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Holding Parents Responsible.

MINNESOTA'S juvenile court law is to some extent an experiment, and is yet to be perfected. It has been in force less than a year, and experience will show the need of some improvements. One important feature of other juvenile court laws is lacking in this state, that is, the statute holding parents responsible for delinquent children. It appears to be bringing excellent results in Colorado and other states where it has been enacted, and is worth the attention of authorities here.

The Colorado law, which has been adopted by at least eight other states, gives the juvenile court authority to punish parents for failure to keep a delinquent child straight, and to punish any other persons who may encourage or contribute to the misconduct of such a child. Sentence of fine or imprisonment may be imposed, and it may be suspended by the court during good behavior. The secret of success in a juvenile court, of course, is discretion, and parents are not to be punished wantonly. The power given is only used where parents are manifestly refusing to look after their children, or abetting them in their wrongdoing. It is no injustice to punish them in such cases, for they are really more to blame than the child is.

In its actual operation the suspended sentence has nearly always brought about improvement. Ben B. Lindsey, judge of the Denver juvenile court, says that only about two out of a hundred children have been brought back to the juvenile court after a suspended sentence passed on their parents. The exceptions were cases where the parent had to work and could not look after the child, and in those cases the child was committed to some institution for care.

The juvenile court idea aims to prevent boys and girls from drifting into criminal or loose lives, and great success has already attended it. The development of the idea here is being watched with great interest, and suggestions for improvement in our new state law should be given careful consideration.

The New York World says that the city leased the West Seventy-ninth street pier to a company for \$1,200 a year, and during the year the street cleaning department paid the lessee \$14,145 for being allowed to dump ashes off this dock. In the case of the West Ninety-seventh street pier, leased at \$1,875, the city paid \$12,227 for the privileges needed on it. This shows that our financial giants are not all engaged in running our railroads.

Doom of the Fly Sounded.

THE housefly has long been recognized as a scavenger, but in his work of removing filth and disease-infected matter he sometimes stops and steps on food that is to be used later on by human beings. On this food, whether in the grocery store or in the house, he leaves tracks filled with disease germs. For this reason the fly, as well as the mosquito, is recognized as an enemy to man. There are better ways of removing filth than to wait for the fly to act.

The city of Paris has started in earnest to make a campaign against this pest of civilization. The way to stamp him out is not to hit him with a newspaper, but to prevent his breeding. A female fly has a capacity for infinite multiplication if she can find suitable places for hatching her eggs. These are manure heaps, drains and cesspools. A barnyard or livery stable yard with manure exposed is a nursery of flies.

In the Paris experiments last year the most successful results obtained in preventing flies breeding were secured by the use of raw petroleum or raw schist oil, the residue of distillation. This oil poured into the semi-liquid breeding places of flies will form a strata of oil that will destroy all larvae. In the case of manure heaps, the oil mixed with earth, lime and fossil phosphates is sprinkled over all sources which the flies would naturally seek, and the production of flies does not then take place.

Before many decades public campaigns against flies will be looked upon not only as necessary to the public comfort but to the public health.

The kaiser this week advised his troops to place their trust in Providence. What, is Wilhelm beginning to distrust himself?

The Old Government Road.

ABOUT a hundred years ago there was undertaken the construction of a great highway between the east and the west—a road which, running across Maryland, Virginia, Ohio and Indiana, should ultimately reach the Mississippi river at St. Louis. It was the first of the great enterprises for internal improvements undertaken by the federal government. Before it was completed, however—indeed, before it had crossed Indiana—the railroad came in to take the place of the wagon road and what was intended to be a great national highway was abandoned.

We are now entering upon a period of revived interest in road building. We have a national good roads movement; we have bills in congress making large appropriations and local organizations for the promotion of road building. The advantage of good roads is coming to be better appreciated. The rural communities are beginning to realize that good roads enhance the value of property as well as increase the value of marketed products.

