WILL YOU JOIN ED HOWE'S "DON'T WORRY" CLUB?

Some Facts About Mr. Howe's "Don't Worry" Story.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Ed Howe, editor of the Atchison Globe, who has percolated wit and wisdom through his paper for many years, is now constituting himself the benefactor of mankind by starting a "Don't Worry" club. He has had buttons made which every member of the club is expected to wear, and he has issued a booklet in which he lays down some rules that should govern the conduct of the D. W. people. Mr. Howe should succeed in this laudatory undertaking, for the great ailment of the American people is worry.

Although living in a small city, Mr. Howe is a thorough cosmopolitan. He is a writer of books, good, readable, entertaining books. His "Story of a Country Town" is probably the best thing he has ever done, unless some things he is hooding back from the printer's table and the public prove better. His innate modesty has caused him to lock up in his desk for several years now two or three stories which he announced at that time he would revise and revive until they soiled him.

Mr. Howe is a lover of grand opera. He travels hundreds of miles for no other purpose than to attend one grand opera a season, if that is the best he can do. He hasn't been in St. Louis for some time. Why not? Because Mr. Grau hasn't been here in his usual grandiloquent way, for with a bill-of-fare that is not to the liking of the Atchison Globe man.

It may be wise to suggest to Mr. Howe to read the reviews made in the newspapers of this city of popular-priced grand opera at Music Hall. Even he, who is used to the best, would be astonished to see how much is offered for a dollar. Take the hint, Messrs. Savage and Southwell, and invite Mr. Howe to come to St. Louis for "Mignon," which he has probably never seen, for in the good old days when it was presented here he was a young reporter and not the proprietor of a prosperous newspaper.

Author of "Howe's Philosophy" and "The Story of a Country Town" Has a New Idea.

MR. ED HOWE, WHO PROPOSES LESS WORRY FOR EVERYBODY.

Reprint of Mr. Howe's "Don't Worry" Prospectus.

Did you ever think seriously of the folly of worry? Will you give ten minutes to the subject now? Sleeplessness, nervousness, insanity, and a long list of bodily diseases, are the result of Worry.

You are here, and you cannot honestly get away for a time, therefore why not be as comfortable as possible? The good prisoner finds life more tolerable than his unruly mate who is often in the dark cell.

We do not pretend to say you have no cause for worry. What we contend is that worry makes every discomfort worse, and that you can overcome the habit to some extent.

Join the Don't Worry Club. You will not make much progress in a week, but in a month you will have a better temper; in three months you will decide that joining the Don't Worry Club was the wisest step you ever took.

There is no initiation fee in the Don't Worry Club. No foolish initiation ceremonies; no riding the goat. No one to laugh at you. No expense of any kind. No uniform to wear. No signs, grips or passwords. No meetings. Nothing that is not sensible; nothing that your own common sense cannot approve. When you join the Don't Worry Club, you simply resolve to make the best of life. You need not wear a button or badge; you need not tell anyone you belong. No State or national meetings; no delegates running around the streets wearing badges.

A member of the Don't Worry Club who does the best he can will enjoy better health than the men and women who run into every stone wall to demonstrate how much suffering they can endure; he will be more agreeable to his associates; he will live longer and more comfortably; he will die an easier death.

Christian Science has done good in the world. The Don't Worry Club has every sensible feature of Christian Science, and none of its controverted doctrines. A great many laugh at the Christian Scientists. No one will laugh at a member of the Don't Worry Club, for there is nothing in its principles that can be scoffed at, or ridiculed. There is not a man living who, being told of the principles of the Don't Worry Club, will not approve of them. Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Chinese, Boers, Turks and infidels, and the learned as well as the ignorant, will accept the principles of the Don't Worry Club. Heretofore, every reform has been the subject of a quarrel.

Here are the principles:

1. Worry is injurious.

2. Worry can usually be avoided. In training yourself to avoid worry, you get a mental training that will aid you in other ways.

3. Worry can be most easily avoided by those who are most fair and honorable. No one guilty of bad or foolish conduct of any kind can avoid worry. Guilt is a poor bedfellow.

These three rules are the essential principles of the Don't Worry Club; they are all you need remember. A few others are given, which you may remember if you choose.)

4. Whoever talks too much has cause to worry that cannot be overcome. Talk less, and better. If you have secrets that do not concern the public, keep them to yourself; the exchange of "confidences" encourages gossip and worry.

