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OLD JAIL HORRORS

When Imprisonment For Debt Was the Law of the Land.

TORRE FOR ITS VICTIMS.

Poor Wretches Unable to Pay the Tribes They Owed Were Flung Into Prison to Starve to Death Unless Rescued by Charity or Their Creditors.

In every part of the last century there started an earnest effort to abolish or at least to regulate the old colony law of imprisonment for debt. The movers in this abolishment felt that no class of the community deserved consideration more.

It had been the inhuman rule that for the smallest debt possible to contract, though it were but a cent in value, the body of the debtor, whether man or woman, would be seized by the creditor and cast into jail.

Each year poor wretches had been dragged to prison by thousands on what were truly called "spite actions." Once behind the prison walls they were consigned to a fate harder than that which awaited worse criminals.

Murderers and thieves, forgers and counterfeiters, real criminals of all kinds, were fed, clothed and cared for at the expense of the state, but for the unhappy man whose only offense was his inability to pay a trifling sum of a few cents no such provision was made. The food he ate, the shreds that covered him, the medicine he took—nay, the very rags he wrapped about his sores—were provided, if provided at all, by his friends, by the public or by some humane society.

The room in which he was confined with scores of other offenders was utterly without furniture of any sort. In it were neither beds, nor tables, nor chairs, nor so much as a bench or stool. He sat on the floor, ate off the floor and at night lay to sleep on it like a dog, and this misery he endured until he died or his debt was paid or his creditor released him.

Against this at length humanity revolted, and in 1794 a change for the better was ordered. It was stipulated that the inspector should provide fuel and blankets for such debtors as, by reason of their dire property, could not get them and should make an allowance of 7 cents a day for food and charge this against the creditors. If any creditor refused to pay after ten days' notice his debtor was to be discharged.

For twenty-two years the community seemed to have thought that this mild concession was all that humanity required, for no further change was made until 1814. Then was passed the "bread act," under which each prisoner whose debt did not exceed \$15 was entitled to a discharge after an imprisonment of thirty days.

From documents presented to the senate of New York in 1817 it appears that the keeper of the debtors' jail in New York city certified that during 1816 1,984 debtors were confined and that upward of 900 were always in the prison. The sheriff of the county certified that 1,129 were imprisoned for debt under \$50, that of these 729 owed less than \$25 and that every one of them would have starved to death but for the assistance of the Humane society.

One man remained, it was noted, in the New York jail for three years, who was only indebted to the extent of \$50, before death ended his misery and during the entire time was fed by the Humane society. Another unfortunate had been imprisoned six years and was supported by charity. In the face of such striking evidence the legislature of New York state relented and in 1817 forbade the imprisonment of debtors for sums less than \$25. This led the way, and state after state followed.

When the new states in the west framed their constitutions they ordered that no one should be imprisoned for debt. The old statute was finally stricken from the laws of the eastern states until today none of our states has a law requiring that a debt is punishable by imprisonment, unless it has been contracted under some fraudulent misrepresentation.—Philadelphia Press.

When Death Cools His Sting.

There is a curious superstition in Jamaica that if a death occurs in the house all the water in it is poisoned at once and must be thrown away, the reason given being that Death cools his "sting" after destroying life in the first water he finds, and as no one can tell—death being invisible—what jar he may choose it is safest to throw it all away. Careful people to save trouble even carry all water out of the house immediately before a death is expected.

Imitation Marble.

If by any chance you should happen to be admiring some very fine carved marble it would not strike you that the so-called marble might easily be sawdust. Wonderful imitations of valuable woods and marbles have been made

from sawdust, and even experts have been deceived at first sight. Spirit, too, can be made from sawdust.

Pretty Close.

Genevieve—Do you carry Fred's picture in your wrist watch?
Mabelle—Certainly I do.
"Well, my dear, that comes pretty close to wearing your heart on your sleeve, doesn't it?"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

It is less pain to learn in youth than to be ignorant in age.

TRICKING THE CREDULOUS.

Lures of Gold Brick Schemes For the Small Investors.

Will persons with money never learn how to take care of it? Will they never guard themselves against the horde of tricksters who make a business of taking advantage of the credulous and especially of credulous women?

