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OUR CRIMINALS AND CRIME

In so far as many who help to populate this earth are concerned, they might well subscribe to the theory of evolution and accept the postulate that they are descended from the anthropoid ape. Not only descended, but still closely related in their manner of living and carrying on. This has direct reference to those who lead immoral lives, commit crimes, and scorn the existence of a Supreme Being or any life hereafter. This class of people are the ones who cause all the trouble in this world, are an annoyance and expense to the decent remainder, and a disgrace to themselves and their progenitors. If indeed they are descended from the lower animal, they have never succeeded in getting very far away from them, and for the peace and quietude of the world, might better now be swinging by their tails from the trees of the jungle. Among the animal creation crime is unknown, but with the human family endowed with intelligence to discern between right and wrong there are altogether too many who fail to use their God-given sense to make respectable citizens of themselves. Consequence is society for its own welfare and safety and desire to progress up-

ward, to dwell in amity with all mankind, and pursue happiness to its utmost realization, is forced to make regulations to curb the vicious propensities of those who war against them and established order. To punish, penalties are provided and prisons are built to confine and deprive them of their liberty when all other measures fail. We establish schools to impart learning, churches to teach a better way of living, and in many ways are put to much effort to try and cure this animal spirit and lift them up in order that all may enjoy the blessings of an earth so beautiful that no sun shines on fairer. Crime is considered by many as a disease, but in reality it is only a false belief for which probably many centuries must yet elapse before we shall be rid of it. Crime leads only to disaster, to those who hold to this false belief, no good can possibly come from it, much harm and misery does come from it, and that is why it is said that these people addicted to warring against society, defying just laws, leading laws of no morality, are an incubus upon civilization and are, if it were not a slander upon non-intelligent creation, but little removed from the lower type of animals.

HOME TOWN DEVELOPMENT

It used to be frequently said in smaller towns, that it is the business of a good citizen to mind his own business, keep out of debt and avoid breaking laws. It was commonly thought that if he did that, it was about all that could be expected of him and he was conforming to the ideals of good citizenship.

But a community's development cannot be promoted in these times by any such limited basis. The fact that so many small town people still have this spirit and expect to get along without doing anything particular to boost community movements, is one of the principal rea-

sons why some towns do not get ahead faster.

Some must take hold and carry on the work of churches and fraternal societies. Some of the men with a special head for business need to work in some organization for the commercial and other needed development of the community. Some need to work in clubs for educational purposes, and for more interesting social activities. There is something that each one should do and we all must take hold to do something in these public lines, if we expect that a town is going to keep up with the game.

People should not act as if they were making a great sacrifice if they devote a little of their time to such purposes. We should love our home town so much we should be so ambitious to see it go ahead, we should be so conscious of the gains that people who have initiative and ability or industry, should be willing to give some time each week to helping forward such causes.

THE BAROMETER

If the liquor interests, including the cabinet member-owner of breweries and distilleries care to know the value of "straw votes" on the prohibition question, they have but to glance at the barometer of public opinion. The high-pressure area in the Pacific Northwest states region, centering around Seattle denotes a storm center, likely to develop into cyclonic proportions. The indications are that this tornado will demolish the structural fancies conjured up by lavish expenditures of coin of the realm, and straw votes. In this hotbed of degrading citizenship, freezing temperatures will follow causing the spirits to descend lower and lower in the thermometer until even this inanimate recorder of temperatures will be afflicted with "cold feet."

The conviction of Christiansen, et al, in Portland, the skunk, Olmstead gang in Seattle, followed by the election of a woman as mayor of Seattle, over the present incumbent, discounts straw votes a thousand per cent. The human genus engaged in the nefarious traffic of debauching humanity for gold, should like the Arab, fold his tent and steal silently away in the night. He should take what comfort and warmth he may out of fires produced by the destruction of such worthless material as "straw votes." His partner in crime, the purchaser and consumer of spirits, should retire and commune with his worthless self, and after mature and careful consideration decide whether there is any element in his make-up worth redeeming. Having reached a decision, it is up to him to take his place as a man among men, or as a companion among those of his filthy ilk, sinking deeper and deeper in that cesspool which he has excavated with his own hands. As the horizon clears, the flotsam and jetsam of human society, cast high on the beach, will struggle to escape the next huge comber, or indolently roll back into that sea of degenerate law breakers. The choice is theirs. In the mean time the barometer of public opinion remains quiescent until the storm of wrath rises in the offing at the approach of the liquor interests' new tack or propaganda. Public opinion, when expressed at the polls, agitates the barometer violently. It does not rise until decency is outraged and government trampled underfoot by the foul smelling skunks who label themselves as sub-normal members of society incapable of participating in a government deriving its powers through the consent of the governed.

