

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 payment with a cash surplus of Main Thoroughfare leading into Omaha.
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.

A Disappointing Rate Cut.

The 10 per cent cut in freight rates proposed by railroad executives is disappointing, particularly to western producers and business men who were expecting an average 16 per cent reduction of grain and hay rates in western states in accordance with the suggestion of the Interstate Commerce commission. Men who had arranged their business on this assumption find now that they have been hoaxed. The "suggestion" was not an order, as many thought, and is to be shelved, apparently in favor of a lesser reduction of country-wide scope, jointly approved, it seems, by the railroads and the commission.

The grain-producing states of the middle west have been at a disadvantage for a long time, due to the tremendous decline in the prices of their principal products and the burden of high freight rates which were doubly unbearable because of the relatively long distance to market. The transportation cost is not so important an element to farmers close to the great terminals, but to those of Nebraska and neighboring states it is a prime factor. So it was that the middle west fought for lower rates and carried the battle through to apparent victory.

But the victory brought its own defeat. Producers of other sections and interests other than those of agriculture clamored for similar relief. The result is a mere trifling concession on a nation-wide scale. The special reduction on corn and other coarse grains is lost; the middle west which felt itself under an unusual burden gains no benefit not shared by all the rest of the country, and this less than the west had been led to expect.

In some instances, the proposed reduction will make little or no change in actual shipping costs. The new plan includes a proviso that any reductions made since September of last year shall be deemed a part of the 10 per cent cut now to be made. This means that there will be no further reduction in cases where a cut of 10 per cent or more had already been made, as in the case of certain export grain rates or trans-continental fruit tariffs.

Farmers who are figuring in red ink instead of black note that in August of this year 178 railroads made a profit of \$85,653,000, contrasted with a deficit of \$150,000,000 in August, 1920. This represents a return of 4.6 per cent on the estimated capital. The return for September was 4.5 per cent and for the twelve months 2.8 per cent. This consistent improvement has been in spite of the adverse general business situation and indicates that, whatever the plight of the railroads may be as viewed by their executives and stockholders, they by no means are in so serious a situation as the farmers and stock raisers.

Co-Ordinate Municipal Buying.

Recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce for the creation of a purchasing department in the city hall should have general public support, provided the department be given real responsibility and real authority.

The proviso is fully as important as the original proposition. Creation of a purchasing department such as has existed in some past administrations would be adding a title to the city hall directory and a few names to the payroll. It would be nothing more and would constitute a drain upon the treasury instead of being a safeguard. Establishment of a competent purchasing agency, clothed with authority and burdened with responsibility, on the other hand, would be a real step forward.

Quantity purchases of supplies for all departments, with proper preparation of specifications and a careful check of articles delivered, can be made to mean a real saving of public funds at a time when taxpayers justly are particularly watchful of waste or extravagance.

A Federal Law Against Lynching.

A bill to put down lynching is now before congress. This or some other measure, designed to the same end should be passed. The almost total absence of punishment for the perpetrators of these outrages against law and order demands that the federal courts step in.

As reported to the house of representatives by the judiciary committee, the Dyer anti-lynching bill provides heavy penalties, not only for the members of mobs but for any state or municipal officers who fail to make all reasonable efforts to protect the life of any person who is put to death by a mob. Any officer who omits to do his duty in apprehending or prosecuting members of lynching parties would face trial in district court, and a fine of \$5,000, five years in prison, or both. Anyone participating in a riotous assemblage in which a person is killed would be deemed guilty of a felony and sent to prison for from five years to life. In addition, the county in which the lynching is committed would forfeit \$10,000, which would be turned

over to the family of the victim, or if no relatives existed, to the federal treasury.

These provisions are drastic, but their severity is warranted by the disregard of the orderly process of justice and the flouting of the law which characterizes mob action. There is nothing in this that shields the guilty from legal punishment or aims to do any more than to provide the protection guaranteed to citizens by the Constitution. While the great nations are conferring in Washington on international law and order, what a mockery it would be for Americans of any locality to break forth in violence. The mob spirit must be crushed wherever it appears, either internationally or within the borders of a single state.

China as an Aid to Understanding.