5. Avoid excess of every kind. Good habits are as powerful as bad habits. A good habit is the source of constant pleasure, as bad habits are the source of constant worry.

6. Don't boast of your membership in the Don't Worry Club, and of your superiority over others. There is seldom anything substantial back of a boast.

7. No good member of the Don't Worry Club will have too much confidence in lawyers or doctors; to call a lawyer or doctor is often an indication that you are worrying about something that might have been avoided.

8. Success has its worries, but they are not so great as the worries that attend failure. Lazarus must have had some other virtue than failure in life; than poverty. Failure in this fat old world often suggests laziness.

9. We sometimes doubt (when we fail to live up to the principles of the Don't Worry Club) that any one ever had an unselfish friend, but refusal to worry is a good friend. A good character is a friend you can depend upon, and good work for your employer is another.

10. Some men impose on others, but their success in this direction must cause them worry. You should help your friends, rather than impose on them. Be as kind and helpful as you can to your neighbors, and you will not worry a great deal because of neglect of duty in Hindoostan.

11. There are so many weak men in the world that it must be a source of satisfaction to be a strong one. Try it; refusal to worry will help you.

12. A little common sense is worth more than genius. Patience is common sense; fairness is common sense; honesty is common sense; refusal to worry is common sense.

13. Some very eminent men say there is no such disease as hydrophobia; that what passes for hydrophobia is the result of worry over a harmless dog bite. Don't argue about this question, or any other, but it is evidence that some of the wisest men regard worry as very harmful.

14. The barbarians were dishonest; a successful raid was considered as sufficient excuse for bad conduct. But civilization has discovered that honesty is the best policy; that success is not possible without it. If you hope to avoid worry, you must therefore avoid bad conduct.

15. Every man thinks with horror of being a burden in his old age. Every member of this club, therefore, will endeavor by means of frugality, industry, and as good sense as he can command, to provide for the inevitable rainy days with which our lives end. Much of the worry of the old is worry over poverty that was unnecessary.

16. The best members of this club will be temperate; a few will drink moderately, but always with the consciousness that it is a bad habit to be closely watched. No man who has been intoxicated can fail to worry over his disgrace when sober. Intoxication is one habit for which there is not a single excuse, and there is less charity for excessive drinking now than ever before in the history of the world. It is always accepted as an evidence of weakness.

17. It is easy to join the Don't Worry Club. You simply resolve to make an effort to avoid the folly of worry. You need not tell any one. You pay no dues. You are the president of the club, and responsible for its success or failure. You earnestly try to control your mind, to strengthen it; to do yourself as much good as possible. You do not write to other members saying you are "making an effort." No other members write to you, or bother you by calling on you. Some people are naturally members of the club; they have what is known as a "happy disposition." It is necessary for others to make an effort. You need only say, "I will try it." If you fail (and you need not fail, entirely), no one will know of your effort, and no one will laugh at you. You hear a good deal lately of occult philosophy. So far as it is of any value, and has any existence, it is possible to members of the Don't Worry Club.

18. The members of this club who have been denied a college education will acquire one that is in some respects superior; no one need remain poor or ignorant because of poverty in youth.

19. Do not be too sentimental; sentiment easily becomes weakness. A barnyard hen cannot become a lark; there are those who say a longing for such a change is ridiculous.

20. Few men become greater than the good citizen; the good husband; the good father; the good brother.

21. The Don't Worry Club was suggested by the wisdom of an Atchison butcher who never worries; Charley Poehler (pronounced Payler). An Atchison woman who trades with Charley Poehler says she has been abusing him twenty years, and does not believe he ever heard a word she said.

While the Don't Worry Club has no grips or passwords, it has a few signs for recognizing members. Here they are:

SIGNS FOR RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE DON'T WORRY CLUB:

When you meet a man who is neat in his habits, intelligent and modest in conversation, and quick to render assistance to children and the aged, he is usually at least a beginner, and striving for the higher honors of the club. Unfortunately, however, a few men of this description have not yet learned the importance of the principles of the Don't Worry Club, but if you watch the man closely, you may satisfy yourself fully. Here are a few signs that will nearly always indicate that he is a member: a. If he is a young man, he will not speak of his father as "the old man"; b. If he is an elderly man, he will not speak disparagingly of the young; c. If he needs information, he asks for it politely, intelligently, and without a needless repetition of words; d. If he has business to transact, he transacts it as quickly and thoroughly as possible; d. He does not "argue" insolently, and in a loud voice; e. He is polite in public places, and does not try to attract attention by any species of smartness; f. He is courageous in case of danger; g. He seems to be a gentleman in all respects. In order to avoid worry, it is necessary to practice the virtues enumerated above. The same rules, with a few changes as to conditions, will apply to women and children.

