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Keokuk, Iowa, March 24, 1909.

"Anxious Inquirer." No, Champ Clark was not elected speaker of the house. He only talks as though he had been.

The charge that the new tariff bill will make hosiery higher is no argument against the measure. At present socks reach only half way to the knees.

A bill has been introduced in the New York legislature requiring laundries to sterilize the wash. New York microbes must be a tough lot if boiling doesn't put an end to them.

An Indiana woman who is suing for a divorce charges her husband with having bought railroad sandwiches for her on their honeymoon. Would she have had him let her go hungry?

Nobody will be surprised to learn that Victor Murdock, the Kansas "insurgent," is red-headed. Anybody would be red-headed after being run over by the Republican road roller as Victor was.

It is an unusually cold day at Des Moines when one or more additional bills for restriction of the liquor traffic are not introduced in the legislature. And there have been no exceptionally cold days there for a long time.

Yesterday was one of T. Roosevelt's busy days. But our strenuous former President is used to that sort of thing. As a matter of fact he thrives on it. He isn't happy unless he is on the jump. And he isn't always careful what he jumps on, either.

A New York theatrical manager found it necessary to explain that he wanted "thirty chorus girls," not "thirty chorus girls," as the types made the advertisement read. More than double the specified number of the latter kind made application before the paper was off the press.

"A campaign of obtuseness" is what the Jacksonville Courier asserts in its blackest type is now in progress in that city. Thank heaven, Keokuk was never afflicted in that way! By the by, does anyone know what "campaign of obtuseness" is? It must be something awful, of course.

One of the considerations that should enter into the choice of candidates and officials at the coming city election is loyalty to Keokuk in the matter of the water power. No one who has not been at all times a firm friend and warm supporter of that great enterprise should be thought of for a moment in connection with municipal honors.

The bulk sales bill for the protection of jobbers and manufacturers, heretofore referred to in these columns, has been endorsed by the judiciary committee of the lower house at Des Moines. It has passed the senate and the chances are that this action will be concurred in by the house. The measure requires filing of a bill of sale at least five days in advance of change of ownership.

Senators Dolliver and Cummins called on President Taft the other day in the interest of Major S. H. M. Byers of Des Moines for minister to Switzerland. During the interview it was learned that Major Byers will not get the Swiss appointment, but there is some prospect that he will be given another post. It appears that Secretary Knox is allowed large discretion as to diplomatic appointments and he is insisting on young men as far as possible.

Des Moines has just concluded its first year of city government under the commission plan and it is agreed on all sides that the arrangement has been a success. There was paid into the general fund during the year \$329,476.10, and during the coming year there will be available \$368,263.24—\$38,787.14 more. There is a balance in the general fund of \$20,000, whereas under the old aldermanic system the year before a deficit of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 was created. This is one of a number of good results following the substitution of business methods for political log-rolling in the conduct of municipal affairs. Keokuk would do well to profit by Des Moines' example and experience.

Regularly every two years Iowa Prohibitionists put a ticket in the field and do their utmost to defeat the Republican nominees. Then when the legislature meets they appear on the scene in full force and demand that the Republican majority in that body, elected despite their efforts to the contrary, shall accede to their unreasonable demands. In any other sphere of human activity this would be generally regarded as oil-finished, hand-polished, non-pulverulent, unadulterated cheek.

A prominent physician and former coroner of Muscatine claims that Muscatine people drink more water per capita than the people of any other city in the United States. It is further claimed that the water is absolutely pure, and, as a corollary, that there are so few cases of typhoid fever and other diseases arising from like causes that a number of nurses have left the city because there is no work for them. This is a first-class advertisement for the community from every worthy point of view.

Senator Chapman sought and obtained a second vote on his bill specifying the size of type in which accounts of suicide should be printed in the newspapers. He urged in support of the measure that the need for such a law exists "because of the psychic effect of reading such stories at the psychological moment." But the senator, who is a doctor also and should have known better, made the mistake of calling the bill up at a psychological moment that did not correspond with the psychic condition of his fellow members at that particular time, and so on roll call it went down to defeat. Of all the freak bills introduced in the legislature at the present session it was about the most fantastic.

Chicago health authorities are starting an active campaign against diphtheria, the disease which is giving the department the hardest fight at present. Dr. Evans, the health commissioner, declares that the diphtheria patients themselves are not the greatest menace to the health of the community, but that the disease is spread by those who have recovered and have resumed their daily activities, or by those who have associated with diphtheria patients. It is a fact well known to physicians that it is possible for a perfectly healthy person to carry diphtheria germs in his mouth or clothing. The aim of the department will be to isolate all patients until they are absolutely free from the diphtheria bacilli.