It is now proposed to take up the work of completing this old government road and to carry it thru not only to the Mississippi, but clear across to the Pacific coast, making of it a splendid highway which will no doubt some day become a popular route for tourist travel by automobiles, as well as of great use to the country thru which it runs as a local road. It will be an attractive tourist line and will undoubtedly be utilized by a great many excursionists for transcontinental travel. Moreover, it will be a splendid object lesson to the country and stimulate interest in road building everywhere.

The Kansas City Journal claims that the Kansas City democracy has "landed plump in the camp of socialism." By 1912 may we not expect to see the national democratic party doing as strange stunts as in 1896?

Indians in northern Michigan have mastered the wicked art of steeping the bark of the maple tree in cane syrup and of passing the product off as the "pure maple syrup" we read about. White scoundrels taught him this villainy.

The Housing of the People.

WITH the near approach of spring there is the usual increase of interest in all matters relative to homebuilding and the housing of the people and again there is the complaint regarding the attitude of the owners of flats and apartments toward applicants who have fulfilled the biblical injunction to increase and multiply.

This is a matter of general application. In some of the southern cities where flats are as yet very scarce, where everything that affects labor is conducted with less tension than in the north, the problem is not so hard, but in the northern industrial centers, Minneapolis included, it is a live question. Were it not for the saving element of rapid transit, the problem, for a man of family and moderate means, whose daily employment necessitates his presence in the center of the city, would indeed be a hard one. This is the purely practical view of it. The question is a larger one, however, and opens up consideration of the probable effect of such restrictions upon a nation, that if we may believe some of our good thinkers and close observers, has already leaned over too far towards race suicide.

The same problem is found in Europe. The current number of the Review of Reviews has an article dealing with the housing of large families, of the respectable working class, in Paris. The work is yet in its infancy, but already there have been constructed a number of large apartment houses, especially designed for the accommodation of families of seven persons or more, and arranged with many little conveniences for the health and safety of the children. A number of wealthy Frenchmen, actuated not solely by philanthropy, but also by patriotic desire to check the decline in the French birthrate, which is one of the most serious economic questions that country is facing, are behind the movement. The matter of a return upon the money invested is secondary. They have constructed several apartment buildings, in which a man with seven children, earning the equivalent of \$60 a month in our money, can live decently and respectably, with freedom from fear of contaminating influences and many safeguards about his children, and it is probable that such establishments will be made to pay a fair income in time.

In our country this shutting out of the man of family from the apartment houses has its good side. Nothing else could so stimulate, in a practical way, the desire for home ownership. When a man who, under less restrictive measures might be contented to settle down and remain a rentpayer all his life, finds upon making a necessary change, that the doors of desirable places are barred against him because of his children, or, having gained admittance to a flat, finds many restrictions imposed, there grows up within him at first a fierce desire to slay the janitor and pommel the landlord. Later this first burst of anger shades off into something more definite—the determination to be independent. Thus one can find men with only a few hundred dollars making the start, and going into debt for homes. If they are in good health, have steady work and are of the right sort, this is the making of them. With interest charges and all, they pay more for their home than if they were able to buy for cash, but after a period of years they at least have something, while on the rent-paying basis they never acquire anything.

The benefits resulting from the rules of the hard-hearted landlords may not indeed be a full offset to the injury their restrictions work, but there can be no doubt that there is a reflex action that, as it finally works out, is a splendid thing for the poor man and for the city as well.

Professor Edward A. Ross of the University of Nebraska uses the term "the American breed" to describe what he calls a distinct type of man—the restless, strenuous people so different from the easy-going types of Europe. There are reasons why our immigrants should become nervous and energetic in one or two generations, but Professor Ross seems to think that the restlessness is not acquired here, but is the reason why these types left Europe. America is therefore weeding out the energetic folks from Europe—they are selected, venturesome natures and constitute a type. Whatever the reason is, the type is fairly distinct and the chances are that much of our prosperity is due partly to our energy and not altogether to our tariff.

British Revival of Farming.

ENGLISH newspapers and reviews betray the fact that John Bull's pride has been touched, as well as his pocketbook, by his utter dependence on other sections for a food supply. A movement is on to stimulate agriculture on scientific principles and not only reclaim lands that have been abandoned to grazing, but increase the yield per acre, so that the farmers of Great Britain may come somewhere near supplying home wants. This work is being fostered by the wealthy landowners, and encouraged by the manufacturers and commercial men.

