# NEW CRIME CURE SYSTEM: How Leading Criminologists Would Turn Convicts Into Good Citizens—Punishment and Reformation Now Proposed.

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WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

It costs the country five hundred millions of dollars a year to pay the bills of prisons and crime. The meeting of the National Prison Congress, just held in Philadelphia, brings the whole question of criminal reformation to the surface again, and many people are discussing it. A problem that means millions annually to every city in the Union is not to be coughed out of existence with sneers and epigrams.

Does the average reader realize the vast, stupendous progress achieved by printing and gunpowder for the man in prison, since Napoleon destroyed the Inquisition one hundred years ago? Compared with the terrors of the subterranean dungeons and torture chambers of the world when Washington and Napoleon used gunpowder and Benjamin Franklin shot ideas from his printing press, our modern prison system seems a paradise.

In his recent work on "Punishment and Reformation," published by Crowell & Co., Doctor Frederick Howard Wines, son of the founder of the National and International Prison Associations, and formerly of the Census Bureau, shows that for acts now innocent and committed every day men were put to torture that would make burning alive seems a joy by comparison.

Simply for expressions of faith in religion and politics men were bolted to floors, sliced open, the wounds filled with vinegar and hot pitch; their bones broken with iron bars, then doubled backward and placed on a wheel and slowly crushed to death to be quartered and scattered to the winds.

Men were spiked to platforms in open air, facing the noonday sky, their eyelids cut off and the naked eyeballs exposed to the sun. Then torture with spikes, blazing oil and hot knives began.

Teams of strong horses were hitched to the victim's arms and legs to pull him apart after his bones had been broken and his eyes cut out, while woman cried out in horror against the official for whipping the poor horses that failed to sever the tendons of the dying victim at first trial—nature had made him so strong of build.

Others were tortured with indescribable atrocity, then smeared with sweet syrup and, bandaged into narrow coffinlike boxes full of holes, placed on the ground in open air. Insects swarmed in, filled the man with eggs and in a day or two the vermin hatched out were eating him alive.

WATER PUNISHMENT PRACTICED IN SPANISH POSSESSIONS.

Among the tortures of the Inquisition was the original water punishment, which was evidently transplanted to all the Spanish possessions, and finally blossomed out in the Philippines with modern rubber hose pipe improvements. The original Spanish water torture is thus described by Doctor Wines.

"The prisoner's body was extended at full length upon a frame so constructed as to bend it slightly backward and elevate the feet above the head. The face was covered with a cloth, kept wet by constantly falling drops of water, which had to be swallowed in order to prevent suffocation. At the same time the cords by which the victim was bound were constantly drawn tighter by a tourniquet, so as to cut into the flesh until it bled."

And all this was approved by dignitaries of church and State and the great men in the politics of the day.

Napoleon one hundred years ago ordered the last of the Inquisition destroyed. The existence of subterranean torture chambers was denied, and the soldiers could not find them until the marble floors of the grand palaces were flooded with water. The subtle fluid found entrance to the openings. Prodding bayonets found the secret springs to the locks, and down in darkness and filth, from dungeons under the gilded chambers of prelates and courts of law, prisoners were dragged out, their manacles encrusted with vermin, some of the prisoners dead, some dying, others pitiful maniacs. All this is testimony and proof of the reign of hell on earth under law less than a short century and a half ago.

How sweet the sound of Napoleon's guns to the men publicly roasting in iron cages, red hot and swinging over the fire for heretics in Germany, in the days when the name of lord or baron was branded on the subject's back, and a man not owned by lord or baron was by law an outcast and ranked with thieves and spies and treated accordingly.

IRISH SYSTEM AN IMPORTANT PRISON REFORM.

With these events so recent in history, one ought to be patient and thank God for the newspapers and gunpowder and the heroes that have made prison reform possible. Our own Colonial persecutions of children and women accused of witchcraft also disappeared in the early wars of the country.

Notwithstanding many reforms in the treatment of prisoners in this country, it was not until about twenty-five years ago that the famous Irish system was introduced, in an improved form. Maconochie's Irish system consisted of three separate institutions. By good behavior the prisoner was advanced from prison No. 1 to prison No. 2, more comfortable and with rules less rigorous; and if he continued reforming he was admitted to the third institution, "practically no prison at all," being chiefly open air life, with a cheerful home on a lively island, with few restraints and little espionage. The prisoner was practically paroled on his honor, being a kind of "ticket-of-leave" man, only required to report at stated times, give an account of himself and keep employed at some honorable industry.