MR. McMATH TELLS HOW TO RECLAIM THE CITY FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE GANG.

Indifference of Citizens Makes It Easy for Corrupt Officials to Plunder the City.

CHAPTER III.

At the close of the former chapter it was suggested that the bringing forward of proposed legislation which had for its obvious purpose the breaking down of Charter safeguards was but a system of the diseased condition of the "body politic" and was not the disease itself.

A clear understanding of the meaning of terms used is essential. A "body" is an organized material structure, when used in collective sense it is a number of individuals associated for a common purpose. "Politic" refers to civil affairs which affect the many as distinguished from individual; hence to the public business. The "body politic," then, is the organization which conducts public business, with the idea that it may be discreet, wary, judicious, shrewd or wily, crafty, designing.

The "body politic" which may for a time run the public affairs of a nation, State or city is not the nation, State or city, but is often an accident, a temporary experiment, or an intrusion, usurpation by a body not legally authorized, considering the fact that the conduct of public affairs is usually in the hands of that political party whose principles are accepted by the majority of voters in the nation, State or city, and the further fact that these principles have little or no application to the local affairs of a city, it must follow that the great political parties, as such, are not responsible for, have no need to defend, and should not hesitate to repudiate and denounce any "body politic" which is unfaithful to its trust, whether the men who for the time make up the local "body politic" profess to belong to one or the other great party, and especially not if they are intruders. If the body of regular officials becomes corrupt or betrays the interests of the city, or inefficiently manages its affairs, the men should be held, and their party should take the lead in condemning them, as unworthy, reprobate; should cast them out and punish them in a lawful, but effective way.

A Timely Question.

Are the public affairs of the city of St. Louis well conducted by its regular "body politic"? Have they been better managed by former "bodies politic"? Can they under present necessary and uncontrollable conditions be better managed than they are? Have they fallen into the hands of intruders? These are questions which each citizen must find answers for, that are satisfactory to himself, or else he is a bad citizen, in that he neglects his civic duties. Civic duties require of every man that he should give of his thought, of his time, of his work, of his money, of his blood, and even of his life to secure and defend the public weal. There is no measure to the obligation to fulfill civic duties, they may take a small part, but if all is demanded for the public good, all must be given. It may not be asked for, but taken.

The citizens of St. Louis seem now to be giving some thought, some time to the city's affairs, and, if one may judge from expressions made, it would seem that the conclusion is quite prevalent that the city's affairs are in a bad state, and many are saying that the business is badly conducted. Some who say this admit that there are necessary, and, at present, uncontrollable, conditions which go far to account for the bad state. The present uncontrollable conditions are, a revenue narrowly limited by the State constitution, and heavy expenses laid upon the city by State law, some of which expenses are deemed unreasonable. For the constitutional restriction the State itself, the body of its people, is responsible; for the unreasonable expenses the State "body politic" is responsible. Not the Democratic party, but the organization which came together at the State Capitol in 1896. The city "body politic" gains nothing by denouncing the State "body politic"; its business is to do the best possible with what is left. The condition of the city was laid before the State Legislature convened. Who was to blame for that? The limitation of revenues is no new thing.

Power of the People.

The prudent citizen whose income is small, adjusts his expenses to his income, and gets along quite comfortably; so should our city. Every unnecessary expense, every extravagance, is a breach of trust, for which no excuse should be offered or entertained, if offered. If the impression that the public affairs of St. Louis are not well managed, spoken of above, is justified, the remedy must be found and applied by the "body corporate," the citizens.

The disease from which the City of St. Louis suffers is the indifference of the "body corporate," its careless neglect of civic duties. Unless the citizens will make effort to cure the disease the symptoms will appear, eruptive sores will develop in and through the "body politic," and the "body corporate" must suffer. If there be positive corruption in the "body politic," the occasion for the corruption must come partly from within and partly from without the body itself. The body must be susceptible, in the sense that it is ready and willing to be corrupted, but the incentive to corrupt acts, must largely come from without; sometimes in the way of temptations offered to the "body politic"; sometimes in the way of submitting to the demands of a corrupt "body politic."