Land has been allowed to go out of cultivation because the medieval methods employed did not pay, until England faces a famine in food supply if once cut off from commerce with the rest of the world. It is not so much the fear of invasion that leads the Englishman to keep his navy ahead of any in the world. It is dread of being isolated in time of war from regular sources of food supply. Wheat and flour for England are drawn from every exporting country of the world, from India, Australia, Russia, Argentina, Canada and the United States. Coarse grains are imported from Russia and dressed meat from America.

England can never hope to become wholly independent, but the present condition is without excuse, and the agitation for reform in agriculture is beginning to show results. Lands are being reclaimed by the use of scientific fertilizers, crop rotation, deep ploughing and improved machinery. To a large extent, also, grazing lands are being turned into field crops. English mutton is a staple article, and an important factor in the food supply, but it is an expensive luxury under the conditions. One acre of cultivated land will produce as much human food as three acres or even four, devoted to pasture. Strangely enough, agriculture as a science is in more backward condition in old England than it is in America, where until now there has been more than enough land to go around. Our schools of agriculture, our farmers' institutes and our farm journals are keeping thousands of progressive farmers abreast of the latest development in the science.

San Francisco's doctors are interested in the case of a man who has lost the power of speech thru habitually mixing kerosene with his whisky, the sometimes he took the whisky straight and used the oil as a "chaser." It may have weakened his voice, but it must materially have strengthened his breath.

Religious Mergers.

THE preliminary steps have been taken for the consolidation of the Congregational, Methodist Protestant and United Brethren churches. At a recent conference for that purpose men eminent in the different denominations, such as Dr. Washington Gladden, President Lewis of Westminster college of Maryland, and Bishop Weekly of the United Brethren church, the originator of this religious merger, laid foundation for what promises to be a successful organic union wiping out denominational distinctions for the sake of emphasizing Christian essentials and greater efficiency in Christian effort.

This movement is interesting as a sign of the times. While new sects, new schools and new shades of thought develop from time to time in the religious world, the tendency among the leading religious bodies is toward union of effort if not of union in organization. Men of different denominations are coming to realize that the people of other religious names hold substantially the same religious views, are doing the same work, following the same leader, and are to be co-operated with rather than competed with. In other words, the army of the Lord is coming to realize the necessity of being as well organized and working together as efficiently as any other army.

This does not mean that there will not be different companies and regiments and battalions, but that these various divisions will be martialled and directed in their effort for one common purpose, with confidence and reliance in each other. The time may never come—perhaps ought not to come—when all men will agree in all manner of details, especially as to the forms of organization and government or even as to matters of faith. It is unreasonable to expect minds which are bound to differ on other subjects to be of one opinion in all respects when it comes to religion, but it is nevertheless true that there is a marked tendency toward co-operation in action and harmony in belief.

The remarkable team work so to speak, of the churches in Minneapolis during the recent Chapman meetings is one of the best instances ever afforded of the practicability of such co-operation and of the beneficial results that naturally follow. To the extent that spirituality is developed in the lives of the membership, in that degree will it be easy and possible to effect such harmony and co-operation.

Modern Plays as Literature.

THE reading public of America is awaking to the fact that a good play is likely to prove good reading, and may furnish a keener zest than the novel. The dramatic works of foreign playwrights are selling by thousands, not only Ibsen, but Sudermann, Rostand and d'Annunzio. English dramatists of the front rank are taking advantage of this growing taste and are publishing their plays. Editions of Pinero, Augustus Thomas and Clyde Fitch have been placed on the market, and have achieved good sales.

This revival of the play as literature is the topic of interesting comment by Brander Matthews in the North American Review. He hails it with approval, not only for its influence on the drama, but from the standpoint of the reading public. The best drama is more stimulating than the novel. It requires imagination to visualize the play and construct situations from bare dialogue. The effort itself may furnish a keen pleasure. The novel supplies everything and leaves little or nothing for the reader to do, and therefore most novels are positively enervating in their influence on the intellect. The drama is a nobler form of literature, at its best, and is worth any one's while to read both for pleasure and profit.

