

The Weekly Chronicle.

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BRING THEM TO TRIAL.

If any doubt existed that meat packers used chemicals in attempting to cheaply preserve refrigerated beef sent to American soldiers, that doubt is removed by the testimony of Sergeant Mason at Fort Leavenworth, says the Spokesman-Review. The prime object of the army court of inquiry is to determine the truth or falsity of Major General Miles' assertion that his men were poisoned by the use of chemicals, and the refrigerated beef is the especial object of investigation, although it has developed that even the canned article was of such poor quality that it was worse than useless.

Armour & Co. and Libby, McNeill & Libby are now made the real culprits at the bar, with the chiefs of the commissary department co-defendants. The government should lose no time in dragging these men before high courts and administering severe punishment to every man concerned in the outrage. Murder sinks into insignificance when compared with the crimes of these meat packers and the carelessness of the commissary agents. The national honor has been besmirched. The crime is high treason and should be treated as such.

INSUFFICIENT PUNISHMENT.

From a view of ample protection to society, the sentence imposed upon Harry Tracey, the dangerous highwayman, scarcely fits the crime.

This outlaw, with an air of braggadocio, yesterday voluntarily confessed to having committed a larger number of felonies in this city during the past year than with which he is charged. This he did in the face of pleading guilty to indictments for the commission of four distinct crimes, each of which entails a penalty of twenty years. Not only that, this desperado made a murderous assault upon the county jailer and deputy sheriff a few minutes before he faced the tribunal which was to seal his doom.

While the judge passing sentence upon this man is above reproach, as the personification of honor, he did an injury to society in extending a particle of leniency to the criminal, derisively grinning, standing before him. The court imposed a penalty of twenty years upon Tracey for each of the four felonies to which he pleaded guilty. But he erred in mitigating the punishment by allowing these sentences to run concurrent. Society demands that full punishment shall be meted out to those viciously and violently infringing upon its regulations. Tracey is an untamable social creature whose freedom constantly is a menace to well-ordered men and women. By reason of that fact society has the right to insist upon his permanent seclusion.

The law claims that a penal institute is in all essentials a reformatory. In this also the law errs. The instances are too rare to mention where an ex-convict amounts to anything, even in his own esteem. These "reformatories" graduate many more vicious criminals than those who enter them. As bad a man as Tracey now is, he will emerge, if he lives, at the age of 45 years, intensely more hardened.—Telegram.

THE DESIRE TO ENLIST.

Whatever amount of truth there may be in the charges that during the late war the soldiers were badly treated, they have apparently failed to have any particular effect in directions where it would be supposed they could hardly help exercising great influence, says the Astorian. Thus it is said that the rush of able-bodied and every way desirable young men to enlist in the regular army as enlarged by recent act of congress is as surprising to the recruiting officers as it is gratifying.

Even the most sanguine of a satis-

factory response to the demand for more troops hardly hoped for such immediate and encouraging results. It was naturally expected that the damaging evidence brought out in the various beef investigations would have a tendency to at least cast a damper on any great desire to join the ranks, but nothing of the kind has happened, or at least not to the extent feared.

Another fact noticeable in these numerous enlistments, is that they come at a time when business is growing the country over, with increasing wages and demands for all forms of labor. It has commonly been supposed that men as a rule enlisted only when they found other means of employment difficult or impossible. That no approach to this condition of things now exists and that still so many are eager to shoulder a rifle is proof of a patriotic spirit in our people that is brimful of promise and hope for the country's farthest future, so far as that may be said to depend upon the war like mettle and martial ardor of her sons.

CUBA AND HUMANITY.

Not long ago it was the fashion in certain circles to doubt the sincerity of humanitarian motives in the war with Spain. The proof is now too abundant to be questioned. Our troops in Cuba are leaving for home rapidly, and our forces in the island will be reduced to a small aggregate. The sum of \$3,000,000 in gold and silver coin has been forwarded to Havana to enable the Cuban soldiers to return to civil life. Over \$4,000,000 has been expended in furnishing rations to the Cuban army and to the destitute. Two large steamers are constantly engaged in the transportation of these supplies. About 40,000 Cuban men, women and children have been fed by the United States for some time, and the entire cost of each ration furnished is at least twenty-five cents. Ragged insurgents have been clothed and the sick receive treatment and medicines free. Postal facilities have been organized by American agents, but, as far as possible, civil offices are filled by natives.