Instead of having three buildings for reformatory prisons, Mr. Z. R. Brockway, at Elmira, conceived the idea of combining the Irish graded system—the three progressive departments—under one roof, but giving the prisoner all the advantages claimed for the Irish system in a more practical way and especially adapted to American ideas.

The New York Prison Association, out of which the National and International associations have sprung, was founded in 1844 by Judge Edmunds and Isaac T. Hopper, the famous Quaker and grandfather of De Wolf Hopper, actor and singer.

In 1870 the Reverend E. C. Wines, of Cincinnati, conferred with gentlemen at the head of the New York organization and established the International Prison Association, having for its first presidents Governor Horatio Seymour and Rutherford B. Hayes, Governor of Ohio, and soon to become President of the United States.

The advanced sentiment of the National Prison Congress, held in Philadelphia the other day, was expressed in epigrammatic sentences like these:

The people are divided into two great classes—those in jail and those out.

If all men and women were interested in prison reform there would be no prisons.

Prison reform is not only for prisoners, but for society.

The best index to the social conditions of a country is the condition of its prisons.

The better the convict is treated the more he realizes the depths of his disgrace.

A man to whom prison is no disgrace is not punished by imprisonment.

No man is so bad as to forget the time when he had the approving smile of Almighty God.

The congress was a notable gathering of representative men. Judges, financiers, clergymen, prison wardens and lawyers from all parts of the Union and Canada were among the delegates, with an able president and secretary. Each was an expert in his profession, and much success was claimed for the prison wardens and their methods in reforming desperate criminals.

MASSACHUSETTS HAS MODEL REFORMATORY AT CONCORD.

Perhaps none has achieved more distinction than Mr. Joseph F. Scott, Superintendent of the Massachusetts Reformatory, at Concord, once the home of Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau and the Alcotts. The institution is considered the most advanced of the model reformatories of the world.

"We are just beginning," he said, in the course of an interview, "to get out literature on penology. It is a great work, for it concerns the elevation of humanity, the safety of society, the reformation of the degenerate and the reduction of national expenses. Our form of government has had much to do with the prison reform movement. It recognizes the right of the prisoner. The Declaration of Independence applies to him—makes him an object of consideration by the State.

"The prison population of the country is about 100,000, and is said to cost the people about $500,000,000 annually."

Regarding the classification of criminals Mr. Scott said: "Originally all criminals in jails and prisons were herded together indiscriminately. They have since been classified in some States according to their physiological condition. In Massachusetts epileptics are confined in a separate institution for treatment, as is done with the criminal insane.

"Criminals affected with tuberculosis are now under consideration, with a view of separating them from healthy inmates and preventing contamination. The tendency of modern thought is toward adopting the absolutely indefinite sentence for all criminals.

EXPERIENCED WARDEN CAN CLASSIFY HIS PRISONERS.

"An experienced warden recognizes their different grades at a glance. You stand up a lot of criminals, all strangers if you please, in a line against a prison wall, and a competent warden will, as a rule, tell you what each man is, to what class he belongs—whether he is a thief, forger, burglar or murderer.

"The energetic highway robber differs from the pickpocket, who works by stealth; and both differ from the educated embezzler. Each man reveals his characteristics in his face and personality—the sneak, the bold, aggressive robber; the intellectual forger, the cold, calculating counterfeiter; the daring safe blower—all those, from the rifle tapper, with skeleton keys and gum shoes, to the ruffian who throttles you and up to the train robber, who stops the night express and dynamites the treasure car.

"It is your cool, calculating, intellectual criminal who is most difficult to reform. Many a murderer is less criminal at heart than the educated embezzler or forger. There are many kinds of murderers, from the conspiring professional assassin to the big hearted, quick tempered man, of weak and passionate temperament, who never dreams of murder—in fact, abhors it—until some day, in a quarrel, under provocation, he loses his head, strikes harder than he intends and kills a man, perhaps a former friend. Yet, under the old system he would be classed with cold-blooded assassins.

