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MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY.

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R. BREWER, General Manager
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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of April, 1922
(Seal) W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

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America Thanks Its Stars.

Thus far most of the attention of the statesmen at Genoa has turned to the frantic effort to keep the conference from falling to pieces. This object perhaps will be achieved, but the prospect of any advanced step toward the regeneration of Europe is not promising.

Viewed from this distance the dissension there appears to arise from the unchastened desire of each nation or each group to slip something over on the others. Particulars are not needed. There is absent that old-fashioned conviction of sin that always is necessary for redemption. All nations fall into error, and the pretence that any one of them has a monopoly on either vice or virtue can not now be maintained.

Americans may thank their stars that President Harding did not accept representation in this conference. The wisdom of Secretary of State Hughes' note refusing to participate is now clearly apparent. He wrote last month his regret "that the proposed conference is not primarily an economic conference, as questions appear to have been excluded from consideration without the satisfactory determination of which the chief causes of economic disturbance must continue to operate, but is rather a conference of a political character, in which the government of the United States could not helpfully participate."

"This government," Mr. Hughes continued, "can not be unmindful of the clear conviction of the American people, while desirous, as has been abundantly demonstrated, suitably to assist in the recovery of the economic life of Europe, that they should not unnecessarily become involved in European political questions."

Europe, according to the somewhat exasperated view of the American people, ought to reduce its armies, cease to issue fiat money and practice economy that would fit its expenditures to its income. The subject of reparations should be opened up over the protests of France. Mr. Hughes was pointed in his objection to any scheme for obtaining special economic advantage in Russia for any nation.

Foreign economists and statesmen recognize that the only hope of saving their whole policy from impending bankruptcy lies in the participation of the United States in their affairs. But their whole attitude is one making such help impossible. The American note of last March expressed the hope "that progress may be made in preparing the way for the eventual discussion and settlement of the fundamental economic and financial questions." That time will come, but it is not yet, and it is well that those who urged American attendance at Genoa went unheard.

Our Own Landru.

Omaha has just had the privilege of observing a remarkable exhibition in the criminal division of the district court. A man accused of murder acted as his own attorney, and displayed in a considerable degree familiarity with court procedure, coupled with such shrewdness and even adroitness in his defense as to attract attention of able attorneys and much commendation from the jury. His plea was that he shot in self-defense, coolly admitting that he fired the shot that killed his victim.

An interesting problem is here presented. It is either the honest, disingenuous effort of a man who feels he has right and justice on his side, or the impudent attempt of a criminal, whose effrontery is such as will lead him to trifle with justice in the hope that he may be able to mislead the jurors and secure immunity for a shocking deed. Whichever way it is considered, the incident is comparable in some respects with the recent sensational trial of Landru in France. There the defendant took part in his own defense, and regaled the crowds who gathered to hear the proceedings by his arguments with the presiding judge, with the witnesses, and with attorneys on both sides. His conduct was such as to bring a rebuke on the judge who heard the case; the trial in Omaha has been devoid of these features, for the defendant has managed to keep well within the rules of decorum and order, although he now and then did take advantage of seeming ignorance to plant an idea to his advantage before the judge could correct him.

Whatever the end of the case may be, it will be remembered as one of the most remarkable in the history of our courts, and it also does much to discredit the old saw to the effect that he who acts as his own lawyer has a fool for a client. Whatever else this man may be, he certainly is not a fool in the ordinary acceptance of the term.

Home Building and Taxes.

It is to be hoped that the agitation over high taxes will not discourage the building of homes. Something more than mere complaints is necessary, if good instead of harm is sought. Heavy taxation discourages improvements, but there is even more menace in making the burden seem heavier than it really is or in empty talk that does not consider where the greatest public expense arises or by what practical means the cost of government can be reduced.