Bear in mind that no one will make money for you when he can make it for himself. If he offers to give you the key to wealth, suspect him, for such keys are kept by their possessors and are not given away to strangers.

The postoffice a year or two ago showed that over \$150,000,000 had been lost by persons who listened to the gold brick schemes, but the game still goes on despite the vigilance of the postoffice department and the passage of protective measures, known as "blue sky laws," by many states.

Will the people never learn to discount the alluring literature which these shysters send out and which is written for them by some of the sharpest and brightest writers of our day, whose services can be easily obtained for a few dollars?

I advise my readers who receive these tempting propositions to send them at once to the postmaster general at Washington for investigation. That is the business of the postoffice department, and it will be only too happy to take up such matters.

Small investors are particularly the victims of these bunko schemes, for the false notion prevails that a man or woman with a small amount of money cannot buy high class investment securities such as successful investors prefer. This is erroneous. An investment can now be made in the best of paying securities with as small an amount as \$10 through the partial payment plan, which is readily understood, though the term may sound formidable.—Leslie's Weekly.

A LITTLE PIECE OF LEAD.

The Costliest Thing This World of Ours Has Ever Known.

Just think of one small piece of lead, probably weighing less than an ounce, that cost the world some \$100,000,000,000 in money, probably \$100,000,000,000 in property, more than 11,000,000 lives and individual suffering and loss impossible of computation—a bit of lead that embroiled in war Germany, Austria-Hungary, Britain, France, Belgium, the United States, Turkey, Siberia, Italy, Montenegro, Roumania, Bulgaria, Albania, Egypt, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, South Africa, India and Russia and brought every other nation to the brink of internal trouble or outward disaster, the consequences of which are being felt by every human being, civilized or uncivilized, white, black, yellow or brown!

That small piece of lead was fired from a pistol in the hands of a crack brained youth of Serbian nationality into the body of the heir to the Austrian throne. The troubles arising from this mad act and its punishment set fire to the powder trains in Europe and led to hostile act after hostile act and finally and suddenly to open war in 1914.

That little piece of lead should be preserved as a memorial to all future generations and as the costliest thing mankind has ever known. It would become the greatest silent teacher the world has ever seen. It would teach restraint for the weak minded and violent; it would teach the importance of minor acts and things; it would teach peace as no costly monument, no book of horrors, no painting of tragedy could ever teach it.—Detroit Free Press.

Ox Bones.

Ox bones have a considerable value. The four feet of an ordinary ox will make a pint of neat's foot oil. The thigh bone is the most valuable, being useful for cutting into toothbrush handles. The fore leg bones are made into collar buttons and parasol handles. The water in which the bones are boiled is reduced to glue, while the dust which comes from sawing the bones is turned into food for cattle and poultry.—Exchange.

Fine Canal Locks.

Some of the locks in the New York barge canal are the finest in the world, the five at Waterford being the greatest series of high lift locks in existence. They have a combined lift of 160 feet, one foot less than the total lift of every lock in the Panama canal. The upper gates weigh forty tons and the lower about 100 tons.

It begins to look as though we would have to abstain from all wheat foods.

If the Government would only tax roguery there would be no need of Liberty bonds.

Bribery changes some men from their faith just as easy as a tadpole turns into a frog.

If some men's bodies were as crooked as their minds, they would be crooked enough to ride on their own backs.

It will require more than the saluting of the flag or an oath of allegiance to make a good citizen of the disloyal I. W. W's.

If your bull has gored my ox, a great wrong has been done; if, however, my bull has gored your ox, it is a totally different thing.

We should be pleased to publish the many good things advocated by the many candidates for State offices, but we are obliged to "Hooverize" along these lines as well as observing the 'eatless' periods.

A reader asks: "In these days when help is so scarce and the women work in the fields, mills and railroads, why don't the proprietors of pool halls, shooting galleries, etc. go to work and produce something worth while?"