"Under our new system we consider the man, his character, and motives, not his crime, and deal with him accordingly.

"As a rule a young man who commits arson has a mania for it. He likes the excitement, falls under its fascination, riots in the exhilaration. Boys set buildings on fire and ride away on bicycles, enjoying it as sport, or a ball game. Other boys want to see the engines come out, and enjoy the thrill of a big fire.

"TOUGH" BOYS THE EASIEST TO REFORM.

"Highway robbers and professional house burglars are the most desperate of criminals. A 'tough' boy is the easiest to reform. You must have something to work on, as conscience, pride, love of parents, sisters, regard for friends, fear of God and the future. There must be feeling or sentiment that can be awakened.

"There is hope for the impetuous, reckless young "tough,' and little or none for the wishy-washy, whining sneak thief, who is swayed by every new companion he meets, lost to all sense of honor by the smile of some dissolute creature wanting a ribbon or a handful or jewelry. A man without character, force, ambition or pride is almost helpless.

"To prevent crime we must begin in the public school, weed out the bad boys, separate them from the others, put them in special classes, with specially trained teachers to look after them. Our schools are radically defective in this respect. A few bad boys of fascinating, dominant natures will corrupt many lads who are amiable and of good dispositions. Our public schools should not only train pupils mentally and morally, but industrially. Love of work is the basis of right living. Industry, is the salvation of the race. A boy taught to work and to love work seldom goes to prison. In industry you will find virtue.

"I have a friend, a man well known in this country, who did not want his boy to suffer the hardships he had endured, so he sent him to school. The lad ran away. He put him in a boarding school. Again he ran away. Finally he got him into the navy. He deserted. After much difficulty he got his boy back home and had a heart-to-heart talk with him.

"To his great surprise this distinguished gentleman, an authority on human affairs, discovered that his boy wanted to work. So he allowed him to learn a trade. The boy immediately changed. He has been happy since, never giving employer or parents the least trouble.

BOYS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AND STUDIED.

"Boys should be studied, consulted and understood and given employment suited to their minds and natures.

"You must give the boy in the prison the same treatment that in daily life makes good citizens. Where you find the highest civilization you find three things, three forces, at work: First, the church; second, the school, and third, the workshop.

"The elements they represent are what you should give the prisoner to restore him to upright citizenship. To reform a prisoner he should be quickened, mentally and morally, and placed on an industrial basis—enabled to earn an honest living when released from prison."

General R. Brinkerhoff, chairman of the State Charities at Mansfield, O., has made a deep study of prison reform. In response to inquiries he said:

"With us, a prisoner is marked on these lines: First, general conduct; second, progress in education, for he is required to attend school a half of each day; third, industrial training. Every prisoner is required to learn some one of the twenty-five or thirty trades taught in the reformatory.

"Ignorance and idleness are the chief causes of crime, and I may say that almost any man with the same inheritance, temptations and environments of the average prisoner would have been as bad. Corporal punishment has been abolished in the model reformatory. When a man refuses to obey or behave himself he is put into a cell, not a dark cell, and kept in solitary confinement.

"Give a man food, plenty of it, and light, and work if he wants it, but keep him alone. Let him 'think it over,' and in nearly every case the offender will soon come to his senses, beg to be let out and say what a fool he has been. Now there is hope for him, and he soon is on the upward grade to freedom."

## Cupid Chooses Strange Aids.

The agencies which pick a man out of the crowd in one direction and a woman from the multitude in another, bring them together and finally unite them for better or worse or the divorce courts, are various, but a balloon is a novelty. Packing boxes are strange aides-de-camp for Cupid, and the Humane Society for the Protection of Animals is another.

But these three agencies have accomplished three marriages in different parts of the country, and their value as matrimonial auxiliaries is thereby established.

Miss Mamie Zercross of Dorchester County, Maryland, is the young woman who consigned her hopes to the winds, and they brought her back a husband. It is too early to decide whether Miss Zercross will regret that she looked to the breezes for a husband or not. The romantically inclined will pray that she does not, and will hope that they "will live happily ever afterwards," just for the sake of the romance.

