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SOFTENING MEMORIES OF WAR
Down in Hastings this week half a hundred Spanish War Veterans are reliving the days of '98.

The state encampment of the former soldiers can not but draw a comparison between the three living generations of Uncle Sam's fighting men.

The ranks of the blue and the gray are thinning faster and faster each year. The ranks of those who donned the khaki in the war with Spain and Aguinaldo are beginning to show effects of time.

The Yanks, Gobs, Doughboys and Marines of the world conflict have yet to lose the bad tastes of war. But these will be softened by time.

Already the blood of Chateau Thierry is hallowed; the mud of Varennes, once the wallow of disintegrated citizen troops, has assumed the cloak of romance; the duckboards of St. Nazaire have attained their niche in the hall of honor.

But still within the breasts of these youngest veterans of America, democratic at heart, rankles the memory of the salute, the "shave-tail," inspections, passes, reveille, and "K. P."

These at best are but petty dislikes and, as Father Time grinds down their edges and prickles on his whetstone, laughter will crinkle the corners of those hero eyes as youth's inventive genius in getting around these regulations is retold in tale and fable.

And, as the years roll, by the horror and hatreds of the war days of '17 will be turned into romantic memory, even as with the veterans of '61 and '98.

Twenty-four years from now, their ranks, too, will be thinning as are those of the Spanish War heroes; and fifty-one years hence, thinned as are the Civil War comrades of '22.

Then will the rankles and dislikes of '17 be submerged in oblivion.

FAMOUS HORSES OF OLD
Long ages before the dawn of history, the horse abounded upon the earth and was man's best ally.

In the paleolithic age when our cave-men ancestors roamed wild, almost like the animals, the horse lived.

But this ancestor of the wonderful speed machines now to be seen at the Ak-Sar-Ben race track, and of all horses of today, was a small animal, less than four feet high, with a large head and rough, shaggy mane and tail. He was too small to be ridden and was used by man for food.

The horse's place in human history is right next to man's. Bucephalus was the famed charger of Alexander the Great. Roan Barbary was the favorite horse of Richard II, and White Surrey of Richard III. Incitatus, the horse of the Roman emperor, Caligula, was made a priest and consul. It ate from an ivory manger and drank from a pail of gold.

Legend is full of the horse. Borak, which conveyed Mahomet to the seventh heaven, had such speed that each pace was equal to the farthest range of human sight.

The stud books of today go back hundreds of years. The histories of such horses as Roxana, born in 1718; of Godolphin, of Cade and a host of others are kept as carefully as the histories of human celebrities.

IN THE HANDS OF PROVIDENCE
There are not so many standard topics of conversation that our serious talkers can afford to ignore the condition of the crops.

From one end of the country to the other men who do not know beans from barley now assume a thoughtful air, impale a victim on a piercing glance, and remark that the government forecast is for an increased harvest. If they are fortunate enough to fall in with someone from a country town or a farm they can talk of nothing else.

Charles Lamb, while riding in a coach through the English countryside, was harassed by just such a character. After a number of remarks had failed to draw out the essayist, his fellow traveler pointed to a field and inquired what sort of a turnip crop was to be expected.

"I believe it depends largely on the boiled legs of mutton," Lamb answered.

There is, of course, nothing more important to Nebraska or to the remainder of the states than the harvest. The Department of Agriculture may make its estimates, and the volunteer prophets may consider that it is all settled, until the time comes for them to worry over whether the corn has enough moisture and if it will mature before frost catches it.

Before the contingencies of nature mankind is helpless. There isn't much more use talking about the crops than there is in discussing the weather—fate will decide.

DIAGNOSING THE SCHOOLS
Now that the educators of Nebraska are discussing means of reducing school expenses, hope begins to bloom. If this matter were to be left solely to the judgment of those outside the teaching profession much harm might come from ill-informed efforts at economy.

text books, and only twelve mentioned readjustment and reorganization of the educational system. Discussion should not end here. The fate of the children as well as the largest proportion of the people's taxes is involved in the school problem. Waste in education must be lessened, and efficiency must be increased. Those who are engaged in teaching, as well as these superintendents, should be heard from.

THE BROWN PAROLE AGAIN
Not all of the blame for abuse of the parole system appears chargeable to the state parole board, if Warden Fenton's statement reflects the record.