All this applies, of course, to the small percentage of plays that are really literature. Many of our most successful acting plays depend on action rather than the quality of the lines, and melodramas, of course, will not bear reading at all. Even the best plays require careful editing and revision from stage manuscripts, to make them readable for the public. There is reason, however, in the revival of reading plays. There is reason why a modern drama of literary quality should confine its influence to the theater-going fraction of the people. When beauty of form and imagery distinguish the playwright's work, it is worthy of permanent place. The spectator, as Dumas said, can give only success; it is the reader who confers renown.

Dr. T. D. Crothers in the Medical Record insists that moral insanity is a prominent phase of inebriety. In the children of alcoholic parents a feeble or deficient consciousness of right and wrong is found. The writer emphasizes the fact that moral insanity follows the use of alcohol and is present in all inebriates to a greater or less degree. He says: "This condition is inherited and acquired, and exists to a far greater extent than is generally supposed. Many excellent men who use spirits, even in moderation, are the fathers of children who are not morally all right. And they cannot understand it." Nature is merely beginning to eliminate the unfit.

No matter what the weather, the millinery store windows breathe a song of hope.

The Two Americas.

WE are accustomed to think of the "Anglo-Saxon" dominance of this hemisphere as complete. But it is not well to ignore the Spanish-speaking peoples growing up to the south of us. Hubert M. Skinner in the National Magazine, says: "The Spanish-speaking world is much larger than the French-speaking, and nearly as large as the German-speaking. There are perhaps fifty millions of people in all who make use of the French language, and seventy millions, all told, who speak German in some of its forms. There are probably sixty-five millions or more who speak Spanish; and if we include with them those who use the closely related Portuguese, the number will be about eighty-five millions."

In this neo-Spanish world the birthrate is larger than that of the United States. Buenos Aires, in the Argentine Republic, is a city of a million people, twice the size of Madrid. Its warehouses, elevators and wineries are the scene of remarkable activity. It exports yearly about 100,000,000 bushels of wheat.

It will be impossible "to absorb" this race, for the racial element is persistent in it. Mexico has "made good" as a nation, and Chile and Argentine are not far, if any, behind her. The future will find on this continent two powerful race individualities face to face. There is no reason why they should not be friends and work together for the good of all, each in its own sphere.

That carefully-measured Alaskan glacier moved two inches a year. It seems to be a neck-and-neck race between the glacier and the Panama canal, with odds slightly in favor of the big ice.

State Development as Party Policy.

THE suggestion of Mr. Ervin of St. Cloud thru The Journal, a few days ago, that state development be one of the policies to which the republican party should commit itself in the next campaign, has attracted considerable attention and brings out a warm indorsement today from T. B. Roberts of Ottertall county. Mr. Roberts writes particularly to protest against the view set out by the St. Cloud Journal-Press, that the proposal should not be adopted because there is no political advantage to be gained by doing so, since both parties would favor the same thing.

It doesn't make any difference if both parties do finally see the advantage, the political wisdom of adopting and carrying out a policy of state development; it is a very narrow, partisan view to discard the suggestion because it will not yield political capital. It isn't the yielding of political capital that is wanted. It is a matter of comparative unimportance whether the republican party or the democratic party gets the most credit out of adopting a policy of that kind. The matter of real concern is the development of sentiment far and wide in favor of well-directed and industrious effort to promote the general interests of the commonwealth.

It is, as Mr. Roberts says, a deplorable fact that the tide of immigration is sweeping over Minnesota without conferring a fair measure of substantial benefit. Our population is increasing very slowly by comparison with other sections of the west. Our natural resources are being developed with corresponding slowness. We need people; we need money to make Minnesota what it ought to be in the agricultural world; but it has been nobody's business from time immemorial to acquaint the public with what we have to offer in the way of cheap and productive lands.