Passing to the larger view of the case, the independence of Cuba has cost this country many lives and nearly \$500,000,000. We refused the cession that Spain urged as its first choice when Spanish sovereignty was ended. If all this is not disinterested humanity, where in the annals of the world can it be found? But, in spite of this vital assistance, it is not yet proved that the population of Cuba, as now constituted, can successfully conduct a republic. There is a so-called Cuban Assembly, whose authority rests merely on self-assertion, and it has lost no time in antagonizing Gen. Gomez, after the United States had selected him to make out the list of Cuban soldiers entitled to receive a share of the \$3,000,000 forwarded from the American treasury. No basis is left for skepticism on American humanity, but there is a problem concerning its speedy effectiveness in dealing with Cuban emotionalism and other peculiarities.—Globe-Democrat.

The details of an execution, always shocking, and yet to a multitude of morbidly curious persons fascinating, lose nothing of their gruesome character by the substitution of the electrical chair for the gallows. The intent of the law which substituted electrocution for hanging—or part of its intent, at least—was to rob legal execution of its sensational character, and make it a thing of mystery and silence. Even the subject was not to know until the fatal hour arrived, the day set for the execution of penalty. The grim ceremony was to be conducted quietly and with awesome dignity, the incident was to be closed with as little comment as possible. The plan presupposed an ideal state of the public mind which has evidently not yet been realized, since the details of the late electrocution in Sing Sing are complete—even minute—and leave nothing for the immediate community of the curious to desire except a chance to witness the scene so graphically described. It must be admitted, however, that civilization has made some advance-

ment in recent years, since this opportunity is rigidly denied.—Oregonian.

California is the third state to be deprived of a United States senator this year, Delaware and Utah setting the pace. Ordinarily the energies of legislators are devoted to selecting some man to occupy exalted position in the upper chamber at Washington, but these bodies applied themselves to the task of preventing an election. Citizens will suffer not so much from lack of proper representation as from the continuation of the fight for honors at the next session of their legislatures. Washington has had its fill of that time destroying amusement, and it may so disgust the taxpayers of the other states that the movement for election of United States senators by popular vote will have renewed impetus.

The gold reserve keeps climbing upward, and has passed the \$240,000,000 mark. Additions to this great sum are made daily, and so large a portion as 84 per cent of the customs revenue was paid in gold at New York in one week recently. Still gold is little seen in ordinary business transactions, despite the fact that the treasury is troubled to supply the demand for paper money, and small bills are so scarce that the New York banks are taking extraordinary measures to stock up with them.

Whenever Gen. Otis raises a rifle in defense of the stars and stripes he is charged by the anti-expansionists with the design of exterminating the Filipinos, "just as the Indians were exterminated." If that be his purpose he can not find much encouragement in the success of his countrymen in "exterminating" the Indians, of whom about 300,000 are still drawing rations at the old stand.

The per capita of gold in the United States has increased to \$12.87, and the total amount of gold to \$966,396,743. It is useless to talk about a scarcity of gold as a presidential issue next year.

Mr. Reed's remark that the speaker's office has but one superior and no peer increases the desire of Republicans to have the speaker of the next house in hearty accord with the president.

A New Hose Company.

It has always been with the greatest of difficulty that the fire department has succeeded in reaching that portion of the city known as the central hill district, and often has the hose carts been hauled up the steep grade on Washington street only to find that a false alarm has been given. The means for fighting fire in that neighborhood has been wholly inadequate.

It was a good move which was made by the residents of that section last night when they met at the home of D. W. Mann and organized a company to be called the South Side Hose Company, to be composed of residents in that portion of the hill from Alford Avenue east. Many charter members are on their list and others are constantly joining.

It is their intention to build a small hose house on the east side of the knoll adjoining the property of John Cates, the expenses of the building to be met by a subscription which is now being circulated among the residents of the district. At the next meeting of the city council they will petition that body to furnish them with cart and hose. A number of fire plugs having been put in recently, sufficient water is already at hand.