The new parole law, drafted originally by Attorney General Davis and passed by the last legislature, provides that no prisoner shall be paroled until after published notice of his application and personal notification to the district judge, the county attorney and the sheriff of the county from which the applicant was committed. It is made the duty of these officers to make recommendation as to the granting of the application.

Warden Fenton says that this rule was followed in the case of Fred Brown, whose parole turned loose upon the community a criminal of deadly purpose and fiendish cunning. He says that no objection was offered to Brown's parole.

On that record, others than the parole board must stand some of the blame for Brown's premature release. The purpose of the law was to make certain that the local officers most likely to be well informed should be offered the opportunity and should be required to advise the parole board. To the extent of supplying such information and making a recommendation based upon it, the local officers have a responsible part in the parole system.

The local officers, however, simply advise. Responsibility for decision rests with the parole board, as does also responsibility for investigation into the criminal's past record as disclosed by the penitentiary records. That the board can not escape.

HOW TO DROWN
"Throw up both hands, shout, 'help'—and drown." That is the formula for suicide by the water route, according to an ironically worded poster issued by the National Safety Council.

Having thus dramatized the danger, the bulletin proceeds to more positive instruction, defining swimming as "reaching for shore first with one hand and then with the other." That is a good thing to remember, when the impulse comes to collapse into helpless floundering off shore.

"Swimming is 99 parts confidence and one part experience, taken in water—frequently," the advice continues. Beyond warning against needless risks and bathing too soon after dining, there is not much more that needs be said.

Twelve persons had to be rescued by life guards at the Omaha beaches Sunday. One of the reasons for this accident roll is that the season has just begun and bathers have not gained the knowledge or the confidence that they will have by autumn. It's a fine thing to know how to swim, for it exercises every muscle. But don't forget that the chief requisite is keeping a cool head.

WOOL GATHERING
The tariff question is not as simple as its opponents would make it appear. Thus in condemning the imposition of higher duties on imported woolen goods the critics of a protective policy forget or neglect to mention that a higher tariff also is to be placed on the raw material. The wool growers of the west are to receive protection as well as the mill owners and workers of the east.

Although the topic might be avoided, still if the critic is pinned down he must admit that wool brought in from abroad would tend to lower the price received for American wool. In April 22,800,000 pounds of combing wools, valued at \$5,827,000, were imported into the United States. This exceeds the record for any complete year since 1910 except 1917, according to the textile division of the Department of Commerce. The quantity of all classes of wool imported in April was 38,555,000 pounds.

According to the argument of the tariff foes, the wool growers are suffering from an oversupply of their product. It seems just possible that a properly balanced import tax would bar out some of the foreign competition and encourage the sheep industry. But little things like this seldom are discussed by the democratic spellbinders and organs.

MAKE IT SNAPPY
Brevity is the soul of wit as it is the soul of nearly everything else in the form of language.

Yet the human race refuses to learn this simple fact. After-dinner speakers ramble on for an hour or two while their auditors inwardly rebel. Congressional orators debate for many hours, muffling their thoughts deep in a mass of useless verbiage.

The creation of the world is described in the Scriptures in less than 600 words. Caesar sent back word of his conquest of Gaul in just three words, "Veni, vidi, vici." And Sir Sidney Smith probably capped them all as a model of brevity when he sent back word of his capture of the city of Scinde in the one word, "Peccavi," which is Latin for "I have sinned."

"Invisible Exercise" is a fad that may be expected to grow. Gerald Stanley Lee, the author, defines it as "the act of consciously relaxing one's neck and pulling one's self, soul and body together." For our part, we confess curiosity over the chapters on the exercise of keeping still, and the art of liking to get up.

Say what you will about the republican primaries in Iowa, Indiana and Pennsylvania, it still must be admitted that whatever readjustment is taking place is within the party ranks. The voters are doing as they wish inside the party and have no reason for going outside.

There are not many poets in America who are as well received in their home state as John G. Neihardt. His lectures in Nebraska towns will give inspiration to no one knows how many boys and girls, and lead them to look about them on the prairies for their soul's good.

Walter Lippman, in the Yale Review, castigates democracy for being content with the "second best" in political leadership. How many political contests have been won on the theory of choosing the least of two evils?