It will be agreed that the young woman got her husband in a strange way. On the Fourth of July Miss Zercross secured a small fish-shaped balloon as her contribution to the patriotic demonstrations. There was a hidden reason for the "fish" shape which her friends did not understand until they saw what she had "caught."

TIED PHOTOGRAPH TO BALLOON.

To the fish-shaped balloon she tied her photograph and a letter. When the toy was loosed it was carried far across country and lost to view. Miss Zercross watched it go out of sight and then forgot her experiment. She was reminded if it three days later, however, on the receipt of a letter from Ocean City, Md., many miles distant from her home.

The letter was from Ralph Messick, a grain dealer in Ocean City. He said that he had found the fish-shaped balloon and had read the letter. Would he be permitted to write to the young woman whose photograph he had found attached to the string?

Miss Zercross thought it over for as many as three seconds and decided that he might. After some interchange of letters, Mr. Messick got himself up in his prettiest style and sat for his photograph, which he sent to the young woman of the balloon.

The work of the fish-shaped toy was completed the minute Miss Zercross undid the wrapping around the picture. She was his immediately. Then the young woman and the young man decided that they ought to have a look at each other, and Mr. Messick departed for Cambridge, the home of Miss Zercross. She met him at the station and drove him to her home. The home is said to be a handsome one, and Miss Zercross is said to be a handsome young woman.

Three days were consumed in courtship, just to give the affair a little formality, and then they drove to the minister. They are now in the Catskills on their honeymoon. The motto which will be hung up alongside the traditional "God Bless Our Home" will be:

"It's an Ill Wind That Blows Nobody Good."

UNITED BY PACKING BOXES.

Probably if it had not been for packing boxes William F. Cochran would not be about to marry Miss Nina Lorraine Gill of Baltimore, but there is every evidence that such is the case. When William Cochran was graduated from college his father, the late William F. Cochran, the Yonkers, N. Y., millionaire, turned him out in the world to make his own livelihood. It was parental kindness, and not unkindness, that dictated this step. Mr. Cochran, Sr., had an idea that Mr. Cochran, Jr., would amount to something if this course were pursued and might not otherwise.

With no business training young Cochran realized that it was impossible for him to secure a clerical position and hope to amount to anything. He used his brains, as his father wished him to do, and discovered an opening. He found that merchants were wasting their packing boxes. He secured a small shop in a noisy street in Baltimore, and a horse and cart. He drove from one establishment to another, buying the packing boxes which were littering up the premises of merchants and manufacturers.

He drove hard bargains with them, and most of them were amused at the enterprise of the young business man. As the boxes were an incumbrance to their places they parted with them at prices which enabled Cochran to carry out his scheme with profit.

He carted the boxes to his shop and planed, sandpapered and mended them until they were turned out new boxes again. Then they were resold. The venture proved profitable. It grew and a company was formed. The company went into other undertakings, still retaining the packing box industry from which it started.

All this time the son had said nothing to his father concerning his business undertakings, and did not realize that his father was aware of his success. But the father had kept track of the young man, and he made it known suddenly by making the son a director of the Seaboard Air Line.

It was while Cochran was building up the foundation of his business success carting packing boxes to his shop that he met Miss Gill, a daughter of one of Baltimore's best social families. Miss Gill is described as a college girl who likes to do things and likes men who can do them. She was attracted to Mr. Cochran because he, the son of a multimillionaire, had started in life for himself and had made a competence by developing an idea.

It was the packing-box idea that established him in Miss Gill's regard, and he found time to conduct a courtship while he gathered boxes. They became engaged and will be married this fall. His father died and all his interests were inherited by him. He is now doubly rich—by virtue of his own efforts as well as by inheritance.

HUMANE SOCIETY STEPS IN.

The humane society is a strange aid for Cupid, but in the following case it was not only an aid but was the salvation of the bride. It was a young Italian girl who was most deeply concerned. Her mother had sold her to a Webster, Pa., barber for $10, and the barber intended to marry her, notwithstanding that Josephine—Josephine Reggeo was her name—was inclined to a young Italian, who would have been willing to pay much more than $10 if it had been a question of currency.

Josephine was employed at the residence of L. L. Love of Aspinwall, Pa., as a servant. One night a determined effort was made to kidnap her. The man in the case was found to be the barber who had bought her. The barber failed, but he went to the Humane Society with a complaint that the girl was being illegally detained in the Love household, and that he as her fiance demanded her.