Notes and Comment

By CHAD ALTON

This column was about to note the fact of a plum tree in full bloom on March 1st, which came under the writers observation, but so many are being reported in various parts of the Pacific Northwest that it is too common a subject.

Womans' rights are slowly but surely putting man in the back number class. The high appellate court of Illinois has decided that at least one-third of a man's income must be paid in alimony to the divorced wife.

The short skirt serves one advantage to many a female. It calls attention away from a very ordinary clock-stopping face.

New styles of dress are reported to be very short in front and very long behind. Imagine the female with a receding chin in such a makeup. Call out the cartoonists.

Leon Trotsky forecasts a radio revolution in a recent speech at Moscow. Some of the stuff put on the air nowadays is enough to cause a revolution, alright.

John W. Worthington, notorious confidence man of Chicago, has died in Atlanta prison where he was serving a six-year term for using the mails to defraud. He left a will bequeathing two million dollars to a daughter and other relatives. As the man had many victims defrauded by his activities, it does not seem justice that this money should be allowed to be enjoyed by those who never earned it and in fact had no legal right to it.

British scientists are trying to define a square meal. We are of opinion that being gentlemen of means and therefore having never felt the pang of hunger, they can tell very little about what a square meal is. We are of further opinion that there are old knights of the "stick and rule" who have climbed from the brakebeams been staked to two bits by a kindly foreman, sought out a nearby oasis where a free lunch was served, and with the help of that and plenty of "suds" have enjoyed such a "square meal" as no scientist can define.

Use of the airplane the coming season may solve the great mystery held in the icy grasp of the region lying between Point Barrow and Spitzbergen. This globe so small and yet so large that our knowledge does not vision it, is but a tiny speck in the great system of creation, and we but mere atomic insects crawling upon the face of it, seeking, seeking ever to fathom the secret of our being.

The country is reminded that the U. S. government has no jails, and that congress will not appropriate money to build any. The three penitentiaries are now so full that when convicts are crowded in their coatsails are caught when the doors close.

Smiling comes from a state of mind. If that be clean there is reason in smiling. But if we smile only for the sake of stretching the face into a grin it is only an evidence of an empty mind and hypocrisy.

Two quite prominent men of this country, both peace lovers, have argued that all men are murderers at heart. Many of us would not quite subscribe to that on first thought, but there might be some who would favor the removal from this vale by popular vote those whose thoughts and actions are not entirely in accord with their own. From savagery up is a long, long trail.

Entirely beside the question is the assertion of the wets that George Washington brewed beer or drank whiskey. His was a case in the dim and misty past from which the wheels of progress have removed us, and if he were alive today, would no doubt be the same law-abiding citizen he always was. It is shameful to drag Washington's name into an argument favoring such an evil as the use of intoxicating liquor and seeking to degrade it.

Two extraordinary freaks are brought out in the news of the past week. One a preacher in Philadelphia who voluntarily lopped off two thousand dollars from his salary, and the other a Montana man, who became insane when he heard a band play "How Dry I Am."

Enthusiastic sons of Swiss Immigrants are wanting to hang a wrist watch on the statue of Liberty in New York harbor, and the war department is puzzled what to decide about it. Don't let us flapperize such a monument or do anything so foolish as to make our freedom appear ridiculous to the millions who will sail past it.

Nothing is sacred or holy to the unholy. The American Legion is asking for a permanent military guard at Arlington cemetery to prevent tourists from using as picnic grounds the plot about the monument to the Unknown Soldier and

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boys from shooting craps on top of the tomb. And in Egypt they rob the graves of the Pharaohs.

A case of burning bridges behind them comes down from arctic Canada where native Indians were forced to eat their dog teams to stave off starvation, thus cutting off means of returning to where they could get food.

The claim to the distinction of being the only large city in the country having a woman mayor is made by the city of Seattle, which on March 9 elected Mrs. Bertha M. Landes. Her election was hotly contested by the present incumbent, but he lost by about 6000 votes. The election of Mrs. Landes, who is also at present a member of the city council, is hailed as an evident desire on the part of the citizens to return to a condition of civic decency.

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