It seems tragic that a poor family should be thrown into debt by a thief taking a \$12 pay check. It seems tragic, too, the way rent, food, clothing and the bare necessities of life eat into larger wages than that.

Small incidents such as the Dutch florists sending cut flowers by airplane to London the same morning they are gathered illustrate the way the world is shrinking.

Semenoff is on his way to Russia, and no doubt he will soon be raising the lid in Siberia.

Nebraska Notions

York News-Times: If it costs as much to get a nomination in Nebraska as it does in Pennsylvania somebody is going broke.

Grand Island Independent: Senator Hitchcock predicts that the United States will join the league of nations before 1924. It would seem that the former president of the country still hearing voices in the air, that the Nebraska senator is still Woodrow's spokesman and, that like Cox, he smiffs another "solemn referendum." Let 'er "referend"

Nebraska City Press: "Can Crime Be Cured by Psychology?" Omaha is advised to follow soon. Keep an eye on the "Ford for President" clubs. They are already disturbing the peace of mind of many politicians.

Edgar Howard in the Columbus Telegram: I heard a man say that within one year "Ford for President" clubs will be organized in every state in the union for the purpose of making Henry Ford a candidate for president of the United States. Some weeks ago I was reading a newspaper and discovered that the people down there were getting ready to organize "Ford for President" clubs. And the fever has reached Nebraska. Frank Johnson of Kearney says that one "Ford for President" club has already been organized in Buffalo county, and the list will follow soon.

Grand Island Independent: The gentlemen of the district bench at Omaha are advised to resist the highwayman even though it cost their lives, as a means of eliminating crime. May it be respectfully suggested that, in addition thereto, there be more prompt prosecution and conviction generally of the criminals who are caught and not quite so many technicalities by the defending attorneys or early paroles after conviction?

The Tariff
Hastings Tribune: There have been a lot of heated debates and discussions in the upper house of congress in the past three weeks on the tariff bill and it is doubtful if the tariff will be passed. Attention has been giving very much attention to what was said.

Party politics and the tariff go hand in hand. Happy will be the day when the tariff will not be considered a party issue—it should be taken out of politics entirely.

Just so long as the tariff is a party issue, we will never have a scientific tariff bill properly constructed—and efforts to bring about such a bill by political debates will fail.

The men who are candidates for congress this year should be warned against dragging in the tariff into the party—the tariff must be taken out of politics if the people of the United States are to be benefited by it.

Grand Island Independent: Banker Wentz of Aurora, only two years ago looked up to as respected and enjoying the confidence and trust of his fellow men, is now in the state penitentiary as the result of playing fast and loose with the law. He is now in the penitentiary for the reason that he admitted himself to be tempted by the theory that the traditional power of money to talk, could also operate him out of any one's pocket. He escaped, but was discovered. Money does talk; often its pleadings are far too effective. But more often, when the battle commences, it is the principles of right and wrong. It pleads ever so eloquently and yet all in vain. The old proverb read that "the tongue of the just is as choice silver." Today it should be changed to hooch, flapper and poker; but essentially it is the same thing. Money is the great enemy of each and every citizen, and each combination of them, continues to ruin men, reputations and business. And the first chapter always reads "The money that comes on, be a good mixer, not an old foxy."

Treaties Not Ratified
Norfolk News: Americans learn with surprise that the treaties resulting from the Washington arms conference are not yet in effect, and are not likely to be for some time to come. They do not become operative until all of the signatory powers have ratified them and exchanged ratifications. The United States is the only one of the five big powers that has taken the necessary steps.

Japan has ratified the Shantung agreement and is expected to ratify the important five-power naval reduction treaty and four-power Pacific trade treaty. The other four powers, Great Britain, France and Italy will ratify in a few days.

Why the powers should delay action is not so apparent. They have been busy with the Genoa conference, but that hardly accounts for so long a delay. They have had time enough to ratify, if they wanted to, in these four months.

