gonorrhea will be as

rare in Alabama as smallpox now is." While smallpox was then fairly prevalent, it is certain that venereal isease was 1,000 times as much so. I could not see how so stupendous a task was to be accomplished in two years, yet I was bound to ad-mire Dr. Welch's ambition and determination. He had several reasons for his optimism. One was the high venereal disease rate of the men examined in the draft and the low rate of the soldiers who had been in the army. The first figure showed how great is the prevalence of venereal disease among young men, where nothing in the way of control is done. The second showed how easy it is to bring the trouble under control.

Upon entrance to the army negroes had a venereal disease rate that was seven times that of whites. After being in the army six months the rate among negro troops was no higher than that among white troops. Much of the venereal dis-The Alabama plan embraces the usual educational work by means of leastets, bulletins, letters and moving pictures. The diseases are reportable. There are local clinics for the free treatment of the infeeted. There are 11 of these free clinics supported in part by the state and in part by local funds. This is a considerable number for a small state.

The outstanding features of their method is the co-operative clinic for the treatment of those who can and should pay something but who cannot pay much. The co-operative clinic method is as follows: "A local physician is furnished a speci-fled equipment for treating ve-nereal disease, is supplied with standard medicines, and commands the state laboratory service. For this and the privilege of being designated a co-operator he contracts to treat venereal disease for \$2 a treatment, or \$25 for a course of 14 treatments. The treatments consist of Wasserman and other laboratory tests, injections of ar-sephenamine, and the use of such other remedies as are indicated for either venereal disease. Fourteen standard treatments, properly given, are said to be the right number. Those not able to pay \$25 are treated in the free clinics. Those able to pay more than \$25 are not treated at the co-operative clinics." Work against venereal disease is only one part of the health protec tion given the people of Alabama. They have a system of co-operative county health officers provided for under their law. Under that system a county establishes a health department with funds obtained in part from the state, in part from the county funds and in part from outside sources. The state health county health officer to prevent the appointment of a man for purely political reasons, to prevent the rehe has done his duty, and to keep the local men on tiptoe and to standardize the local work.

Under the plan, malaria is com ing under control and should prac-tically disappear from Alabama in a few years, as it has disappeared in other states. Hookworm is not the burden on educational funds and the stumbling block to teachers

hat it was 20 years ago. Few of the states recognize the need of a rural health officer. In most states the city death rates are lower than those of the country, especially if we limit the city group



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How to Keep Well The Bee's Letter Box

of The Bee: The press is the watch to figure out when Brogan's home dog of civilization. A news item in will be paid for. today's issue of your great paper headed, "Welfare Board Wants More Funds for Relief Work," states that the honorable members are "to acquaint themselves with its present status by visiting the employment

While on their tour of benevolent inspection. I would suggest that they Dr. S. W. Welch, health officer visit the county store and listen to plicants. I will cite one to illustrate others. John Brogan (Italian), 1405 William street-no kin of Attorney Brogan's-though he needs a lawyer as well as food-out of employment with a sick wife and five children. Bought the house he lives in under contract for \$3,500, paid \$1,000 down, leaving a balance of \$2,500 to be paid in monthly installments at \$30 a month. He has lived in the house 18 months, met his obliga-tions regularly. Also paid \$60 and \$50 in excess of the agreement Poor Brogan's book shows that he

> to cities with more than 25,000 inhabitants and count the smaller cities and the towns and villages in with the country. It is true that the heaviest of all death rates is in villages, but in the scheme of orcounty health officer serves the smaller cities as well as the truly rural great population. Whereas the about one-third of the old-time figures, the country and small city have not fallen very mark-

At Any Drug Store.

Buy it at any drug store if you want a pound or less: If you want or such a matter try a wholesale house. It is a grease a little firmer than lard or butter at the same temperature.

By the Picturesque St. Lawrence River Route Sailings Every Few Days from Montreal and Quebec to Liverpool,

R. W. writes: "Where can I buy In what quantities can I buy it?"

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The Art and Music Store





sure, you'll get used to it. It is on the sellike a feather bed. The fellow that told me that must have hated me and mine. The ground, to sleep on the like sleeping on one hundred sait shakers, sharp side up—would you call that comfort?

I saw a man up the road who had one of those Basford Steel Beds that I saw at Scott's—and he tooked fresh as a daisy this morning with an "at home" sleep to his credit.

Folks, listen! That steel bed is the thing. What if it weighs is lbs., it's comfort you want at night to enjoy a camping trip.

What if you do have to carry a couple quitts along to put under you, you need them for warmth, even on an army cot. What if you have to pay \$18 for a comfortable Basford fold-up steel camp bed, better cut out some of the other things in the outfit and

You can get them only atauto Tourist store AHAMO

JERRY HOWARD. The Matters Pardon.

Omaha, July 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: Why hasn't The Bee said anything regarding the pardon of Thomas H. Matters? There should be something done regarding this miscarriage of justice, so that men of powerful influence and pull, hereafter, will serve their time like many who are not fortuenough to have the money and graft that was back of this case. No wonder we are having less respect for laws; one made for the poor

man and one for the influential

made a joke of, is too much for an ordinary man. A poor, old man, that did just as Mr. Matters did, still stays in prison. Is there justice John Brogan's Home. am up in mathematics, Brogan has in that? None whatsoever, and I Omaha, July 13.—To the Editor paid \$1,650. I am unable, however, would like to see those other cases that still hang on taken up. Don't make us any more suspicious of our laws. He made his own bed so he should be made to lie in it. Justice is all any man asks. H. OLSON.

> His Great Talent. "Blank's a great artist, isn't he?"

"But he gets big prices for his work ?" "Yes, he's a mighty good sales-man."—Boston Transcript.

Persistent Profiteers. Among the people who do not seem to know the war is over are some who operate soda-water foun-After all the money and time that tains .- New Haven Journal-Courier.



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THE late Marshall Field wrote a new creed in I store service when he laid down the rule that

"the customer is always right." Nowadays, progressive hotels subscribing to the same spirit in hotel service, invariably insist that "the guest must be satisfied."

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Natural Course of Events A Savings Account is One of these Essentials that Every Thoughtful Man Knows Cannot be Disregarded if his Success is to be a Certainty.

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