The Humane Society officials became interested and made an investigation. Then it was learned that the mother had sold the daughter and that the barber was endeavoring to carry home an unwilling purchase. By further investigation the society found the young Italian who was Miss Josephine's choice and arrangements were made at once for the wedding.

## Oldest Man in Russia.

The Czar of Russia recently received in audience a man who, from personal knowledge, could tell the ruler about the times of Catherine the Great, the Napoleonic invasion and the War of the Crimea. His name is Sinip (when he was born Russian peasants had no family name). He is 127 years old and his former owner, Prince Wolkowski, was able to furnish the following authenticated data about him from his own archives: "Sinip was born 1775 as a serf, and drinks vodka and smokes as long as he can remember. Three pints are his limit, but he never was drunk in his life." As the Czar was able to perceive himself, Sinip's eyesight and hearing are perfect to this day. Every Sunday he walks eight miles to church and never has required charity of any kind. He still earns his bread by knitting and sandal making; also tends to the horses and poultry. The old fellow's memory is most remarkable. He told Nicholas several facts regarding the Napoleonic invasion not contained in general history. Sinip's father died at 98; his mother at 120, working as a field hand up to a few days before her death, and Sinip himself never had a day of illness.

# NEW ARMY UNIFORMS.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Soldiers' costumes to-day are more gorgeous than ever before in the history of the world. It has been seriously urged by military experts that the warrior ought to be something of a popinjay. The admiration of the ladies incites him to fight better, and his very pride in his uniform encourages him to do his best.

The new uniforms prescribed for Uncle Sam's fighting men are more highly decorative than any that have hitherto been seen in this country. A Board was appointed not long ago by the Secretary of War to go over the entire subject and make recommendations. The Board has now submitted its report, which has been approved by President Roosevelt, and thus a kaleidoscopic change has come over the sartorial and decorative scheme of the army of the United States.

One of the most important questions considered had to do with the color of the uniforms of officers and men. As a result, it was decided that a color known as "olive drab" was preferable to the yellowish khaki, and accordingly from now on all service uniforms for both officers and men will be of that shade.

The chaplains of the army are the only persons who are not likely to be satisfied with the new regulations in regard to costumes. They begged hard for permission to wear epaulets and brass buttons, some of them desiring a sword in addition, but their petition was met with a refusal, and they were obliged to content themselves with a full dress black frock coat and nine black silk buttons. For ordinary dress they will wear a black sack coat. On their hats, however, they will be permitted to have a cord of gold bullion and black silk intermixed.

The new full dress coat for officers will be a very handsome garment—a double-breasted frock of dark blue cloth, with standing collar. For general officers the collar and cuffs will be of dark blue velvet. The coat will be ornamented with shoulder knots of gold wire cord, detachable, and the collar for general officers will be adorned with a band of oak leaves, embroidered with gold. For other officers the ornament will consist of two bands of gold wire braid passing all around the collar, on a ground of silk or cloth, of the color of the corps or arm of the service.

This distinguished garment when worn by general officers will have cuffs ornamented with a band of oak leaves embroidered in gold, and surmounted by two stars of silver for a Major General and one star for a Brigadier. Other officers will have, instead, a band of gold wire braid around each cuff. On the front of the coat will be various arrangements of gilt buttons according to the rank of the wearer—ten for the Lieutenant General, nine for a Major General, eight for a Brigadier General, and so on.

The place of the old dress blouse is taken by a so-called "dress coat," which is a sack coat of dark blue cloth or serge. Gilt buttons are arranged on the front according to the rank of the wearer, and suitable straps and collar ornaments are added. The arms of the United States, as represented on the great seal, appear conspicuously and often in the new insignia of army officers.

For officers generally is provided a single-breasted sack coat of white material for summer, with a standing collar fastened by two white or gold studs. White shoulder loops are to be worn with the garment, which is accompanied by white trousers and white canvas shoes.

The service coat for all commissioned officers is a sack of woolen of cotton matrial of olive drab color and with a standing collar. On each side of the collar is placed the coat of arms of the United States, with the insignia of rank and arm of the service.

