THE OMAHA BEE

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B. BREWER, General Manager
ELMER S. ROOD, Circulation Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of March, 1922.

(Seal) W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

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St. Patrick and His Island.

Allowing for the conflicting claims made by churchmen as to the nationality and denominational persuasion of Patrick, no doubt can exist as to the land of his adoption and labor. Ireland glories in the memory of Patrick, and today all over the world bits of green will brighten in a million ways the sombreness of the early spring, tokens of the affection of all hearts through which any drop of Celtic blood courses for Ireland and its saint.

For the Irish, this ought to be regarded as the brightest 17th of March in seven centuries or longer, for it denotes the ending of the long struggle for political freedom and the beginning of a new era for the island. The Irish Free State will very shortly assume its responsible place in the councils not of the empire alone, but of the world, moving under a constitution framed and adopted by the people themselves. Here is a notable distinction. The constitution of Ireland is not written and conceived by a monarch or his cabinet, and handed down as an act of grace from above; it is designed and presented by representatives of the people, chosen by the people, and will be adopted, if at all, by the free vote of the people. And no act more becomes a free people than the adoption of a constitution, whereby the powers of the government and the liberties and rights of the people are outlined, delimited as well as expressed.

Irishmen will accordingly observe the day with a zest and a deep-seated feeling of joy and pride such as they have not experienced in all their lives. Turbulence in the island is disappearing, the bitterness and rancor of factional disagreement will pass, and in the management of their own affairs, the securing of their own prosperity and the advancement of their own happiness under their own control, the Irish will find ample scope for the employment of that genius that has so often called forth the flippant jest, that they governed every land but their own. In the future they will govern Ireland.

Taxpayers Taking Notice.

Now that the clamor of the calamity shriekers is commencing to subside, the still, small voice of common sense is getting a chance to say something on the tax question. Our friend, Editor Carroll, tells his readers in Colfax county comey facts about their own situation that in a considerable degree will apply to every county in the state. It certainly will apply to Douglas county. However, little is to be gained by scolding the people for their own negligence, beyond the probability that reminding them of the consequences may cause them to look closer at all propositions entailing expenditure for the future.

Having danced, it is now to pay the fiddler. There are a few, not many, democratic states in the union, and there taxes are levied and collected, just as they are in republican states. Cost of government goes on, just the same, with no regard for party lines. It is not amiss, however, to remind the public once more that the so-called "code" system is not a devilish contraption, devised by Governor McKelvie for the undoing of the people of the state. It was carried out in redemption of a promise made in the republican platform of 1918, embodying a principle that was endorsed by Keith Neville, last democratic governor, and by him recommended to the legislators. Chairman Neville probably recalls this fact, but does not have much to say in regard to it. The code system did not create any new offices, nor add a single name to the pay roll of the state. It consolidated and co-ordinated existing bureaus and commissions, eliminated duplications and overlaps, and cleared the way for efficiency in the state administration. The budget system extends the usefulness of the code system, and the two together will produce results of benefit to all.

The taxpayers of Nebraska are making proper inquiry, and the truth is coming out, in spite of the smoke barrage laid down by the democrats who had hoped that their hypocrisy and deceit would not be disclosed until after the primary is over, if then.

Business Is Getting Better.

"The proof of the pudding is in chewing the string." Applying the final test to local business conditions, the verdict is that trade in all lines is better now than it was a year ago. Bank statements, published during the week showed a heavy increase in deposits and a decrease in loans, evidence of a decided change in a year. While the money is not so completely employed as it was in 1921, the diminution of debt is more a sign that recovery has enabled debtors to get out from under the load they were carrying than it is of actual contraction of business. So it is a sign of health. Ample employment will be found for that money. In retail trade men who are at the helm say that sales are better, credit conditions improved, and collections easier than a year ago. Consumers are coming into the market once again, and purchases made are not only on a more liberal basis, but of a better quality generally speaking. No claim is made that a boom impends, or anything like that, but men of affairs are convinced that the depression that afflicted the world for so long a time is gone, and that activity in all lines is now the order of the day. When the credit men tell you business is better, you may accept the statement as worth 100 per cent of its face.