Omaha today is a city where almost half the homes are owned by their occupants. Measured by the ideal, which would have every permanent resident live under his own roof-tree, this falls far short. But compared with all the other cities of more than 100,000 population, the

showing is excellent. In New York the ownership is only one-eighth; in Boston, one-fifth; in St. Louis, one-fourth, and in Kansas City, a little over one-third. Only three cities have a larger percentage of home ownership than Omaha; Des Moines leads, with Grand Rapids and Toledo next.

An encouraging thing is that in the last twenty years Omaha has steadily reduced its percentage of tenancy. The census of 1920 showed 44,499 homes here, with 48.4 per cent of them not rented, but occupied by their owners. This progress should not be slackened. Loanable capital must not be frightened, nor builders discouraged. Taxes are a burden, but one pays them whether he owns or rents his home. All have an interest in lowering them, but this result is not to be achieved through mere grumbling.

Arbor Day's Fiftieth Anniversary.

Tomorrow Nebraska will be generally assisted by the people of the United States in observation of the fiftieth anniversary of Arbor Day. In 1872, at the behest of J. Sterling Morton, the people of Nebraska set about the work of afforestation, undertaking to supply by planting of trees a deficiency in the natural advantages of the state. Today all over Nebraska huge trees nod and wave salutation to the author of the day. Great groves stand where half a century or less ago there was no sign of a tree. When the president's message is broadcasted from Washington tomorrow, it will be a tribute to the memory of a man whose foresight gave birth to a practical idea of great benefit to his home state and, through its general adoption, to the nation.

Forestry is a live topic all over the United States today, many of the older states having laid hold upon the science in a determined way, and with great benefit. Nebraska has not as yet set about in a systematic way to get all the good possible out of the custom which had its origin here. Forestation holds great possibilities for the state, and as it is applied will bring much reward. The Nebraska Forestry association is working quietly but energetically to attract public attention to what may be done, and with some success. The Omaha Chamber of Commerce has just given effective endorsement to the purpose of the association, and other agencies are being appealed to, that the work may be made prosperous.

If Nebraskans take hold and improve the opportunity that is open, the centenary of Arbor Day will find the state producing lumber and other forest products, not only to supply the needs of all the people who will then live in the state, but an exportable surplus. All that is needed is to develop possibilities established by extensive experiment beyond a doubt as to success. Arbor Day has not yet reached its acme in Nebraska.

Gallery for Nebraska Immortals.

The Ravenna News, noting the proposals for statuary at the new state house, suggests that certain Nebraskans be substituted for Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, and others. While not agreeing with this entirely, for it is proper and fitting that the eminent Americans named be given a place in the decorative scheme for the new building, The Bee seconds the motion that place be made for Nebraskans who have brought credit to the state and honor to themselves in public service. Nebraskans have not shown much inclination to set up permanent memorials for citizens who have given their time and capacity for public good, and this neglect has given rise to the thought that our people are unappreciative in this regard. The Bee has no thought of nominating those who deserve to be honored, although it could fill considerable of its space with names of men who had large and honorable part in building the state, in making its name known beyond its borders, and to whose constructive efforts a great deal of present prosperity may be ascribed. Every office and every corridor of the new state house should bear evidence that Nebraskans do appreciate the service of their public men. Such displays are not vain, because they stand as continual reminders of work done for the good of all, and will be inspiration to patriotic duty for all. We do not know how far the plans for providing for the decoration of the new state house have progressed, but hope that somewhere provision will be made to properly honor Nebraskans men and women who deserve to be honored by the citizens of the state they helped to build.

Farmers and Motor Cars.

Nebraska specializes in corn, in hogs, in politics—and in automobiles. The latest figures give Nebraska a tie for second place in the per capita ownership of motor cars. Iowa leads with one automobile for every 5.2 inhabitants; Nebraska, South Dakota and California tie for second with 5.3 people per automobile. Last year California was second, with Nebraska third. The leadership of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, coupled with the tendency of California to slip backward, testifies to the practical use of the motor vehicle. Compared with California, few automobiles are used for pleasure exclusively in these three states. The high proportionate ownership tells of a farmer demand which means the use of cars for practical purposes, for hauling products to market, for lessening the economic losses due to time spent in getting from farm to town or from house to distant acres. That demand is a permanent demand, for it arises from a real need.