One of the most sensible things prescribed by the new regulations is a double-breasted ulster of olive drab color and woolen material, very long. The tails come to within a foot of the ground, and it has a hood large enough to cover the head. This is the only overcoat allowed to be worn, and takes the place of the old dark-blue garment.

By no means to be forgotten are the trousers, which under the new dispensation are of dark-blue cloth for general officers and officers of the staff corps and of sky-blue cloth for officers of cavalry, artillery and infantry. The latter will have colored stripes on their trousers, according to the arm of the service to which they belong, while the former will be made more gorgeous by stripes of gold braid. Ordinary service trousers for all officers will be of olive drab woolen or cotton material to match the coat.

The new service hat will be of olive drab, ornamented with a double cord an eighth of an inch in diameter. For general officers the cord will be of gold and for all other officers of gold bullion and black silk intermixed. General officers will have epaulets of gold, the only device being the coat of arms of the United States embroidered in gold, which will take the position now occupied by the star in the epaulet of the Brigadier General.

Sashes for general officers will be of buff silk net, or buff silk and gold thread, with silk bullion fringe edges—the sash to go twice around the waist and to tie behind the left hip. However, general officers above the grade of Brigadier will wear the sash across the body, from the right shoulder to the left side, and not extended around the waist.

General officers will have saber knots of heavy gold cord, with acorn ends, and saber belts for full dress of red Russia leather, with three stripes of gold embroidery. Other officers will wear saber belts of black enamel leather.

The regular service uniform of privates will be of olive drab woolen or cotton material, according to season or climate. A caduceus of gilt metal, inclosed in a gilt metal wreath, will be the distinguishing mark of hospital stewards, but in time of war all persons attached to the Hospital Corps will adopt a "brassart" of white cloth, with a Geneva cross of red cloth on it, which will be worn on the left arm, above the elbow. The symbol selected for "electrician sergeants" is a bit of forked lightning in German silver, inclosed in a wreath of metal.

Henceforth chevrons will be worn points up, instead of points down. To indicate the fact that he has served in war, the veteran noncommissioned officer will be allowed to wear a half chevron of white cloth on both sleeves of the dress coat.

Dentists are regularly employed as officers of the army nowadays, under contract, and they wear the same uniforms as medical officers, but are to be distinguished by the letters "D. S." on the collar. Veterinary surgeons likewise are to be indicated by the letters "V. S." in silver, replacing the coat of arms of the United States.

When troops are in the field during hot weather or in a tropical climate, and officers and men do not wear their coats, chevrons may be worn on the sleeves of the flannel shirts by noncommissioned officers and the ordinary insignia of rank on the collars of similar shirts by commissioned officers.

# HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES'S FACE CARRIED A POSTAL.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

An example of French ingenuity came to New York from Paris the other day in the shape of a French postal card addressed to Hallie Erminie Rives, the author, not by name but by a painted portrait. The picture was recognized by the postal authorities and sent to her.

The note on the back of it, written in fine script, explains itself. The translation follows:

"No. 195 Rue de l'Universite — Dear Madam: Will you do me the honor to render me a little service? I have read in the Illustrated Figaro that Mme. the Countess de Rochambeau, during her visit to your charming country, admired greatly a book entitled, 'Hearts Courageous,' which recounts the assistance given by France to the American colonies.

"To what address, if you please, should one write for this book? Behold my difficulty. The Figaro publishes your picture, but alas! it does not give your name. I hope that my portrait of you (copied after that in the Figaro) will serve as an address in America, where without doubt your face will be recognized immediately by the gentlemen of the Postal Department. I hope that you will have the goodness to pardon my audacity. Accept, my dear madam, my respectful salutations.

"LEON MONCAPEAU."

Miss Rives sent him a copy of the book.

## Argument for Revaccination.

The efficacy of revaccination was strikingly illustrated at the Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow, last year. Of six revaccinated van men who regularly brought supplies to the hospital not one took smallpox, but on one occasion a substitute who had not been revaccinated was employed and he promptly took the disease.

# AUTOMOBILE HOUSE PARTY.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

When the automobile reaches a stage of development which enthusiastic "motorists" expect it to attain soon the correct thing in automobiling will be "house parties." This highly developed automobile, which the enthusiasts are expecting confidently, will bear about the same resemblance to the machine of to-day as the Pullman car does to a stage coach.