Men prominent in business, the financial backers of large enterprises, often work through promoters, agents or so-called "attorneys." They set aside, or assent to the expenditure, of large sums for "legal expenses," well knowing that such sums are intended to be, and are used for corrupt purposes. The man who hires and pays an assassin is none the less guilty, because he does not actually see the blow struck.

Reason for the City's Poverty.

One reason for the impoverished condition of St. Louis is because what might, and should have been, large sources of revenue, have been given away or sold for a trifling consideration, and that consideration paid to and absorbed by the "body politic," or a part of it. For example, within a few years, every street railway in the city has been seeking and obtaining extensions of their franchises, new privileges, power to consolidate, every such application was an opportunity for the city to have been made a participant in the profits, to the full extent of the due proportion belonging to the right of way on and use of streets, which are the property of the city, and which right of way for a long term of years has enormous value. To illustrate: The City of Toronto, Canada, became by the expiration of franchises the owner of its entire system of street railways. Instead of operating these roads on public account, as is done in a few cities in England, and on the continent of Europe, Toronto sold the privileges to a single corporation, retaining ample powers of control, for the perpetual consideration of a yearly rental of $60 per mile of single track, for the use of streets, and a further consideration, for the exclusive privilege of operating such railways in the city, of a percentage of gross receipts, beginning at two per cent up to the sum of $1,500,000 gross receipts in a year, and reaching finally five per cent of gross receipts.

St. Louis has an actual or authorized single track mileage of, in round numbers, 90 miles. On the Toronto scale, St. Louis ought to have a yearly income of over $300,000 for track rentals, and another sum of equal or greater amount as its share of gross receipts. The "body politic" has alienated or given away the property of the "body corporate," and received for itself a sum which, taking the probably exaggerated reports as to considerations, was about equal to one year's purchase value of forty years' privileges. Is it any wonder that persons reputed to have been in the deals characterize the "body politic" as a lot of "cheap screws"? This is a marked illustrative symptom made possible by the disease of the "body corporate." And there are many such, though this is probably the largest. The city of Paris derives from gas privileges a revenue of over 20,000,000 francs yearly ($4,000,000). St. Louis receives not one cent. Is it any wonder that St. Louis is poor? When the telephone first came into use, and electricity for light, heat and power purposes was an infant industry, the opportunity was seen and availed of to require of both interests the payment to the city of five per cent of gross receipts, on the ground that the city, by furnishing rights of way, was entitled to a share in the business which the city made possible. Give honor to Mr. E. S. Rowse, who, as a member of the Council, was largely instrumental in securing this much for the city. He advocated, as a city policy, making franchises a source of revenue.

Time to Act.

The city's power of direct taxation is used to its full limit under the Constitution, the valuation of real property has been advanced to, and beyond, a reasonable degree, when the city is considered as being part of the State. Personal property generally escapes taxation. Licenses and excise taxes are, as large or larger than is consistent with the prosperity of merchants and manufacturers, and thus the city is at the end of its revenue-producing powers, except the one possibility of revenue from franchises. The "body politic" has largely put this source of revenue out of reach by the city, but the State can still reach it, but will the State give the city the benefit of any action it may take in this direction?

The affairs of the City of St. Louis as a "body corporate" have reached, largely through the default of its "bodies politic," present and past, a state which demands the serious attention of every citizen. People who know of our situation will not locate their residence in St. Louis because it is evident to the senses of even the casual visitor that our streets, sewers and public buildings are wretched. The evidence of poor administration is palpable everywhere. A manufacturer seeking a location must consider the facilities for moving materials and products. He cannot fail to see that many of our streets are practically impassable much of the time, and by inquiry he can easily learn that there is very poor prospect of their soon being made better. He next learns that the inadequate, at best, revenues are not all collected, that when collected they are wastefully applied and worst of all he finds that the great body of citizens are apathetic and allow these conditions to exist without serious effort to improve them. He very wisely goes to another locality.

Citizens and taxpayers, do you like the picture represented? Is it not faithful and true to facts? If it is, is it not high time to arouse and act and continue to act until you have accomplished a change?

If you wish to act, the difficulties you must overcome in reforming the "body politic" will be presented in the next chapter of this address.

ROBERT E. McMATH, Citizen.

"The Gang," Its Object and How It Has Headed Off Threatened Investigations.