The situation in Minnesota is not unlike that of Missouri, which for decades was crossed by thousands, tens of thousands and even hundreds of thousands of settlers bound for Kansas and the southwest, who never thought to look at the richer soils, the better climate, the abundance of timber and coal which Missouri possesses. This neglect of Missouri was attributed to general public ignorance as to what Missouri had to offer to the intending settler and the neglect of the people of Missouri to let the resources of that state be known. We are undergoing something of the same process in this state, and it is high time to wake up to the fact that it is costing Minnesota heavily in retarded development.

We cannot conceive of anything which will promote the success of a political party in this state more certainly than the adoption of a policy of practical and aggressive state development thru the promotion of immigration and of an intelligent knowledge of what this state has to offer to the intending settler.

From 1900 to 1906 the capital invested in the bicycle industry shrank from \$29,783,859 to \$5,847,803, and the production from nearly 32,000,000 bicycles to a little over 5,000,000. It is an astonishing falling off, but it is easily explainable to anyone who was accustomed to pedaling up Kenwood hill in summer time.

The Moro Problem.

BLOODSHED seems never to be ended in the Philippines. The ill-tempered Moros of the Mohammedan islands require an occasional object lesson to show the strength and firm purpose of their American rulers, and the recent carnage at Mount Dajo, in the island of Jolo, calls attention once more to the problem Uncle Sam has undertaken in reducing these people to orderly habits of life.

Interesting light on this problem is supplied by Major R. L. Bullard, governor of the island of Mindanao, who has written about some of his experiences in the current Atlantic. He makes it plain that the Moros are children in point of intelligence and responsibility, and need to be treated as children. Kindness is the proper treatment as a rule, but there are some among them who cannot understand kindness. They believe if must be weakness, and abuse the liberty allowed them till condign punishment is necessary.

For centuries these Moros have never known the meaning of justice, and they are slow in comprehending it. Power has meant oppression to them, and power used to preserve personal and property rights is not comprehended by some of the fiercest dattos. Major Bullard has labored with them patiently, and has accomplished much. He has paid the natives for work on roads, and the money inducement has been potent to teach them industry. It has also brought them to lay aside feuds among each other and many petty prejudices. The less hostile ones are managed easily. Unfortunately, the more lawless and ignorant chiefs and warriors are the most energetic and have the most influence among the people.

It is a task for a diplomat to bring these people in, rid them of century-long delusions and habits, and secure their co-operation in local government. It is being done slowly, and Major Bullard has given formerly hostile dattos recognition and power. Some of them have held aloof and have attacked American soldiers in their cruel forays. These have had to be punished with severity, and gradually it is beginning to dawn on the Moros that the Americans have the power to crush and exterminate them, but are using it to bring them peace, comfort and security.

Liberty, as we understand it, would be ruin for these people. While gently leading them into the paths of peace, Americans must carry the big stick in convenient reach.

Hisses greeted President Durban of the Ann Arbor railroad when, at a banquet of the Ohio society at Detroit this week, he arraigned President Roosevelt as an usurper and a grandstand player. People who talk in this way about the president may be set down as those who might be unfavorably affected financially by a Square Deal.

Mr. Rockefeller has been heard from. Gasolene moved up half a cent in a casual, thoughtless sort of way this week.

Alaska is 500 times as big as Rhode Island. And the beauty of it is that its future is ahead of it.

No one ever seems to suspect the gas meter of getting "gummed up" or running a trifle slow.

Augusta, Me., went democratic. Doubtless Mr. Blaine is glad he is still dead.

There is a counterfeit \$1,000 bill in circulation. Watch your change.

The Chicago traction magnates are beginning to fear that the supreme court is not "safe."

With the Long Bow

"Eye nature's walks, about ally as it flies."

A Short Stunt in Mental Philosophy, in Which Is Told the Story of the Old Chair, by Means of Which One of the Deepest Problems of Our Mysterious Being Is Worked Out to a Satisfactory Conclusion.

One of the peculiar things about this funny, footballing old universe of ours is that a man gets what is coming to him. It is Emerson or John Burroughs, I haven't time to look it up now but, if you know which, you will have that superior feeling which is so very pleasant, who writes about the thing which belongs to you and tells how it

"will rive the earth and swim the sea
And like thy shadow follow thee."