Omaha and the Tramway.

The city commissioners are properly vigilant in resenting the further intrusion of the State Railway commission in settlement of matters between the city and the tramway company. Perhaps there is reason for the adjustment of fares by the state board, but it requires considerable stretching to make that authority cover a grant to the tramway to abandon one set of streets and to remove its tracks to another. Surely, if the people of Omaha have any rights left in the matter, one of them must include control of the streets.

Something more than this is involved. Several years ago the Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge company was challenged by the city to designate which one of several existing or expiring franchises it is operating under. This is necessary to establish and maintain the rights of the city. It was at one time assumed by the tramway company that it possessed a perpetual franchise, a claim that has long since been disposed of. If the city consents to the state board issuing a permit for the removal of tracks, or the extension of lines, or any other act materially affecting the relations between the company and the community, the effect may in time be greatly embarrassing, if not actually damaging to the public interest.

Omaha has had enough experience in these matters to justify its proceeding very cautiously. The Omaha & Council Bluffs Railway and Bridge company need have no apprehension in approaching the public on a matter relating to any feature of its service, where all the elements of fair dealing are present, and it should be equally assured that Omaha does not propose to surrender or sleep on any of its rights.

"Spoofing" the Gullible Public.

And now it turns out that the Antigonish "ghost" was a very material miss of some twenty Nova Scotian summers, whose sense of humor was more vigorous than subtle. She was bent on having a little fun, and did not take into consideration how earnestly the world is seeking for "manifestations." Perhaps she would have desisted from her sport if she had been told that she would bring down a coterie of scientific investigators, whose trained faculties would be set to work on the trail of her ghost. However, the incident is explained, and maybe we will hear no more about the doings at Antigonish. The lesson will not linger long, however. Man is so eager to get a dependable message from the other side that he will believe a lot of things when told they are from "spirits," than if the assertion is made by an ordinary mortal. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is on the eve of departing for America with his little bag of tricks, to join the bevy of British lecturers who have swarmed over the land these last two years. He will tell in his own way of his inquiries, and why he has declared so positively in favor of his communication with the spirits of the departed. He may or may not convince Americans of the truth of his views and adventures, but he will get that wherewith he may satisfy even the British tax collector. Our people still like to be "spoofed."

On Being an Evangelist.

Sincere professors of religiou will not be greatly uplifted by the spectacle of a self-confessed bigamist posing as an evangelist. This, and the picture of James J. Jeffries, one-time champion heavyweight pugilist, setting up as a sensational soul-saver does not inspire enormous respect for the cause. Not that it is improbable that either or both may not in such a way effectively work for the good of humanity. It would be a cold and cruel faith that would deny to either a chance for reformation and an opportunity to dispense an experienced salvation for the saving of others. Yet some orderly minds, whose devotion is inherent, hold religion in such high regard that they must revolt at the thought involved in the transfer of a criminal from his prison cell to the pulpit without any special preparation, other than what he may have received in his cell. In the past the church has had to support a great deal in this way, and no little scandal has ensued from time to time because of the pretensions of such uncertain personages as prize fighters, bigamists and the like, who have felt the exaltation of conversion and yet have sadly lacked the stamina to persist in the ways of righteousness. The business of being an evangelist is not to be lightly entered upon, although one who has been married a dozen or so times in quick succession to as many different women may fairly be said to have passed beyond the deterring control of ordinary considerations.

"The way to resume is to resume," said John Sherman, almost fifty years ago, and Mr. Mellon evidently recollects the statement. At any rate, the Treasury is paying out gold again.

Egypt is back to where she was before Cleopatra and her brother fell out. When national independence is lost it generally takes a long time to recover.

The wool rate from the west to Boston will stand unchanged. Another good argument for establishing a wool market in Omaha.

Smuts has wound up the South African "revolution" with a promptness that may deter any future demonstrations of the kind.

Governor McKelvie declines to pick Nebraska's greatest war hero. His wisdom is developing as days go on.

One more week of debate on the Pacific treaty ought to allow some senator to close up his remarks.

Matzenauer is again proving that a diva may not always be a good chooser of husbands.