Unless young girls cease to paint and powder so heavily, the day will come when they will be frightful, fat and forty, a New York physician warns. That's all right—probably heavy Oriental veils will be in style then.

Omaha not only faces the possibilities of a prolonged coal strike, but must also sustain a suspension of an order awarding lower rates on coal shipments. It is certainly a great life.

If the coal strike goes on long enough it will test one theory now being advanced, that there were too many mines and too many miners.

The statement that many truck laborers are underfed may suggest to the farmers the possibility of extending their home market.

New York is boasting again that it is bigger than London. Too many people down there think it is bigger than the United States.

Dogs, cows and horses are found in heaven, Sir Arthur tells us; that's putting automobiles in their proper place.

The difference between war and peace is that then people were "pro" this or that and now they are "anti."

Easter Egg Rolling Why White Horse Lawn Was Adopted by Capital Children.

(From the Washington Star.)

The sun has not been kind to the little children today. It should have made the city warm and golden, as this is the day of the rolling egg. As yesterday was the day of the Easter bonnet, this is the day of the Easter egg. Some eggs are rolling, of course, because there are some children who will not be denied their ancient rights and will not forego their ancient rites. But on the whole it has been rather an off-day for rolling eggs and egg rollers.

Some reflections are in order. The dyed Easter egg is a thing which goes back deep into pre-Christian times as a custom of the people of northern Europe, and it may be that they got the habit from older peoples. A writer has set forth that "from the festival of Easter as observed among the Norsemen arose the symbols of the Easter egg and the Easter rabbit as prolific reproducers of species, and the color of the Easter eggs—red, blue, yellow, etc.—was borrowed from the rays of the Aurora Borealis—northern lights—and the dawning hues of the Easter sun."

The Norsemen did not roll the eggs. Washington children were the first to play at rolling eggs, but there is no chronicle which sets forth when and how the pastime came to be. The first reference to egg rolling which has been found occurs in the Evening Star of Easter Monday, 1874, and that reference has to do with some interruption of the egg rolling at the Capitol by ruffians. The reasonable inference is that the custom of rolling eggs at the Capitol was then an old one. When Washington was young the small, fenced park about the Capitol was the only one in Washington improved with turf, trees and flowers. It was the habit of school children to have an Easter picnic, and with their teachers and their baskets of lunch they would go to the Capitol park. At the west front of the Capitol were steep sodded terraces. In sitting at the top of these terraces and eating their lunches, of which dyed Easter eggs formed part, some child or children discovered that the colored eggs would roll down the terraces. In that way the custom started and became a part of the Easter festival in Washington. When the incident of 1874 occurred there were several thousand children rolling eggs down the sodded banks. Congress in 1875, noting that because of the Easter egg rolling it was hard to keep grass on the terraces, forbade the practice, but egg rolling festivities were observed in 1876 and 1877 just the same. On Easter Monday, 1878, the children were turned away from the Capitol grounds. Some one thought of the lawns and mounds in the White House grounds. The word passed from child to child, and the march to the White House was taken up. They invaded the executive grounds and began rolling eggs, and the custom survives.

When a man invests in a lot and builds on it a house or an apartment it is not fair that some one should build a livery stable under his eaves, and thereby destroy a good part of the value of the man's investment.

That zoning stabilizes values of property need not be argued. If we are going to build cities why is it not good judgment to plan them thoroughly with a view to the use to be made of the property in all sections, with a proper regard to everybody's rights? Nobody can object to that, if everybody totes fair, even though the start, clear many years later than it should have been. What logic is there in planning for water works, sewers, and streets and then stopping?

The city death rates of 70 years ago are proof enough that disaster comes if planning is poor. Then why stop the planning short of zoning? There is no logic in such limitation.

Aside from the main good from zoning, there are health jams that are more real because they are intangible. Zoning gets more sunlight into homes, and sunlight kills the germs of disease.