American sympathies naturally align with the "open door" policy in China, it being one of our greatest contributions to the sum of world politics. When it was announced by Secretary Hay as the basis on which the United States was ready to recognize and participate in outside dealings with affairs of the Chinese people, the parceling of Chinese territory had already proceeded almost to the dismemberment of the empire. Allotments of territory thus made were to be managed as recognized "spheres of influence," in effect a suzerainty over the region so allotted. Actual division of the land between the powers of Europe was halted by the interposition of the United States.

Out of the "sphere of influence," coupled with the Boxer rebellion, grew the Shantung affair. Germany demanded as part of the reparation due as a result of that revolt a slice of the country, and seized the Shantung peninsula, with the port of Kiaochow as its due. Exploitation of this rich region was well under way when the World War broke out, and Japan's chiefest contribution was the expulsion of the Germans from their Chinese foothold. The Japanese promptly complicated matters by insisting on the acceptance by China of the "twenty-one demands," in effect a suzerainty over the region so allotted. Actual division of the land between the powers of Europe was halted by the interposition of the United States.

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Poetry as a Weapon of Offense.

Public interest in the affairs of the Tellegens and the Farrars is not likely to run the news of the arms conference off the front page. At present, this delectable pair might be left to fight it out in court or elsewhere, and the world would little note the proceedings. Yet the gallant and chivalrous Lou, who not so long ago received from the gentle Geraldine such of his wardrobe as he had left behind when he decamped from their home, alleges a new and unusual form of cruelty as having been practiced by his gifted spouse. Knowing his fondness for poetry of the "affectionate" variety, she would arouse him at unseemly hours to read it to him. "In the middle of the night," he sets out, but does not say if this is the "middle of the night" as recognized by hard-working members of his profession, which comes about 9 in the morning, or if it be the time usually so designated by ordinary mortals. However, this does not so much matter. It is the reading of poetry to one's spouse when the unwilling listener would rather sleep that will intrigue the public. Almost any of us can recall certain forms of poetry that are a torture at any time, but these are not always of the affectionate order. Wives are here provided with a new weapon of offense against such husbands as deserve its application. Its use in defense are yet to be developed, but these doubtless will be discovered.

Too much emphasis should not be laid on establishing new codes of international law which would outlaw airplanes, submarines or gas.

When a nation or a man gets the idea it is fighting for its life, any means of defense is deemed justifiable. If the nations are stripped down so a pillow fight is all that is possible, some one is apt to slip a brick in with the feathers.

Judged from this distance, the effort to impose longer hours of toil in the clothing industry while employment is so slack is without justification in economics or morals.

In spite of what they are telling Marshal Foch, when the picture of the man who won the war is painted it will look more like a dough-boy than a general.

The railways report earning 4 per cent in September, which is considerably more than the profit of most farmers and many other lines of business.

The judge who regretted that he could not send a firebug who endangered hundreds of lives to the electric chair has the world with him.

Now when so many need credit, it is the way of the world that its dispensers should discuss tightening up.

Fines for reckless motorists are just what are needed to make it safe for pedestrians.

Music week is expected to hit a high note.

The Task of Intelligence

Analysis of Recent Elections Shows Some Domestic Problems.

(From the New York Times.)

In the new crop of mayors that has sprung up throughout the country as if by magic we shall eventually have to recognize something more than a gallery of serio-comic waxworks. Schwab, the Buffalo brewer, who, though under indictment for violation of federal prohibition laws, promises to go to Washington and have those laws repealed; Kohler of Cleveland, who was dismissed as chief of police for conduct unbecoming to an officer and therefore actually refrained from campaign speeches; Lew Shank of Indianapolis, who proclaimed his failures as a farmer as qualifications for civic preferment; Oles of Youngstown, who promised a municipal millennium in words of one syllable—each and all are fit to stand or totter beside our own Hyland, who soared back into his seat on promises of continuing the 5-cent fare, which, as every one should know but doesn't, is a matter utterly beyond the power of his office. Such an array—and it could be vastly extended—is not a joke; it is a national phenomenon. The poor decision of the cities was grating; today—what is it?