Nebraska City Press. A man who has lived in Otoe county for 40 years declares that there was too much rain in this favored section of Nebraska. It is mentioned just now because there has come a recent crop of rain in bunches, is of little value to the hardy agriculturist. The average rainfall in eastern Nebraska, if the Nebraska Almanac can be trusted, is 24 inches per annum. Seidism is that amount exceeded, year after year. So far, for the most part, farmers in Otoe county have not been driven from their homes by flood; there have been times when a shortage of moisture has burned up their crops, dried up the streams and made them radicals in thought and example. On the other hand, this little sermon does not apply to the farmer who lives on the low side of the river, where a wide expanse of "bottom" offers sustenance to the man who tills his "bottom" and to the man who is a "neighboring" Nebraska are not kept about moisture in wholesale quantities. We must temper our desires when we think the rain is more than right, but they do not see it that way. They think they should work seven hours and get eight hours' pay. The "Great Father" in the White House thinks otherwise.

The Bee's Letter Box

(The Bee offers its columns freely to its readers who care to discuss any public question. It reserves the right to use or to omit any material, and the writer is held to the accuracy of the facts stated. The Bee does not pretend to endorse or accept views or opinions expressed by correspondents in the letter box.)

Anyhow, Catch Brown
Lincoln, June 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: Fred Brown, by grace of the state reporter's imagination called the "manacle man," is reported to have again fled to Lincoln, in an automobile stolen in Benson. They say he drove the dandy only a few rods back of State Sheriff Gus Myers, and as the rumor flew, it finally grew into the story that Brown rode the entire distance perched on the spare tire at the rear of Gus' automobile.

The Brown hunt is rapidly developing into an opera bouffon. Officers found a little bag of lollipops, or "all-day suckers," in one car believed to have been abandoned by the staidest of the staid. It was discovered that he had been feeding his desperate spirit on cinnamon buns.

Brown appears to be "playing" Omaha Sunday to Wednesday and Lincoln Thursdays to Saturdays of each week. JULIUS KRANZER.

Poking Fun at Business Women
Omaha, June 13.—To the Editor of The Bee: Notice the women are full-fledged members of the Chamber of Commerce, one wonders what is going on in the minds of some of the staidest of the staid.

Whether rules will have to be amended with respect to smoking—either less for the men or granting carte blanche to the women to puff their own.

Whether a ladies' parlor, room and lip stick will not be added next to the suite of smoking rooms, equipped with cuspidors.

Whether attention will not be distracted from the eloquent speaker at the public affairs luncheon by the staidest millinery or cosmetic arrangement of the lady to his right.

And mirrors: Dear commissioner, go heavy on the order for more mirrors! GIRL MYSELF.

Lincoln County Reduction Meeting
North Platte, Neb., June 5.—To the Editor of The Bee: In spite of the competition of a club and a committee exercise comprising several hundred people from the entire county, the tax reduction at the court house at North Platte was a rousing success. J. H. Edmisten, chairman of the progressive state committee, introduced ex-Senator Otto Mutz of Lincoln, who for more than an hour addressed the splendid audience on the subject of tax reduction.

The people who heard the address were enthusiastic for the immediate organization of a county tax reduction club and the vote to effect such an organization was unanimous. W. M. Lyman of North Platte was by unanimous vote elected president. Mrs. Charles Perkins of North Platte was elected secretary and J. W. Shoop, cashier of the Maxwell bank, was elected treasurer.

Mr. Mutz' address was full of the most startling facts taken from silent witnesses in the form of reports of state officers, and the facts as they were written in the law. The state the great direct cause of high taxes will be found in the fact that only half of the property of the state is being assessed. He said that Douglas and Lancaster counties have more merchandise than is assessed in the entire state. He also stated that while we have in the state 44 district judges at salaries of \$5,000 each rendering for 10 months in the year, one of the justice courts of Lancaster county has more live judgments in its docket than the entire state assessed in 1920. He also said that while the banks of the state in their quarterly statements returned over one hundred million dollars in deposits, \$13,458,758, the entire state returned under "loans and discounts" \$509,000, the entire state returned for assessment under notes, \$4,105,953. He said that while the entire state assessed under secured and unsecured notes" only \$62,422, the records of the county clerks of the state showed new mortgages assessed \$1,968,432 and the records of the clerk of the state showed new mortgages filed during the last 12 months amounting to \$140,000,000. He designated as the crime of the Senate File 65 the revenue reform measure passed by the last session of our legislature that exempts more than \$2,000,000,000 of the best property of the people of Nebraska from taxation. He explained that 75 cents out of every dollar of money, stocks in corporations not assessed in the state, building and loan shares, notes, chattel mortgages and annuities under this law is exempted from taxation and that the owners are required to pay tax on only 25 cents. Under this law he complains that the farm worth

Opinion of State and Nation

THE LAW'S DELAYS BREED CONTEMPT
From the Birmingham News.