It lessens that air smoke in the zone of the street people live.

It secures quieter, more peaceful home surroundings. It lessens the discomforts of stinks in home neighborhoods.

It lessens flies. It decreases the overflow in sewers and increases the water supply in the upper parts of dwellings. It shifts the crowds on the street cars. Anything which lessens the jams on the street cars during the rush hours of the morning and afternoon decreases disease.

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How to Keep Well By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans, a resident of the Bee, will be answered personally subject to proper limitation, where a stamped, self-addressed envelope enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual cases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

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CITY ZONING BENEFITS.

Every now and then health conditions in the cities improve markedly and without any easily understood cause.

The record for 80 years shows that in the main the advances are held.

We can understand the reason for the drop in snailpox, consumption and typhoid fever, but why the gain in those ways not related to any disease or definite cause?

In part the explanation lies in the doing of health work of kinds that do not have tangible health value. For instance, the person can do just in what way garbage disposal lessens disease, yet everybody knows it does not so with street cleaning, or house cleaning, for that matter.

How is anybody going to prove that crowding causes consumption? Who can prove that a certain man developed consumption because of the density of population in the square where he lived? It cannot be done, and yet congestion causes consumption.

These are facts, even though we cannot prove them. "Guiltily but not wrong" is the way the old Scotch verdict runs.

One of those accomplishments which pays in a health way is city zoning. Maybe we cannot prove it in a court of law, or to cold, clear minds like those of Pearson and Pearl, but it is true just the same.

Of course the appealing object of zoning is to stabilize the values of property. That result from zoning anybody can understand, and the proof can be established in any court.

When a man invests in a lot and builds on it a house or an apartment it is not fair that some one should build a livery stable under his eaves, and thereby destroy a good part of the value of the man's investment.

That zoning stabilizes values of property need not be argued. If we are going to build cities why is it not good judgment to plan them thoroughly with a view to the use to be made of the property in all sections, with a proper regard to everybody's rights? Nobody can object to that, if everybody totes fair, even though the start, clear many years later than it should have been.

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Three and a Half Per Cent

(From the New York Times)
It is good news that the treasury is able to borrow 3 1/2 per cent without such patriotic appeals as enabled the flotation of war loans below the money market. It is the first step toward cheaper capital for trade. That would be a greater boon than the relief of taxpayers by reduction of demands on the treasury for interest. Even in peace the treasury must be financed first, yet there is no need of prudency even in that. Recently the treasury has followed a policy of protecting itself against the maturity of an inconvenient amount of shortly maturing funded debt. It has done this by substituting larger amounts of varying maturities of floating debt. The increase of floating debt is objectionable, but it is a small price to pay for the increase of convenience in dealing with maturing billions. Since the war we already have reduced our national debt more than the total of our civil war debt. Consideration for taxpayers might suggest a slower rate of payment, but the showing of national solvency is convincing.

On the same day that the treasury reduced its rate it announced that the national debt is 25 times the total in 1917, when last it paid 3 1/2 per cent. We are just balancing our budget next year. Since we are approaching weaker nations with their deficits, the least we can do in decency is to live within our tax collections. When the treasury lives within its income it helps most in extending to others the benefit of cheap funds. Today the greatest distress for lack of funds exists

where governments are most liberal in their treasury expenditures and note printing. Our funds are cheaper, though they actually are decreasing in total. Only our gold reserve is increasing. Our Federal Reserve notes have decreased over \$50,000,000 in a year. The apparent paradox in the cheapening of the price of money concurrently with the decrease of supply is explained by the betterment in quality and the increase of viable potential supply. Each dollar of gold adds several dollars of possible credit.

Quality and price considered, our credit is the best in the world, and therefore the cheapest in connection with costs of production. Federal Reserve charts show that necessities of life are nearer prewar costs here than anywhere else in the world, and wholesale prices are lower. Our exports are lower than in the war, but import gains since the war are greatest here. We are experiencing for ourselves, and showing to the world, that the best money is the cheapest.

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