We of New York know best, for our experience is double-barreled. As we now return the most incompetent of mayors, so four years ago we as decisively cast out Mayor Mitchell, who had just given us about the ablest administration in modern memory. City as a municipal unit do not recognize intelligence and effective skill. That fact is momentous, for more and more city government is ceasing to be a simple matter of politics and becoming a matter of complicated business administration. The prime requisite is expert financial and economic knowledge coupled with the fine art of management. An ignorant and bungling administration such as is now recognized upon our necks is much more damaging to the fortunes of a city than the reign of Tweed or Croker. It is not merely employees and merchants who suffer, but all their employees. The livelihood of future generations may be sacrificed in such a blunder as was threatened in the case of the New York-New Jersey port plan. Yet the fate of the city lately hung upon a purely fictitious issue about car fare. Our larger municipalities are ruled by masses, largely foreign in origin and traditions, who are themselves ignorant of government and who instinctively distrust skill in others. On the scale of intelligence the game of politics has to be played very low down.

That, fortunately, is only half of the story. The chief lesson of the election will be lost unless we see clearly the human forces at play beneath what seem to be merely grotesque misconceptions. Rightly or wrongly, vast masses of Americans believe they have been cheated out of their say as to how and on what terms the drink evil should be regulated; so Buffalo cast its vote for Brewer Schwab. Shank of Indianapolis, who is now recognized upon our necks as a mayor, and just now labor is aware of forces that are uniting to abate its demands. At Youngstown Mr. Oles stood against abuses of municipal authority that appear to be very real. One and all of the new mayors, and also our re-elected mayor, spoke to the voters of what the voters conceived to be their nearest interests, and spoke in a language they understood. The American people have always been ignorant of economic abstractions and impatient of the details of technical management. What people are not? But when a clear moral cause is presented to them it commonly wins. For generations the power of Tammany has stood unbroken except for the few occasions upon which the opposing forces were able to get to the polls on an unmistakable question of right.

The task of intelligent and patriotic citizens is to present their cause not merely with reason, but with moral and emotional conviction. In view of the fact that municipal government is increasingly technical, one may well ask how that is to be accomplished. You cannot sing a budget or present plans for the future of a world metropolis in words of one syllable. But unless some means is found of bringing the common run of voters in touch with progress and the fruits of experience, democracy will work but imperfectly in cities.

The Wilson Principles

In a speech delivered at Owensboro, Ky., Senator Harrison of Mississippi said: "The democrats are militant. They will present a united front from now until the national election in 1924. They see victory in the air, and the nation will yet see the principles for which Woodrow Wilson fought vindicated."

Does this mean that the issue of the Versailles treaty is to be revived for use in 1924? How could that be?

A separate treaty with Germany has been made, and will soon go into effect. Fourteen democratic senators, with Mr. Underwood at their head, voted for ratification. They did so knowing that Mr. Wilson was opposed to the treaty. Would not a revival of the Versailles pact as a party issue be a rebuke to those senators?

The armament conference, which will not attempt to establish a League of Nations, but will attempt to develop an understanding among the nations as to future expenditures on war machines and other matters of world concern, has the approval of large numbers of democratic senators. Underwood has accepted an appointment as delegate to the conference, and his party, in the senate and out, has approved of his action. If the conference brings the nations into accord on the issues presented, will there be any reason left for bringing forward again Mr. Wilson's work at Versailles?

The "solemn referendum" on his principles requested by Mr. Wilson took place last year, and resulted in a complete rout for him and them. Governor Cox stood for them, and made his canvass with Mr. Wilson's blessing. The popular majority against him was seven millions odd. What reason is there for believing that the country would reverse itself on a matter it has disposed of in so emphatic a manner?—Washington Star.

Calls for Watson's Expulsion.

Senator Watson of Georgia has now attacked not merely the administration of the American army in France during the war, he has attacked that army itself. Nor has he stopped there. He has said an infamous thing about the American women who went to France as nurses, women whom the American people admire and honor and the story of whose heroism and sacrifice they cherish.

It does not seem to us that any investigation of Watson's charges is necessary or should be made. To assume even for an instant that his charges are warranted is to share his responsibility.

There is only one action which will suffice. No reprimand, however severe, could meet the requirements. Undoubtedly Watson should be expelled from the senate forthwith.—Charleston News and Courier.

Understanding the Self Evident.