CHAPTER IV.

In the preceding chapter attempt was made to show that the diseased condition from which St. Louis suffers is due to the apathy and neglect of civic duties by its citizens. Assuming that the frightful condition that has been shown in outline, not in any detail, may awaken the citizens to an court at reform that will lay the ax at the root of the tree, to the end that every tree bearing bad fruit may be cut down, it is next necessary to show what tangible or intangible form the evil has taken, its extent and how it is intrenched.

In the preceding chapter the euphemistic term of "body politic" was extensively used, and many things said of it. In the definition of the words "body politic" it was said in effect that an intellectual quality was implied in the action of such a body, which quality might be good or bad. It was also intimated that the real "body politic" might be composed, in whole or in part, of intruders, meaning persons to whom the people, by election, or a lawful appointing authority, by a legitimate exercise of that authority, never committed a trust or gave the slightest warrant to meddle with the city's affairs. Dropping euphemisms and calling a spade a spade, this kind of a "body politic" is what the people recognize as an existing but not easily tangible thing, and to which the people have given the expressive name of "The Gang."

The term has a meaning, in the mind of all who use, hear or read of it, which is a body of persons, undefined in number, who have associated themselves together for the purpose of securing the accomplishment of certain illegitimate ends by secret and often unlawful means. There can be no honest man in a "gang," but honest men may innocently companion with the "the gang" and aid it in its work. But such person will not be in their secret councils or be given more than a few crumbs from the table of "good thing."

Personnel of "The Gang."

Some of the members of "the gang" may have been duly elected to office, others may have been legally appointed, but the main body is made up of rank outsiders and these outsiders furnish most of the brains for the outfit.

The official members may have been drawn into the net almost unconsciously, being tickled in the ear by the feather of flattery. Ambition may have been appealed to, the hope aroused that through influences that are behind the tempter some future promotion to higher place, such as the governorship, may be obtained. The thing asked is so small, so easily done; how much our friends will be pleased, how grateful they will be for favors shown. The weakling yields, pockets the trifle and thinks he has done little or no wrong, but he has sinned against himself, he has sold his soul. From that time forth he belongs to the gang. It has bought him and usually is smart enough to keep evidence to shake at him if he should seek to escape from its power and control. Is it surprising that men who have borne fair reputations do, when put into official positions, fall, when tempted by trained experts? When once they have passed the line, the way is not long when they, without a blush, can ask, "What is there in it for me?"

The great art of the gang is almost invariably from the outside. The insiders are mostly flies who have been entangled in the net. There are men in every city of any size who make a business of perpetuating and maintaining the gang. A new administration comes in, the expert gets in his work, and is then ready to do business with, or for, any one who is willing to pay for favors. Franchises, permits, privileges or franchises, all is grist that comes to the mill, and toll is taken from every grist in some proportion to its magnitude. The boss of the gang struts along the streets, and verily persuades himself that he is a "bigger man than Grant." He may say with full confidence that he is right. "The power behind the throne is greater than the throne itself."

Money Does the Work.

It is comparatively easy to tell what the gang is, and how it comes to be perennial. Change the administration of a city politically, from one party to another, the gang survives, and proceeds to catch another batch of flies. A new boss may come to the front, perhaps not. The old one will often continue almost as openly as before, a frequenter of public offices, the intimate of officials, the man who can most always get what he goes after.

It is not easy to overthrow the gang, for it can count on the support of the power behind the throne, that is greater than the throne, MONEY. Bankers, brokers, presidents and managers of great corporations who think they control, and, so far as primaries and conventions go, probably do control, the votes of large numbers of employes. They are the ultimate cause and support of the gang—from them come the big things, but this does not imply that the gang forgets the little things that cope in its way from day to day.

When the outcry is made, "Down with the gang!" the gang often joins in the cry and laughs in its sleeve. It knows and trusts in the strength of its intrenchments.

One, and a chief, intrenchment for the gang is the money power. The gang has served that power well in times past, and will probably be needed in times to come. The gang also has strongholds in each political party, and "produces" freely in campaign times. It has almost openly manipulated conventions and organizations of either party so as to secure the selection of the candidates of the opposing party. It generally aims to do its best work in favor of the winning side, and in order to be secure of being on the winning side, it works for both. It is so effective to be able to say to the newly elected, "We did it." In his gratitude he may say, "If I can do anything for you, let me know." Pleasant relations are thereby established and the remark is made, "I will drop in again."