"Erin go bragh!" "Caed mille Failthe!"

Long-Range Cannon.

"Old heads must give way to young hearts," says Joe Cannon. In that case he can't be sure whether to go out or stay in congress. His heart is young, his head is old; his dilemma is interesting.—Brooklyn Eagle.

If the Division Was by Sessions.

There is a bill now pending before congress which will change the calendar so that there will be thirteen months in a year. Its chances would be better if congressmen were paid by the month. —Detroit Free Press.

Secretary Hughes Guilty

Confesses Writing Four-Power Treaty to Confusion of Critics.

(From the New York Post.)

The cause of higher criticism, as upheld by the scholiasts and commentators in the senate, has suffered a severe setback. Senators applied the miscroscope to the text of the four-power treaty and had not the slightest difficulty in detecting therein the fine British hand of Arthur Balfour and the characteristic Nipponese ideographs of Tokugawa and Kato. Here plainly was a case where Downing Street subtlety and Japanese guile had combined to put something over on America's unsuspecting statesmen and public. But it now appears that the document designed to let in the United States for all sorts of horrid commitments and obligations in the Pacific was drafted by Secretary Hughes and approved by Mr. Root and Mr. Lodge. After this it will be harder than ever for some professor of linguistics to prove on the basis of internal evidence that Homer and Dante were written by somebody else than Homer and Dante.

Not that Mr. Hughes' direct testimony as to the authorship of the Pacific treaty need utterly discourage any senator sincerely dedicated to the task of finding in the treaty something dreadful that isn't there. It is still open to the watchdogs of our liberties to assert that while Mr. Hughes' was the hand that drafted the treaty, the moving spirits were British and Japanese. A few deft passes of the slim Balfourian fingers over Mr. Hughes' brow, a compelling glance or two from the hypotic Tokugawa eyes, and our secretary of state passed into a trance where it was easy for these sinister forces from the Atlantic and Pacific beyond to work their will upon our delegates. Mr. Hughes has always been so susceptible to suggestions from the outside, Mr. Root is so notoriously a babe in worldly affairs, that it was the merest child play to make them do what the British and Japanese wanted them to do. The fact that Hughes wrote the Pacific treaty only proves the hyper-subtlety and super-guile of the alien.

In all the pother about just who did what at the Washington conference, in all this minute scrutinizing and analyzing and emendating that has been going on ever since Senator Lodge made his mistakes in Pacific geography and President Harding gave his own understanding of what a Pacific island really is, has it ever occurred to the critics that not devilish diplomatic guile is at work, but simple human failings? We know that the great tragedy of Lord Kitchener was in his being tongue-tied. Misunderstandings about the conduct of the war arose in the British cabinet for the simple reason that Kitchener did not know how to say what he knew or meant. So it is conceivable that Mr. Hughes, who was fairly busy during the Washington conference and later, never thought of what a help it would be if the American people were told just who wrote the Pacific treaty. As a matter of fact, Mr. Hguhes never thought that the statement was necessary. He believed that a plain document carries its own meaning on its face. But since the grammarians in the senate insisted on fearing the worst, it is good that they shall have the famous secret of authorship solved.

Pope Pius and America

The assurance which Pope Pius XI has given to Cardinal O'Connell that there shall be no more racing of American cardinals to reach the conclave in time is not in any sense an idle word. The pope has it in his power so to change the rules for the meeting of the conclave for the election of his successors that the election shall await the arrival of cardinals from the western hemisphere, and his assurance is definitive. This assurance, which will be hailed with joy by American Catholics, can not do less than promote the importance of the church in the new world, and particularly in the United States. It will mark a new step in the development of the church here from the missionary status in which it remained for centuries toward an equal position with that of the countries of Europe.

Along with this assurance goes the evidence on the new pope's part of a quite special and sympathetic interest in American usages and ideals. "I like that," he said, when Cardinal O'Connell told him of the way Catholics and Protestants co-operate in our country's social and economic life, uniting in public work for the common good: "It makes for peace and harmony everywhere." He bids his hierarchy "stand for all that is best in human life." A great program of well-doing is expressed in these words. Omens for "peace and harmony everywhere" cling abundantly around the new pontiff.—Boston Transcript.