Farmington will suffer a real loss in the departure of Rev. J. E. Ball, pastor of the Congregational church there, who has resigned his charge to accept a call from a church in Minneapolis. From the first he has been a great force for good in the community and has done much to elevate it morally and spiritually. His pleasing personality and cordial manners have made him persona grata with all classes of people and enabled him to reach and influence many who would otherwise have been left untouched by the impulses that make for righteousness in the world. In the pulp he is forceful, attractive and interesting without a shadow of sensationalism. His chief characteristics, on the authority of those who know him best, are his enthusiasm and his intense practicality. It was inevitable that so strong and popular a minister would be called to a larger field of usefulness. Robinsdale church in Minneapolis is to be congratulated upon the prize it has secured.

LEGISLATORS MUST APPROVE. Great stress has been put upon the claim that it is the duty of members of the legislature to submit the prohibitory amendment to popular vote whether they approve of it as individuals or not. This view has been emphasized whenever the subject has come up in the general assembly, and it is not to be doubted that it has been influential in securing votes in favor of the referendum. It appears, however, that the claim is not tenable. A careful reading of the constitution has disclosed the fact that it provides that legislators must approve the merits of the resolution and not simply consider whether they shall permit the people to vote on the question of prohibition.

It is reported from Des Moines that at least one senator has changed his mind about voting in favor of the re-submission of the prohibitory amendment by reading the constitution. He is quoted as saying: "It is plain to me that the intent of the constitution in the section that provides that the members shall vote their convictions and not consider whether or not there shall be a referendum." "The latter section provides that 'Any amendment to this constitution may be proposed in either house of the general assembly and if the same shall be agreed to by a majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, such proposed amendment shall be entered upon their journals,' etc., and then it must take the same course in the next general assembly. If two legislatures agree upon it, then it is submitted to the people for their approval. In other words, the safeguard against the acts of the legislature is in the approval by the people. If the people desire to amend the constitution there is ample provision for them to get independently of the general assembly in 1910."

The discovery is an important one and should be potent in ensuring defeat of the re-submission resolution.

"SENTIMENTALITIS" IN IOWA.

(The writer of the following interesting discussion of nobby pambyism over the criminal classes refuses to allow his name or place of residence to be published.—Des Moines Register and Leader.)

During the past century society has been deeply interested in the amelioration of the criminal, and has made possible his reformation by surrounding him, after conviction, with all the reforming influences that are consistent with the best interests of society and the criminal's ability to assimilate. The places of confinement have been lifted from the subterranean caverns, underground dungeons and condemned mines to the light of day. The half hundred tortures and modes of punishment that were the most excruciating the human mind could conceive of have been completely eliminated from the penal system of today. The solitary workshops have been replaced with congregated hives of industry. The stripes and lock-step, which were marks of degradation and humiliating to the prisoner, have been changed to the reformatory style of marching. Where prisoners formerly received their food all in one plate or pan, and carried it to their cells to eat, their meals are now served in large, well lighted, convenient dining rooms by prison waiters. The eras of vengeance, retribution and repression have been supplanted by humane reformatory and preventive methods, and today the prisoner is better fed, better clothed and has better facilities for acquiring an intellectual, moral, industrial and physical development than he has ever had in the history of the world.

In Iowa about \$2,000,000 has been expended toward erecting and equipping her two penal institutions in order that the criminal may have comfortable, commodious and hygienic quarters during his incarceration. Schools have been established that the illiterate criminal may acquire at least a rudimentary education. The grade system of discipline has been inaugurated, which gives every prisoner an opportunity to develop self control, self respect and self reliance. The indeterminate sentence and parole law has been placed on our statute books, which enables an opportunity to test him in the outside world before granting him his final discharge. Humanitarian methods of discipline have been adopted, and, in fact, society seems to have performed every duty toward the criminal that an enlightened age could demand.

We have recently been enlightened as to the trend of criminal reformation by the eulogistic speech of Warden J. C. Saunders of Fort Madison, in which he has made some serious accusations against society for failing to fulfill her obligations to the criminal element. These utterances, in face of the fact that society for the past century, has been complying with every request of the reformer; has been surrounding the criminal, after conviction, with modern conveniences and luxuries; has placed him on an equal, and in many instances above the guard who has never been convicted of a crime; and has indulged him to the danger point—make us pause and think, where will it all end? Regardless of society's benevolent attitude toward him, the criminal has not altered his opinion of society. Investigation discloses the fact that the criminal is as bitter against society today as he was a century ago. Have we in Iowa reached and passed the highest state of efficiency in criminal reformation?