Fixing "The Grand Jury."

If an outraged people threaten the gang with the Grand Jury, the gang again laughs in its sleeve. It knows how to handle Grand Juries. All it needs is to get early information of the names drawn. In the number drawn there are sure to be some who are within the reach or influence of the gang. They can be seen and given to understand that they must not ask to be excused from service—must be promptly on hand. If a dangerously able and honest man is drawn, some business emergency may be found to engage him, or make it inconvenient to serve. Some of the panel can be relied on to ask to be excused because they think a call to civic duty an imposition. Possibly a request that my friend So-and-So be excused from service may reach even the bench. None of these ways of shaping a Grand Jury are positively unlawful, but they are effective as intrenchments against indictments. But there may be something not so innocent. A member of the gang was once bitterly denouncing the ingratitude of the House of Delegates and said in effect, if not in exact words, "I have made myself liable to the penitentiary by fixing the Grand Jury for the protection of those fellows."

Another secure intrenchment is control of election machinery. This control has for the present passed out of the hands of the gang. The gang is strongly intrenched; they are on the crest of the "kopje." It will require hard fighting to dislodge them. The fighting must be systematic, strategic and persistent. The gang that existed prior to the adoption of the charter was ousted, and for a while there was little evidence that it was alive, but it is now in full vigor, defiant and resourceful. Another gang which thought itself so well intrenched that it could defy the power of justice was the "whisky ring" whose history and fate appear to have been forgotten.

How gangs have been defeated, and how they may be crushed now, will be the topic of the next chapter.

ROBERT E. McMATH, Citizen.

Odd Little Items.

—A marriage certificate was issued recently to a Rockland, Me., couple whose intentions of marriage had been on file two years.

—A Chesterfield, N. H., man has a hunting dog that "mothers" a family of four small pigs every night, leaving the mother pig with but one or her family, the smallest of the group. The dog seems to enjoy the funny arrangement as well as the pigs.

—One of the latest triumphs in the engineering world consists in the construction, shipment by steamer, and subsequent transfer to railway transportation of a steamer of 1,200 tons displacement, which was finally put afloat in Lake Baikal, Siberia, not less than 5,000 miles from St. Petersburg.

—Hummingbirds in Minora, one of the Philippines, are very pugnacious. Hundreds of them simultaneously attack a huntsman and seriously injure him.

—The Indians of the interior of Bolivia wear shirts and hats made of the bark of a tree which is soaked in water to soften the fiber, and then beaten to make it pliable.

—Presque Isle, Me., citizens did a thoughtful and generous act last week, when they subscribed $120 to aid the servant girls who lost their property in the hotel fire.

Display of Dignity.

A Cape paper relates an amusing story of an incident that took place at one of the informal gatherings of the leading members of the Volksraad at President Kruger's house, in the days when Joubert and his party were not on the best of terms. The president desired to consult some papers relating to the subject under discussion, and, as they were placed on a shelf some distance from the ground, made one or two futile attempts to reach them. Joubert, who is tall, came to his assistance, saying:

"Let me bring them; I am higher than you."

"You are longer, Piet; not higher," corrected Kruger with a frown.

The traditional attitude of the pessimist toward all things is represented thus in a dialogue with a Georgia farmer, reported by the Atlanta Constitution:

"How do you like this weather?"

"Not much; I'm feared it's goin' to rain."

"Well, how's times with you?"

"Setter so-so—but they won't last."

"Folks all well?"

"Yes but the measles is in the neighborhood."

"Well, you ought to be thankful you're a-livin'."

"I reckon so; but we've all got to die!"

How Gangs Have Been and May Be Crushed—Only by Organized Attack.

CHAPTER V.

Experience is a good teacher, but an expensive one. To avoid expense the best way is to prevent the existence of gangs. If one shows its head strike quickly. Who shall strike? The mass of the people, who will be preyed upon if the thing is allowed to live, must do it. A few days ago a passing remark was made on the street which comes so aptly that it may well be repeated here. A business man said:

"Pshaw! Let them steal the people's money. I can make more in half a day than my share of the taxes that may be stolen."