The Python's Plan

There is a big python at the National Zoological Park which recently consumed an antelope, and is now in a six-month stupor, not being required to eat again for that length of time.

What a blessing it would prove if the python's plan could be generally adopted! Think of all the work and worry which would be saved.

"Bring on the antelope," the head of the house would order, and the good housewife would soon enter, bearing the antelope in one hand and a cellar of salt in the other.

No more menus for half a year! No more going to the grocery store before breakfast to get that gill of forgotten cream; no more waiting in vain for the butcher's boy that cometh not with the roast. The antelope solves it all. Gone would be the arduous duty of washing and drying the dishes, and cleaning the pots and pans.

Instead of sitting down to table three times a day for half a year the feast of the antelope would be celebrated once every six months. For the morning cantaloupe one would substitute the half-yearly antelope.

The python's plan could be extended easily to take in man's mental problems, too. Take all the frets and worries and daily troubles accumulated over six months, season to taste, and swallow headfirst. Then forget your troubles for another half year. That is the python's plan.—Washington Star.

Need of System in Business.

We are not advocates of more interference with business by legislation, but we see some measure of logic in a plan that would make compulsory upon a merchant that he should know whether he is figuring a profit, as against the foolheaded theory that he does business without overhead because he pays no rent. Many merchants resent system. The "rule of thumb" is used in their store just as much as the fitting stick. As a speaker in New York put it, "the great American desert is not in the far west, but under many a business man's hat."—Boot and Shoe Reporter.

Children at the Movies.

A recent questionnaire in six Chicago high schools shows that 87 per cent of the 3,000 students attend the movies from one to seven times a week. These students spent $920 a week at the movies, or $46,000 a year. Most of them were frank to admit that they preferred the thrillers with gun plays and hairbreadth escapes.

The results of such a questionnaire might, no doubt, be duplicated in other cities. Moviegoing is a habit that has a large hold on both young and old. Probably the movies now constitute at least 90 per cent of the nation's entertainment.—Minneapolis Journal.

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.

MAIN STREET REVISITED.

A few days ago, happeing to be in Fergus Falls, I dropped around to the state hospital. I had not been there since one summer two years before, when Fergus Falls was just becoming conscious after a tornado which had swept up the little valley and across the lake, killing and maiming it citizens and destroying their property.

On that occasion I had stood on the ridge near the hospital and looked out over the valley at the path of the tornado lying like a great welt below.

Trees were whipped clean of leaves and where the swirl had touched the ground nothing—not even a blade of growing grass—had withstood the force.

Dr. P. H. Hervey welcomed me o the institution and acted as a guide on our tour around the institution.

In one of the rooms, quite to my surprise, I found Carol Kennicott, the wife of Dr. John Kennicott of Sauk Center.

You may remember her as Carol Milford of Mankato. When the judge left the bench, he went to St. Paul. When Carol was 13 Judge Milford died. Carol, after going through college, became a librarian and eventually married Dr. John Kennicott.

I am sure you placed Carol when you read the biography of her life in Gopher Prairie, written by Sinclair Lewis, and given the title "Main Street."

Last year I wrote a story about Carol, calling her a nut, telling why she did such things as Lewis wrote of her doing. My object was to warn parents of peculiar children as to what the future held for such children.

Most parents do not know the meaning of such traits of personality and behavior, and the great possibilities of remedial treatment by proper training, and of disaster when training is improper.

I was surprised to find Carol in the state hospital, for although she had no training, and in fact no diagnosis of her personality had ever been made, she seemed to be coming into quieter waters at the time Lewis' biography left her.

She had passed through puberty and adolescence, breaking points in the lives of so many dementia precox subjects. She had weathered maternity and other dangerous periods. She had passed through many emotional storms in the social battles of her small town life.

I did not learn why she went to pieces at the last, but there she was, in the state asylum.

Too much out of line with the thought and life of her former surroundings to permit her to live there without constant, harmful friction, she had been placed in the state institution where she was physically well cared for and mentally removed from violating conacts.