Federal Food Administrator W. B. Ayer terms as "thoughtless complaints," objections raised by the people over the inexcusable high prices charged for flour substitutes, saying that such conditions are unavoidable. May-be-so? If the price of flour can be regulated by a War Measure, why not the substitute? The people generally do not object seriously to conserving the wheat supply, in fact are doing it gladly but they do object to unscrupulous profiteers taking advantage of their necessity in the manner they do. The Food Administrator certainly is the proper one to hear such complaints, and are neither thoughtless or idle ones. The higher prices charged may be of small notice to the wealthy or those drawing down a handsome salary with little exertion, but to the man who toils, and by whose toil and sacrifices the winning of the war depends, it is of great concern to him. Without going into the whys and wherefores, but is a fact nevertheless, the working man is not in the millionaire class in so far as dollars go, and is usually "loaded to the guards" with liabilities and his strong arm his only asset. High as wages may seem, they have not always kept pace with prices of the necessities of the toiler.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.



FLOYD D. MOORE
OF MONMOUTH
Candidate for
Republican Nomination
FOR
COUNTY CLERK

Floyd D. Moore of Monmouth has just announced his candidacy for republican nomination for the office of county clerk. Mr. Moore for the past two years has been serving as the supervisor of rural schools of Polk County. In that capacity he has met personally, practically all the people of the county and he feels that this acquaintance will render him valuable service in his candidacy.

As he will be serving as supervisor until after the primaries he must rely upon his friends to do his talking for him as he will not neglect his duties to campaign. He bases his claim upon the office of county clerk on his record of the past two years and says he is willing for the people to judge whether or not he has merited their confidence and support.

Mr. Moore has the distinction of having initiated the zone system of rural supervision which is now being copied by other counties throughout the State. The definite and systematic way in which he has done his work as supervisor is the best index as to how he will do his work if elected county clerk.

Mr. Moore is well qualified to perform the duties of the office for which he aspires since his experience has been broad and since his education has been efficient and varied. He solicits the support of the republican party in the approaching primaries.

His platform is:—"Prompt service, business economy with justice and courtesy to all."
(Pd. Adver.)

WAR STAMP DRIVE

Weekly Report For Polk County
Total amt to be raised \$321,160.01
Stamps sold to date 34,138.14
Airlie - - - \$188.10
Dallas - - - 1,018.62
Falls City - - - 248.09
Independence - - - 200.00
McCoy - - - 48.76
Rickreall - - - 1,188.43

SOLDIERS MAIL

The postoffices department urge the necessity of using more care in addressing mail to soldiers in France. They are asked to write with ink, clear and legible, and to use "Private" or rank title instead of "Mister," writing name in full, as James Franklin Smith, instead of J. F. Smith. By observing such details, much trouble and delay in delivery will be avoided.

HIGH COST OF MERCHANDISE

Led us to buying what is known as "MILL ENDS." These are short lengths, in fact too short to place in bolt yardage and therefore sold to the trade at considerable less.

Have Just recently received a shipment of Mill Ends consisting of

TABLE LINEN, TICKING, GALETTE CLOTH, WHITE CREPE, DRAPERY, CURTAIN SCRIM, LAWNS, ETC.

VISIT OUR STORE

Where you can get the pick of these short lengths at considerable less.

SELIG'S, Cash Price Store,
Meeting and Beating Competition

Airship Methods

Your grandfather walked to see his best girl, and probably carried his tight boots in his hand until he reached the house. Your father probably rode horseback. You were no doubt satisfied with a top buggy. But your boy wants a six-cylinder car in which to go courting. And his boy will want an airship. We are moving along all right, in banking as well as courting. Don't handle your finances in the way your grandfather did. Be modern and keep an account at a good bank like ours.

BANK OF FALLS CITY.

Whos
Hows
Tellers?

HOW ABOUT THAT

NEW SPRING SUIT
of Clothes?

Ed. V. Price & Co's
Are Guaranteed

FOR SALE BY

FALLS CITY LUMBER & LOGGING CO.

FALLS CITY HOSPITAL

EQUIPPED AND PREPARED TO HANDLE

General Surgery, Sickness, Accidents,

INCLUDING THOSE THAT COME UNDER

State Industrial Accident Commission

Rooms \$2 to \$3.50 per day, including
general nursing and board.

Mrs. R. M. Massie, Matron

Dr. G. E. Prime, Mgr.