Next Monday evening another meeting will be held to perfect organization, adopt rules and by-laws and receive new members. The following officers were chosen last night: President, S. Bolton; foreman, C. Cooper; first asst., R. E. Teague; second asst., E. S. James; secretary, Vic Sampson; treasurer, L. Lane.

Remarkable Rescue.

Mrs. Michael Curtain, Plainfield, Ill., makes the statement, that she caught cold, which settled on her lungs; she was treated for a month by her family physician, but grew worse. He told her she was a hopeless victim of consumption and that no medicine could cure her. Her druggist suggested Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption; she bought a bottle and to her delight found herself benefited from the first dose. She continued to use and after taking six bottles found herself sound and well; now does her own housework, and is as well as she ever was. Free trial bottle of this Great Discovery at Blakeley & Houghton's drug store. Only 50 cents and \$1. Every bottle guaranteed.

A TRIP FOR THE EDITORS.

Secretary Tozier Approves the Plan of Taking Them Down the River.

The following letter was received by Judge Blakeley from the secretary of the Oregon Press Association in answer to his communication regarding the entertainment of the editors who will visit our state. The plan of taking our visitors from here to Portland by boat is a splendid one, and we trust will be consummated. Mr. Tozier says:

PORTLAND, Ore., March 21, 1899.—Hon. Geo. C. Blakeley, President Commercial Club, The Dalles, Oregon.

Dear Sir and Friend:—With pleasure I read yours of even date regarding the action of the Commercial Club in the matter of entertaining the National Editorial Association delegates.

Having attended the association about a dozen times, leads me to agree with the opinion expressed by the directors, that a trip down the grand Columbia after a dusty ride from Spokane would be the proper move. I will at once forward a copy of letter to J. M. Page, corresponding secretary, National Editorial Association, Jerseyville, Ill., and I suggest that you write him at your earliest convenience regarding the matter. He selects routes coming and going. Our local committee arranges for excursions while the delegates are here.

It is expected that the delegates arrive here not earlier than the morning of July 4. That matter rests with Mr. Page. He could so arrange that the special arrive at the metropolis of Wasco county about 9 a. m., the 31, spend two hours in your city, then board the steamer for this city, arriving in time for them to aid us in ushering in the 4th. Our people desire to have the delegates here the morning of the Fourth or not later than noon of that day. It would be difficult to arrive here earlier than noon if the boat left at 6 a. m., yet, if the run would be made in five hours, as you state, it would put the delegation here about the hour the eagle screams.

The delegates will be governed by Mr. Page's suggestions, and the sooner all of our plans are laid before him the better for all concerned. The Dalles will be recognized on this program. A committee will meet the delegates at the state line. Another could meet them at The Dalles. By making the river trip on the way here would save a day that could be devoted to some other point. Perhaps that day could be spent at Vancouver.

It is the desire of the Portland Press Club and the citizens, that every minute possible be put to good use. The delegates can sleep when they get home. There will be at least calculation 500 people to accommodate, and Mr. Allaway may have a bill of damages for having his boat swamped.

Personally, I like your suggestions, and were I one of the visiting delegates, would prefer the trip from The Dalles by boat. A souvenir button with Vic Vrevelt's monument pictured thereon, might make a nice attractive article for the delegates to carry home. Or turn the delegates loose on Memorial island, and tell them to "carry nothing away." In case the special train should continue south after leaving here, it will be necessary for the delegates to visit Spokane on their way here. That may change the plans somewhat. Washington assisted Oregon in securing the convention, and must be recognized.

As the trip by boat will occupy not over an hour longer than the one by train, I am of the opinion that Mr. Page will decide to accept the plan you suggest.

Have written 387 letters in connection with this editorial matter, and my troubles are just beginning. I personally reply to all inquiries, and am glad to aid in making the fourteenth annual session of the National Editorial Association the greatest in the association's history.

The Dalles will never regret having bestowed attention upon the delegates to the greatest body of organized newspaper men in the world.

ALBERT TOZIER, Secretary Oregon Press Association.

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