Dr. Hervey said the diagnosis was dementia precox simplex. Carol, he said, was depressed, emotionally indifferent, sitting stolidly most of the time. There were not many manifestations of split personality. At times she became excited and at such times had flights of fancy in which she believed, delusions, saw things, hallucinations and was restless and difficult to control.

At first they said she had a nervous breakdown, and then nervous prostration. She got much worse and John Kennicott said it was best to put her where people would not irritate her so much.

It did not matter what village fight had precipitated the breakdown. If it had not been that particular one it would have been another.

The seed of the thing started before she was born.

The old judge was an isolated old dreamer who invented fairies and fairy tales for his children.

Carol lived a lonely life. Her sister was not a companion.

As a child she was aloof, always mooning and day dreaming.

As she grew older she lived in the realm of the unreal. She shifted from one day dream to another, changed her pattern for a career repeatedly. At times effervesced, at times she was moody—never fitted in at school.

Then she met and married John Kennicott—not even the stolid placid sanity of John sufficed to anchor her. Strange to say, John never diagnosed the real reason for her trouble. In the language of the street, John never understood her.

No one ever diagnosed her or understood her or tried intelligently to give her the social treatment needed to save her.

Maybe John got her too late, even had he understood her.

Finally, the social battles of Gopher Prairie landed her where she now is.

When Hand Trembles.

G. J. W. writes: "I have noticed that when I thrust my arm outward my hand trembles. Could you tell me the cause of this and what I could do for it?"

REPLY.

This is a symptom.

Among the diseases of which it is a symptom are goiter, paralysis agitans, Huntington's chorea.

If it is marked, have a physician decide why you have it.

The Bee's Letter Box

(The Bee offers its columns freely to its readers who care to discuss any public question. It requests that letters be reasonably brief, not over 300 words. It also insists that the name of the writer accompany each letter, not necessarily for publication, but that the editor may know with whom he is dealing. The Bee does not pretend to endorse or accept views or opinions expressed by correspondents in the Letter Box.)

Bonus or No Bonus.

Arlington, Neb., March 1.—To the Editor of The Bee: "To give or not to give" a bonus; aye, that is the question. Everyone is in favor of giving as long as there is a prospect of taking the money out of the other fellow's pocket. When he learns that it has to come out of his own pocket, he is apt to see the question in a different light. Congress will probably pass legislation granting to ex-service men a bonus. The members of congress, regardless of their own personal views, are reluctant to antagonize ex-service men, since by so doing enough votes might be lost to cause their defeat at the next election. It is somewhat doubtful if the receipt of a few hundred dollars additional pay will be of any real benefit to the average ex-soldier. Such amount is too small to set the recipient up in business or in farming, yet in the aggregate it requires a sum far beyond the resources of the national treasury. The United States government can either issue more bonds or levy additional taxes. Issuing more bonds means increasing the national indebtedness of some 24 billion dollars and passing much of this obligation on to the next generation. From a business standpoint this is poor policy. Going in debt has been the bane of governments and individuals for the past several years. It always brings a day of reckoning. Taxing the people to raise funds for a bonus is like "robbing Peter to pay Paul." Bonus payments so made may cheer the recipients, but the other 95 per cent of our people are made neither happier nor more prosperous by the extra taxation.

The demand for a bonus, adjusted compensation or additional pay became insistent three years after the close of the war, when hard times overtook us. If one bonus is granted now there is nothing to prevent another demand being made a few years hence, and that demand may be for an amount many times larger. Granting that it is proper to pay a bonus the simplest and most natural method for raising the money would be to make collection from the nations that owe us for loans made to them. Propaganda says they cannot pay, but disregarding the propaganda we see where those countries are extravagant in maintaining an unnecessary military and naval equipment. If France would apply on her debt to us the money she spends annually on a huge army, her debt would soon be wiped out. England uses our money in fostering trade and commerce for her own people and in suppressing subject people in Ireland, India and Egypt, who struggle for freedom and independence the same as our forefathers did. Rather than to lend financial aid to militarism and imperialism let us collect the debts due us and pay a generous bonus to ex-service men. H. G. MEYER.