What element of society does this criminal, whom some reformers claim is not receiving proper treatment at the hands of society, represent? He represents that element which makes it necessary for the taxpayer to erect penitentiaries, reformatories, jails and work houses as a means of security and protection. He makes it necessary for every home, every business house or bank, every place where property is stored, to be guarded and protected by means of police, bolts, bars and locks. He costs the taxpayers of Iowa more than \$1,000,000 annually, and the United States more than \$200,000,000. He is the menace which makes necessary courts, police supervision and every element of criminal jurisprudence. His expense to the taxpayer is by far the largest factor with which political economy has to deal, for it exceeds in amount every other object of public expenditure, except that of our military establishment in time of war. It exceeds the total cost of popular education, which throughout the United States is less than \$150,000,000, and in Iowa the excess is even greater in proportion. He is the self-same individual, who, as a boy hurled the advice of parents, friends and relatives to the four winds; who was a menace to public school discipline, and in many instances had to be expelled because of his contaminating influence. He insisted upon developing into a feeble-minded cigarette fiend, and exhausted the patience of the authorities who tried to befriended him. He looks upon society as being but a vacillating, sentimental, ignorant, and degenerated element of moral punk. This is the criminal, in the abstract, whom society is endeavoring to reform as a means of protection, and of whom some people who are afflicted with sentimentalities say, "Society, and not the criminal is at fault."

This criminal finally arrives at the penal institution, after having been hardened in the school of experience, with a premature knowledge of the world, with a superabundance of criminal ego, with malice in his heart toward society, and is enrolled as a candidate for reformation. Can he be reformed? Have criminals ever been reformed in a penal reformatory? No one but the criminal himself can answer this question.

Penologists claim, and have demonstrated, that many of those who are classed as criminals can be benefited by systematic and scientific treatment and training, such as is advocated by students of the American Prison System. The essential rules of this system are: 1. A rigid discipline that compels obedience to the rules and regulations of the institution. 2. A scientific physical development. 3. A development of the intellectual faculties under competent instructors. 4. An industrial training that will fit the criminal for useful labor when discharged. 5. A rigid system of economy which will demonstrate the value of proper accumulation. None of these essentials contemplate or necessitate sentimentalism or puerile sympathy in their operation. They are but the agencies which give the criminal an opportunity to help himself, and this is all society can do or should attempt to do.

The question of criminal reformation is certainly a hypothetical one, and too much should not be assumed or expected in the way of results. In making ingots of gold from the dross and refuse of society there is sure to be some refractory ore which will defy skillful treatment. The converting of raw material into a finished product requires the utmost exertion and ability of the skilled workman, and the reformation of the criminal requires the supervision of a trained, experienced and persistent student of the science of penology and the American Prison System of reformation. The criminal, as a rule, is a stranger to good home environments and has never known restraint only that which the law imposes. He has no well defined sense of honor, and in the majority of cases is moved and controlled by impulse—which is a very unstable thing, and to make a clean, honorable, high-minded citizen out of him, a citizen who will love his country and cheerfully obey its laws, who will stand for the right and scorn an untruth and who would prove beneficial to a community, by placing him under the control of one who has never had any training or experience with this element of society and who believes that the criminal can be transformed by simply appealing to his honor is to perform a miracle as startling as any that was ever performed by the master.

The cheapest and most effective method of protecting society is to accord the criminal humanitarian treatment and give him an opportunity to reform. There is no element in society demanding a return to the ancient and barbarous methods of the lex talionis code but it is time to feel concerned when those in charge of criminals lose sight of the rights of society; when justice ceases to be the standard of right; when the crime is forgotten and the criminal pampered; when a superintendent of a penal institution openly wages war on society in behalf of the criminal; when a politician seeks the suffrage of the voters because of having been successful in securing the release of a life convict; when discipline is a farce and crime is increasing; and when certain well meaning individuals are seeking fame and notoriety by championing the cause of the criminal, and acting as if it was the noblest work in life to be instrumental in securing the release of some incarcerated criminal.

Crime is waging war against all civil and moral laws, all governments and against civilization itself. All our interests in life are at stake and all depends upon the forces which keep crime under. Crime is now working with the same fierce activity that it has ever shown from the beginning. Sentimentalism gathers momentum as times goes on in proportion to what it has in the past ten years, the barriers which hold crime in check will be broken down, history will again repeat itself and this glorious nation of ours will be doomed to destruction as certain as were the civilizations of ancient history—because in every instance where crime and vice have gained the ascendancy—the vitality of the people have been sapped, their energies weakened, their moral instincts blighted, their power of resistance enfeebled and their downfall inevitable.

The problem with which society is now confronted is not altogether the one of controlling crime and the criminal, but of preventing the dissemination of that disease called sentimentalism. The sentimentalist is sowing seed that is sure to increase crime instead of diminishing it. He is by suggestion, leading the criminal to believe, or rather strengthen what he already believes, that society is unjust and that a great wrong has been perpetrated upon him by depriving him of his liberty and allowing others, equally as bad, from the sentimentalist's standpoint, to be at large. As long as the criminal feels that society is his enemy he will strike back with a

vengeance, and his reformation will be impossible—but if he can be taught, and we believe he can, to see that he is an enemy of society and that society has only his best interests in view in her relations with him, there may be some possibility of his reformation. Nothing can be accomplished as long as the sentimentalist perverts the mind of the criminal by shouting his virtues and debasing society.