Thomas Edison's assertion that not more than 2 per cent of the people can understand a self-evident proposition stated in simple terms is rather a compliment to the 2 per cent than an aspersion to the other 98. The fact is that for considerably more than 2,000 years men of the highest intelligence have been discussing the simple, self-evident propositions of Euclid's geometry and they still offer material for hard thinking.—Detroit Free Press.

For Congress to Remember.

Remember, too, that the more reduction it is possible to make in federal surtaxes and excess profit taxes the more free capital there is going to be no tax.—Detroit Free Press.

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 space limitation, where a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make a diagnosis nor prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

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FIGHTING MALARIA LOSSES.

For nearly three years the Cotton Belt railroad has been conducting a malaria campaign in its territory. Every year, however, the open in badly infested places. All cases of malaria, when possible, were completely cured by being given eight grains of quinine four times a day for five days, four grains four times a day for 20 days, four grains twice a day for 40 days. The case was kept in the hospital five to seven days whenever possible.

Needs Change of Diet.
Mrs. P. G. writes: "I have a child 4 years old. He will eat breakfast, consisting of two soft-boiled eggs and a glass of milk, and supper, consisting of soup and a piece of chicken, but under no circumstances can I get him to eat dinner. He vomits it, no matter what I feed him. He is a normal boy to all appearances. Can you let me know the causes of this? He takes a quart of milk daily and is very fond of bananas."

REPLY.
Send us 9 cents for a copy of "The Right Food for the Growing Child." Follow the diet given there. The present diet is faulty. He needs more vegetables, fruit, cereals and bread and less eggs and meat and possibly milk. It is proper to give ripe bananas—the brown ripe, but not the beautiful golden yellow yet not fully ripe ones.

There Are Several Causes.
B. C. D. writes: "I. Could you tell me what causes women to have stillborn infants? II. What causes pains in the head every time I stoop?"

REPLY.
1. The most frequent cause is syphilis. Among the other causes are other infections, physical injuries, Bright's disease.
2. Among the causes of this symptom are high blood pressure, heart trouble, anemia, syphilis.

Why One Yawns.
P. F. T. writes: "Why does a man yawn? Will you please explain the physiological reason?"

REPLY.
The nerve center which presides over breathing is not receiving as much oxygen as it needs. This stimulates it and in consequence orders go to the muscles of the chest to widen the bellows and draw in more air.

Lauds Use of Radium.
Mrs. E. M. C. writes: "Radium treatments will remove moles perfectly and leave no scar or blemish to show where they have once been."

CENTER SHOTS.
"Wrist watches have gone." Ours wouldn't.—Cleveland Press.
Roll calls show they are mostly congressmen at large.—Flint (Mich.) Journal.

Now that it is testified that Sgt. Woodfill helps with the dishes, there is no denying his heroism.—Pittsburgh Sun.

One strong argument against fighting the Japs is that we can't pronounce their generals' names.—Jackson Citizen Patriot.

Charles Hapeburg is about to leave Hungary on one of the trains maintained by the Hungarian government for that purpose.—New York Post.

The one thing in the world that we enjoy doing most is moving the indicator on the alarm clock over to "Silent" every Saturday night.—Syracuse Herald.

Many a young man of promise should be used later in life for a breach of promise.—Asheville Times.

Perhaps the public should not make the mistake of expecting too much, but the conference should not make the mistake of expecting too little from the public—if it flunks.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

THE SPICE OF LIFE.

"Becky Sharp was a thoroughly worthless woman."—Woolworth's. "I'm say, look at the money Thackeray and Mrs. Plater have made out of her."—Tulsa Blade.

She (sweeping him)—But, dearer, I hope you won't expect me to cook.

He—No, darling, only try to—Boston Transcript.

"Six marriages will be about enough, kid," said the movie magazine to Viola Vampire. "But—" "I know you love your public, but you can't possibly marry all of it."—Film Fun.

Train Conductor—How old are you, my little girl?
Little girl—if the corporation doesn't object, I prefer to pay the full fare and say nothing.—Pearson's Weekly.

Policeman (to letter)—Come, move on there. If everybody stood still in the one place, how could the others get past.—Sydney Bulletin.

—Nicholas—
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