The other day one of the Alabama papers carried an account of the third reversal of a case, and there was also another trial in which the verdict of the jury was set aside. Four trials in three years in a homicide case—each trial a conviction—and the accused still has not been given punishment! Is it any wonder under such conditions that there is a very prevalent feeling that our laws are but labyrinthine into which the accused enter under pilotage of criminal lawyers, to emerge finally at some unexpected and concealed entrance, and then to express their utter contempt and defiance at our system?

In England a man who is arrested on a homicide charge gets a trial inside of two weeks. Not a mere preliminary trial; but he faces the gallows if it is murder, or the penitentiary if it is a lesser crime. The case is tried in less than a week; the work is expedited. There are two appeals open to him, and both of these are usually carried up inside of three weeks, and he is either hanged, freed or sent to begin his sentence inside of another two weeks.

It is in England that there are fewer homicides in all England than there are in the Birmingham district in a year's time.

Britishers are noticeable for their respect for the law. It is a vital, a living and a sacred thing to them, but the reason it is thus regarded is because it is so completely respected for it. It has refused to shake its judges and practically turn the courts over to the lawyers. It has set at naught substantial justice, and it accomplishes just that. Over there a man knows that if he kills another man without mighty good cause his neck will pop at the end of a noose, and pretty quickly.

THE RADIO LANGUAGE
From the Toledo Blade.

Said Mr. Jones to Mr. Smith: "Wasn't the static fierce last night?"

"Was it!" said Mr. Smith to Mr. Jones. "I'll say it was! Between the atmospherics and the harmonics the resultant jamming was ghastly. My super-heterodyne receiver, it is a plum to the bad and I fiddled away hours with the non-inductive resistance and a variable inductance."

Said Mr. Jones to Mr. Smith: "I think I'll have to get a new beverage wire. I haven't had a synchronous spark for a week that was \$20.00 must be assessed at \$20,000, but if the owner had his farm converted into \$20,000 in money the money would be assessed for just \$2,000."

Mr. Mutz presents his argument for revenue reform on the highest plane of patriotism. He insists that in spite of the fact that every member of the senate was a republican and 26 of them voted for the law of exemption it must not be considered a political question. The bill was passed in the house by a majority of 57 votes. It was signed by a republican speaker and a republican governor and, in spite of the fact that the property exempt by the law is the property of the rich men of the state it must not be treated in a partisan spirit. He says that there is a great army of republicans who are just as deservingly of a revenue law that will assess every dollar of the property to the assessment rolls, and compel every tax dodger either to reform or move from the state as any citizen of the state, and that because their representatives failed to represent that this is no excuse for partisan abuse.

The exemptions under Senate File 65 absolutely exempt more than \$2,000,000,000 from taxation. Seven years ago a law was passed in Nebraska that exempts from taxation real estate mortgages amounting at this time to \$509,000,000 and the surplus court by a recent decision exempted \$73,000,000 of county, precinct, village, city, school district, drainage, irrigation and other bonds from taxation and the total of exemptions in the state amount to as much as the entire assessed value of property in the state. If we will assess this property along with the farms and the homes we will divide every man's tax by two. This is our purpose. It is the demand of every man who will approach the subject in a spirit of fairness. The right to protection of government is support of government, and that support must come through the payment of a just share of the taxes of the state. There is no room in Nebraska, where our great goal is "Equality Before the Law" for a tax dodger, and it makes little difference whether he dodges the payment of his just tax by legal exemption or by refusal to assess it. J. H. EDMISTEN.

Since women got to voting there is no pep in election day. One can go down the street and see two or three women standing on the corner swapping a line of conversation some thing like this: "Why, hello, dearie. You do look too sweet this morning. And where did you get your new hat? It is a darling and makes you look so young." And "Call me up some day and I will give you a new recipe for devil's food. It is just delicious." A great line of talk for election days. In years gone by the topic of conversation was: "What have you got on your hip?" "Have a little nip on me and vote for John Jones. He is a good fellow and a free spender." But those days seem as far in the dim past as the time when Nero tried to play jazz on a one-stringed fiddle.

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