Just why this is as it is something of a puzzle, but things act sometimes as if they really were thoughts and as if the frame of things was mental rather than material and all things were governed by spiritual attraction. An architect, speaking of artistic houses, once told the writer that he couldn't build the houses as he wanted to, because people got just what they deserved—in houses as in other things.

Enter, the Old Chair.

All this is apropos of a certain man who once saw an old chair in a second-hand furniture shop. He looked at that chair and his soul lusted mightily after it. It was dilapidated and had those nails driven into it to hold it together. But it had the lines.

The Man Hesitates.

Now this man did not go in and buy this chair, because when he took home those things that did not go with "the decorations," his wife threw up both hands and made those conversations. So he passed on and said:

"Lo, I will forget it."

The Man Holdeth It in Mind.

But instead of barring the picture of the chair from his mind he allowed it to dwell there and he saw it glorified and spiritualized in the light of thought until it became the one chair in all the world that was necessary to his existence and that could make him happy. So he again walked by the window of the junkshop. And the chair was there. Then he said to himself:

The Man Argueth with Himself.

"I am an ass to put good money into that rickety old contraption, but I will go in and price it, and if those old furniture men want more than \$2 for that chair, I won't buy it." So he went in and said carelessly:

The Man Faleth Down.

"What do you want for that old, punk chair?" And the furniture man said:

"Ten cents."

Then the other man turned and walked out. If it wasn't worth but 10 cents he didn't want it. But the chair remained in his mind like a sandbur clinging to the lower extremity of the pantaloons of poverty. So the next day he looked into the old furniture shop again and the chair was there. He said:

The Chair Fleeth Him.

"Well, I guess I'll take that chair."
"It's sold."
"The deuce it is!"
"What is there about that chair that everybody wants it?"

"I don't know. But it kept after me till I came back for it."
"Well, if the other fellow doesn't come after it by 4 o'clock, you may have it."

At exactly 4:10 the man who wanted the chair was after it, but the buyer had carried it away and the old furniture man didn't know who he was.

The Man Sorroweth.

Then the man felt a mighty sorrow well up in his heart and gnaw at the very foundations of his being. But he addressed his inner being and said:

"Down, down, hysterico passio, down." But I will not forget that chair while I have my being. And if it belongs to me it will, somehow or other, come to me. I cannot be deprived of that chair if it is really mine and if it isn't mine, of course I ought not to have it."

But in the watches of the night when he mused and the fire burned good \$8.75 coal in the furnace below, he thought with affection of the chair.

Time Passes.

Time, up to its usual tricks, passed. Just three weeks, in fact, sped by, and the man heard of another man who lived somewhere 'way down in the south-eastern part of the city and who was a "finisher" of old furniture.

Lo, the Chair.

So one day, having nothing to do, the party of the first part took the car southeast to a point somewhere near the university to look over this finisher's work. As he stepped into his shop, his soul grew dizzy and faint, for there, hanging on the wall, suspended by a wooden pin and about ten feet up, was the same old chair. And he said faintly:

"What do you want for that chair?"

Love Cannot Be Deprived of Its Own.
And the finisher, either with a soul above mere commercialism and perhaps impelled by a hidden knowledge that the chair had met its owner, said:
"What, that chair? O, I'll give that to you."

The End.

Now these are the exact facts in the case. This is a true story. How do you account for it?
—A. J. B.

GIVE OUT YOUR BEST

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,
There are souls that are pure and true,
Then give to the world the best you have
And the best shall come back to you.
For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what you are to do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.
—Madeline Bridges.

ALL ABOARD FOR FLUSHTOWN

Richmond (Ind.) Register.
You can get to any station that is on life's schedule
seen.
If there's a fire beneath the boiler of ambition's strong
machine,
And you'll reach a place called Flushtown at a rate
of speed that's grand,
If for all the slippery places you've a good supply
of sand.

A MAGIC OIL

Take a bit of cheerful thinking
Add a portion of content,
And with both let glad endeavor
Mixed with earnestness, be blent;
These, with care and skill compounded,
Will produce a magic oil
That is bound to cure, if taken
With a lot of honest toil.
—Nixon Waterman.