The writer did not hear the remark, has no idea who made it. But the man who did make it is entitled to stand on the pillory for a minute and let the people look at him. For he represents the class of men who are responsible for the existence of boodling. He also represents the class out of which boodlers come. Consider him and learn the earmarks by which an incipient boodler may be recognized. He loves a dollar more than he does the city in which he lives. If he become an official or legislator he carries that preference into his official life and is ready to take the dollar for himself, just as he is now willing that some one else should take it.

A man once in the Council, and who passed through the fire without getting the smell of fire on his garments, said: "I have wondered why men who had the repute of being honorable in business become corrupt when put in an official place, but I am forced to conclude that they were honorable in business only because they had to be in order to continue in business. They were never sound at heart."

Apply the test. If a man says "this office will help my business, people will come to me to solicit my support of some measure and will buy something." So long as they leave the price which him he will soon cease to care if they leave the goods they might have purchased also. Such a man is a boodler in reality, though he may not know it himself. Rotten at the core.

Whole Gang Must Be Routed.

Well-meaning, but careless citizens vote for candidates because they are the nominees of their party. But if the same persons were applicants for a place in the same citizen's business, they would inquire into the applicant's antecedents, and give preference to one whose past gave assurance of integrity, even if they had to go beyond the list of applicants to fill the place. This is ordinary prudence. What man of business would say of an employe, "let him steal, my business is profitable enough for me to stand his stealings." Suspicion would lead to investigation, investigation to discharge of a dishonest employe, perhaps to a prosecution. Why are not these ordinary steps taken when officials are accused of unfaithfulness? In some lines of business employers take steps to be informed as to the habits and associations of employes. And agencies are employed to obtain such information.

The gang exists, it has an organization, and through the organization its members and the gang itself are intrenched and feel secure. Citizens must have a counter organization, and through such an organization the gang can be crushed just as soon, and just so sure as the citizens will that it be crushed. In former chapters the position and intrenchments of the gang have been shown. The general line of attack against gangs is obvious, but the attack must be wisely ordered. The effort of one man must come to nothing. Concerted work is needed, the sinews of war must be provided and the agencies also. Leaders must be in charge, and the body must follow their chosen leaders. Citizens must come together and organize for the war. War, when undertaken, must be against the organized enemy, not mere skirmishing, but battle. It is no victory to kill one man, probably an insignificant private, nor to capture an outpost. The citadel must be taken and the body of the enemy routed and pursued until destroyed. In the pursuit, individuals of the routed force will be taken care of.

The gang works through combine. Combines are the organic units of the gang, for the gang is divided into many groups—special combines. Each group of a gang is a tangible thing and must be attacked as such, and not as individuals. The acts of one, two or three men of a combine cannot be separated so as to fasten individual responsibility, but the group leaves a broad trail that can be followed. Every word and act of any member of a group bearing upon the group's purpose is evidence against every member of the group. Right here is the strategic principle that will lead to victory over the gang.

Systematic, Organized Crusade.

A tidal wave of public sentiment may drive the gang into retirement, as it did when our charter was adopted, but the "gang"—the old one or a new one—will reappear. Strike at the present gang and keep striking until it is destroyed and the persons composing it put where they belong, then a lesson will have been taught which will prevent the early formation of another gang. Keep up the organization and the fruit of victory will be secure. The gang knows that it is well nigh impossible to convict one person of a specific act of corruption, such as seeking a bribe or the giving or receiving of a bribe. The specific acts are secret; they are between two individuals, both equally criminal. Go after the composite acts of the group. Every one knows that combines exist; there are hundreds of witnesses as to words and acts which prove their existence. Taken singly, these witnesses cannot furnish testimony to convict a single indicted man. Taken collectively, they would convict the whole combine. Was not such a course followed with the "Whisky Ring?" Was it not successful?

Citizens of St. Louis, the matter rests with you. Do you care enough for the welfare of our city to do some work, furnish some money, to pay capable attorneys to arrange evidence, employ detectives, to find witnesses, and, further, you must also see that grand juries are not shaped, that prosecutions are made real, not farcical, witnesses present not spirited away, and all other necessary steps taken. Organize and look well to your organization, that the gang does not get control of it and so baffle and defeat your intentions.

I am done until you respond. Demand has been publicly and persistently made that I tell what I know. These chapters are my response to that demand. The demand was made of me as an official. I choose to respond as a citizen to my fellow-citizens, because, as a citizen, I may criticise and exhort. As an official I could not.

ROBERT E. McMATH,
Citizen.

