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SHUT 'EM UP!

The charge is frequently made by the city dweller that life in the small town is narrow and self-centered, that petty gossip is the chief diversion of the people, and the pity of it is that it is true.

City people are, however, even more selfish and self-centered than the small town dweller, but they are freer from the annoyance of gossip.

The city has its sneaks and cowards and hold-up men who strike in the dark, but they are pearls of perfection by comparison with the venomous-tongued speaker of scandal.

"Have you heard the juicy bit about Soand-So?" is the backbiter's invariable opening. Then follows a slashing of reputations and a befouling of good names which would sicken a soul, while it gladdens the heart of the devil.

The anonymous letter, the anonymous telephone message, the whispered "Now, I'll tell you, but don't use my name if you repeat it," launch the concealed venom of a filthy mind.

Once on its way, the gullible, the foolish, the idle, and the vicious pass it along and embellish the story until its creator can barely recognize it. So goes the scandal story. So do the vicious and the simple-minded combine of smirch good men and women. No evil is so prevalent and far

reaching as the spreading of scandal. Many women who consider themselves virtuous and man who claim to be honorable will cheerfully pass along the most appalling scandal, seemingly unconscious of the fact that if summoned to appear in court, they have absolutely no proof to support the charges. They only know that they have heard it and the evil in their own minds or experience bids them believe it.

Some sober, honest thinking, clean-mindedness in viewing our neighbors, and Christian charity in our public contracts would do a lot to stop trouble makers.

"Shut up at least one scandal a day," would be a fine motto for every one to adopt.

The next time you are told a scandalous story, ask the teller to furnish you with the proof of its truth. Then watch 'em squirm.

THE BANKER

In looking through the country town for men of prestige and renown, who build and advertise a place, we find the banker sets the pace. There are some slanted money kings who keep small towns from doing things, but they are scarce—death seals their doom and then their towns enjoy a boom. When you've a chance to make a haul by buying pickles in the fall and peddling pickles in the spring and thus become a pickle king, you do not seek your maiden aunt and spring your coin-extracting cheat, you don't alarm and mockly rend your robes before some wealthy friend; they'd help you but they've spent their jack for camels and bric-a-brac. The only chance to make that deal is at the bank; they hear your spiel and pave the way with gold in stacks, for you to pay an income tax. When some subscription project lags, committees call on "money bags;" they smoke his 25c cigars, attend conventions in his cars and corkscrew ducats from his vault to cure the lame, the blind and halt. In times, however, you will learn that

even banking worms will turn, and there's no peace that compares with bearding bankers in their lairs. You seek their den with faltering step without your usual nerve and pep and meekly stammer that you've "got some money coming—but your note at present—fixed to meet that note, you'd like"—the words won't pass your throat. The banker lays his pen aside and says: "Well, Bill, we'll let it ride." Outside the bank you fairly dance and go and buy your kids some pants and several books about the yaks and get your wife a bran-new axe. That chap in there behind the bars helps head off half your family jars; Oh, when I leave this earthy sphere I hope some banker will be near to supplement my stringy roll in case I can't pay Charon's toll.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

President Harding has gone on record as a man absolutely capable of fearlessly meeting an emergency when one arises. Regardless of what might be one's opinion upon the soldier bonus bill that has so long stirred congress, it must be admitted that President Harding was master of the situation in refusing to support the bonus measure during this election year when the vote of so many congressmen in his own party hangs in the balance and the organized soldier vote of the country practically holds the balance of power. People predicted that Harding would be compelled to vote for the bonus because of pressure from candidates. But he has weighed the question carefully and has rendered his decision according to his best judgment.

Of course there will be differences of opinion as to the wisdom of his veto but there should be no difference of opinion as to his statesmanship in this critical hour.

MICKIE SAYS

IF TH' FELLERS WHO LIKE 'I KILL TIME IN A PRINTIN' OFFICE WILL NOW STEP UP, I'LL ISSUE 'EM TICKETS TO TH' PUBLIC LIBRARY 'N TH' CITY PARK! WE AINT GOT NO TIME TO ENTERTAIN LOAFERS!

WE AINT GROWN! JEST TOO BIZZY TO VISIT! THAT'S ALL!



THE ARISTOCRATIC PLASTERER

Speaking of wages, how would you like to be the plasterer? One of Chicago's largest contractors says: "A plasterer is entitled to \$44 a week under the Landis award. On one house I am building in the suburbs, a plasterer receives \$12 a day as regular wages and \$6 a day overtime, or \$50 for five days, excluding Saturday. For Saturday he receives .6 for his regular morning's work and \$12 for the afternoon, which is overtime. This gives him \$108 for six days' work. Some plasterers work Sundays and for eight hours overtime receive \$24 additional or a total for the seven day week of \$132. In 1917 it cost approximately \$500 to plaster an average house. Now it costs \$2200." In other words, it costs almost as much to plaster a house today as it did to build a substantial structure in 1917. If the average farmer makes so much a month as the Chicago plasterer does a week, he is apt to be pretty well satisfied. And he doesn't call eight hours a day either.—Washington News Letter.

SLAT'S DIARY

(By Ross Farquhar)

Friday—ra drove out in to the country to a sale today where they were selling stock & furniture and things and a fellow tuk his robe out of the ford and drove away with it. Pa sed in see him going with it and aa sed Why in he erth diddat you holler at him and tell him to bring it ee back. Pa replied and sed he wood if only he diddat no the fel sows name and he diddat want o appeed Fresh.



Sat.—I was in the store tonite looking at sum shoes and they was a man cum in twict as big as pa is and his ft. was like a little boys ft. I got small ft. but i of his ft. was smaller both of mine put to gather.

Sunday—I half to laff an Ant Emmy sum times. Behind her fact tho. Today pa cum in and Ant Emmy ast him where had he ben at and he sed he had went out in the Country for a Tramp and she up and sed Well did you ketch him a.d what had he done. Pa & me both laffed. Silently.

Monday—Mr. Gillem is a mixing up in politix this yr. and he told pa he had saw a Bootlegger and ast him to deliver him a qt of whisky on Election Day. But the Bootlegger answered and sed he cudent do it because it was vs. the law to sell it on Election day.

Tuesday—Went to a vawdeville show tonite and amongst other things they was a girl witch was dancin in the latest fashions and when we cum home pa sed he bet she cudent feel

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an earthquake if it cum wile she was ing. in that Case. Thursday—We past a man on are dancing. Wednesday—We had Co. tonite witch was lerning pa and mo how to play Bridge so they can go and join the golf club. Pa balled out ma for tramping on his Ace and the way she looked at him is nobuddys business. Put she cudent afford to say noth-

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