A number of inventions under way or reported to be under way sustain the enthusiasts in their belief and hope. From Rochester, New York, Philadelphia, Paris and other cities the "motorist" hears rumors of machines built to contain bedrooms, reception-rooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

With such a machine and with the good roads which the automobilist is expecting also, it will then be the correct thing to invite friends for a 1,000-mile tour of the country, to provision the machine for a couple of months, take on board a ping-pong set, and possibly a poker outfit, and cut all bridges behind.

These invitations have been spurred on by the discomforts the autoist is compelled to undergo when touring and caught by night. As often as the motorist spends a night in the open with his machine he dreams of the house car and its comforts and wishes a quick realization to the hopes of the sleeping-car automobile.

Various plans have been laid for the building of this machine. A resident of Rochester recently completed a tour of several hundred miles in an ordinary machine, and his first step after finishing his trip was to begin the manufacture of a sleeping car. The machine which he is about to construct is not to be much larger than the ordinary automobile used for touring. It is to be a sort of folding-bed arrangement, and when not wanted for long trips can be made into a machine for ordinary use.

This car is to be built about two feet longer than the large vehicles of the present. It is to have a glass frame, which can be attached or removed at will. The inventor claims that the increased length will not be a disadvantage worth considering, and it will make it possible to equip the machine with bunks laid lengthwise.

"Provisions could be carried in a machine of these proportions," says the inventor, "and a party could actually live on the road. That is my plan—to build a car in which several persons can live while touring. When the vehicle is to be used about home the framework may be taken off and stored."

That is one of the most modest plans for the sleeping automobile. It contemplates only that bunks should be provided for the tourist and that he should be protected from the elements and the mosquitoes by the glass frame.

The inventor from Philadelphia is more ambitious. What he intends to build is a home. He wants a "house automobile," with bedrooms, reception-room, bathroom, dining-room, reading-room, clothes closets and kitchen. He would use folding partitions to carry out his idea, and the large rooms could be subdivided into smaller rooms whenever needed as such.

To make all this possible he would build a machine 65 feet long, operated by a duplex gasoline motor. With a car of that length six or seven persons would be able to embark for a tour and have all the comforts of home while traveling over the highways. It is not probable that the chauffeur or the owner would get into trouble such as vexes many operators and be dragged before a country Justice of the Peace for violation of the speed ordinances, for in securing bodily comfort it would be necessary to sacrifice speed, and the maximum would be about twelve or fifteen miles an hour.

Then there is a Parisian who has announced the invention of a similar machine, 60 feet in length, with which he is contemplating taking a party on a tour of France and Italy. This machine is built to carry provisions for two months and to provide the tourists with the conveniences of a Pullman car.

Another inventor believes that all that is necessary for the happiness of the tourists is cover during inclement weather, a place to sleep at night, and a bathtub. He is constructing a machine in which it will be possible to pull up the sides, after the fashion of the sliding windows in a summer trolley car. When these sides have been pulled up a portable top can be placed on them as a roof.

The seats then can be converted into berths or bunks. The bathtub can be built underneath the car and it can be used by opening a door in the bottom of the floor and filling it from a farmer's well. His machine does not contemplate the use of a kitchen, but he proposes to carry a small supply of canned goods and a spirit lamp, which can be used in emergencies.

The inventors having the more simple machines under way claim that their inventions will be the first to be seen in operation on the highways. But it is asserted that within a short time the automobile house party will be in vogue.

"Is it by any means improbable," asks one motorist, "that the predictions of these inventors will be fulfilled? I think not. Touring has become fashionable already among the automobilists of America, while abroad it is extremely popular. Not a few of our more expert motorists have made trips of from 300 to 500 miles successfully within the last year or so, and when all the plans now contemplated for improving the highways are carried out journeys of 1,000 or even 2,000 miles by road should be perfectly feasible."

This is the new dream of the automobilist. In a few years it is to be expected that he will invite his friends—not to spend a week at his country home or on his yacht or houseboat—but to make up a party for a trip across the country in his "house automobile."

What is to become of the other travel on a road chosen as the route of such a monster automobile or what is to become of horses that shy at a thrashing machine when they have to pass this house on wheels are problems which have not been met as yet.