TOM MILLARD, WAR CORRESPONDENT, WILL REPORT THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Readers of The Republic are to read about the war in the Transvaal as it appears to a Missourian, a man whom hundreds of this city's residents know well enough to call by his first name. Only a year or two ago he was a reporter on The Republic; to-day he is in South Africa as correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, the New York Herald and The Republic. He is Thomas Franklin Millard. Since the opening of the Hispano-American war he has risen from comparative obscurity to the foremost rank in the army of correspondents. Before that he interviewed John Thomas Brady and covered assignments in Kerry Patch, or wherever his editor sent him. Now he goes about in the company of men who occupy the attention of the world, and his assignments are apt to take him to any part of the earth.

Millard comes from old colonial stock. His family is Virginian, but his parents have lived in Missouri since the Civil War. That war left them practically penniless, and they removed to Houston, Texas County, this State, where Mrs. Millard still resides. Her husband died about one year ago. At that time his son was in this city and saw many of his old friends.

Tom, as he was known to his acquaintances, is a graduate of the Missouri University. He took up law as his profession, and, after leaving college, went into politics. He took the stump, but one campaign, with its nightly speeches in the open air, ruined his voice. His career as a public speaker thus cut off, Tom gave up his profession legal and went into journalism.

His first newspaper work was done as correspondent of The Republic at Lebanon, this State. It was in the summer preceding the last presidential election. Tom knew Richard Bland—"Silver Dick"—who was thought to be assured of the nomination of the Democratic party, and his stories of this grand old man, his love of domesticity and his little eccentricities, made good reading. That fall Tom came to St. Louis and became a reporter. His work was distinguished always for its terseness and lucidity of explanation, as well as its thoroughness. He soon became one of the best reporters in the city.

When Congress declared war to be in existence Tom was sent to Cuba as a member of the Republic-New York Herald staff of correspondents. He went to Key West and a day or so after his arrival he secured a scoop, or beat, by sending in the first news from the U. S. S. Harvard. He did this by outrunning all other correspondents from the wharf to the cable office. Tom was one of the fathers of athletics in the State University, organizing the Tigers, and in this instance his ability to sprint stood him in good stead. His closest competitor was Karl Decker of the New York Journal, who had just returned from Cuba, where he rescued Miss Cisneros from prison.

Tom witnessed the opening bombardment at Matanzas by Sampson and went through the entire Cuban and Puerto Rican campaigns, being the only correspondent who did this. One hundred and twelve correspondents landed at Daiquiri with Shafter; seven remained to the end. None of these, excepting Tom, went to Puerto Rico.

In the Cuban campaign Tom kept The Republic-Herald sign floating on the firing line continuously and often when General Shafter was three miles in the rear. He was present at the unfurling of the Stars and Stripes over the Governor's palace in Santiago. He was at Guayama when Battery A of St. Louis marched up the hill for its first fight only to learn that the peace protocol had been signed.

THOMAS F. MILLARD.

After the war Richard Harding Davis wrote, in one of the monthly magazines, a review of the work of the war correspondents. In this he mentioned the men for whom he would send in case of another war, providing he was in charge of the newspaper. Tom Millard's name headed the list.

Millard was sent to Santo Domingo when President Heureaux was assassinated. His correspondence of the political conditions of the little Republic, which were at the bottom of the trouble, attracted much attention in the business world and showed the correspondent's ability to get at the bottom of things.

Last summer the Herald sent him to Puerto Rico to report what one year of American rule had done for the Island. While crossing the bay in an open boat with natives, a hurricane swept down upon the little craft. It was overturned and Tom and the crew saved themselves only by clinging to the overturned hull for several hours. They were nearly exhausted when rescued.

Another windstorm came up in the night and the hotel was blown down, but Millard escaped without injury. He returned to New York in time to review the Dewey festivities, and afterward accompanied the Admiral and Doctor Seward Webb on the latter's private train to the Dewey homestead in Vermont.

Millard was aboard the German imperial mail steamer General, which was seized by the British at Aden, and he was the first complete story of the affair. While in Brussels Tom had an interview with Doctor Leyds, the European agent of the Transvaal, and this was printed in The Republic the same day, about two weeks ago.

He was Sunday editor of the New York Herald when the British-Boer war broke out. The Republic, the Herald and the London Telegraph formed a combination and Tom was selected to represent it in the field. He left for Lorenzo Marquez, whence he goes to Pretoria. He will join Joubert in the field.