The primary object of maintaining a penal institution is for the protection of society. No other reason would justify this enormous expenditure. The reformation of the criminal is also of primary importance since the first object is realized through the success of the second, and vice versa.

This is an age of specialization and only the men who have had special training in special lines, such as medicine, banking, science, philosophy, law, political economy or school work, are considered competent to fill a position of that particular profession, and if a man should prove a failure in any one of the professions above named it would only affect perhaps the individual's family, or at the farthest the community in which he lives. If a large banking institution wants a man to act as its president it does not appoint a doctor or a lawyer to fill the position but one who is a master of finance, neither would a lawyer be called to attend the sick or a doctor retained as an attorney—but when a man is selected to superintend an institution in which are kept that element of society which costs the taxpayer more than any other one public expense, and is a constant menace to society, he is taken from the school room or some other station in life and without any conception of the science of penology, is placed in full charge. The taxpayer bears the financial brunt of the experiment and society in general will pay the penalty for his failures.

If this \$1,000,000 annual expense is to be reduced and society is to have her rights considered the selecting of superintendents of these important institutions should be by competitive examinations under civil service rules. This system will be the only means of inducing or attracting competent men to take up the science of penology and master it.

Sentimentalitis. Des Moines Register and Leader, editorial: We present on this page an interesting discussion of "sentimentalitis" as Iowa has it in dealing with the criminal classes. Although the writer refuses to permit his identity to be disclosed, it may be said he is competent to speak. He has enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with the problems presented by penitentiary life.

How easily a community may drift into "sentimentalitis" has been demonstrated many times. The most vicious criminal becomes "poor fellow" shortly, especially if there is a redeeming feature in his character, and long before he is finally disposed of he comes to look upon himself as the victim in some way of organized society.

The criminal is viewed from the wrong standpoint both by those who punish him and those who pity him. On the one side there is a vindictive desire for revenge. On the other a nobby pamby, watery-eyed indispotion to stern and punitive measures. Both look on him as a victim, the one as a proper victim of their hate, the other an unfortunate victim of the law's cruelty.

When the state comes to look at all men merely as workers, as bound by the laws of nature and of society to make a reasonable contribution to the world's work, and treats the derelict as a shirker of his part in life, to be made to do involuntarily what the law abiding do of their own accord, revenge will have nothing to do with punishment, and the sentimentalist will be without an excuse. Detention will be merely for the purpose of securing from the individual what society has a right to demand of him, that he let other workers alone and that he work himself.

As it is today the community churns backward and forward, having now a spasm of righteous indignation during which a boy who steals a melon is due for a penitentiary sentence, and now a spasm of "sentimentalitis," during which murderers and hardened criminals are turned loose on the community through legislative or executive pardon or easy parole. Now revenge hangs some suspected man to the nearest tree, and again "sentimentalitis" makes it difficult to convict the most dastardly criminal before court and jury.

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sentimental can find common ground. There is only one line that divides the derelict from the orderly and self-governed, the line of work. The voluntary workers make their daily contribution to the well being of society. The others should become involuntary workers. And the indeterminate sentence should be indeterminate only as to one question: Is the man ready to become a voluntary worker instead of an involuntary worker? And the care the men should have of the places of confinement should be of their own providing, their wages being fairly divided between the support of their families, the expenses of their detention, and the supplying of their own daily needs. There should be less talk of punishment and penalties and more talk of work and honest habits. When every man who is convicted of interfering with the rights of his neighbors is set to work, under supervision, to support his family and himself and pay the costs of looking after him, and is kept at involuntary labor until it is certain that he can be relied on to maintain his gait after being released, there will be a great many more voluntary workers than we have now, a great many fewer giving way to criminal tendencies, and a multitude who will never chance a second confinement. And the sentimentalist will have nothing to complain of. Government by Commission. Dr. Charles W. Elliot, former president of Harvard University, has been investigating Galveston, Dallas, and other cities in Texas and elsewhere that have tried the experiment of government by commission. He says: "In Galveston there are no sinecures. The citizens get a day's work for a day's pay from every employe of the city, something that can be said in few instances in my home city, Cambridge, and cannot be said in any case in Boston." While there is no absolute remedy against the acts of bad men in office under the commission plan, such a one can be instantly removed, while under the present plan, he can in a manner defy the public until his term is out and then, under our present stupid primary law, can use the money which he has stolen for another term of office. Under all the light that has been shed upon this matter, government by commission enables the citizens to secure efficient service, and if a man attempts to violate his oath and disgrace the city, he can be thrown out, as was the mayor of Los Angeles.

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