

TECHNICAL CRIME HEAVILY PUNISHED

Flagrant Injustice to Americans in Mexico. SERIOUS SMUGGLING CHARGE

Men Had Carried Provisions Unwittingly Beyond City Limits—In Jail Twenty-eight Days.

A flagrant case of injustice to American citizens in Mexico is reported in the advance sheets of the diplomatic correspondence for 1904.

Early in January of last year, two Americans, H. C. Harding and H. E. Dugat, went to Matamoros, Mexico, and started a rice farm. Two weeks after their arrival there, they drove into Matamoros and purchased \$5.50 worth of groceries for their own use, and started to carry them out to their camp in their two-horse wagon.

Carried Goods Away.

New to the country they did not know that there was a law which required a permit, costing 25 cents, to take goods beyond the city limits of Matamoros. A Mexican customs guard arrested them.

They were thrown into jail, kept there for twenty-eight days, and only released after the strongest kind of effort on the part of the American consul and Ambassador Clayton. They then were let out on bond of \$2,000 gold, which was subsequently reduced to \$500.

They were accused of smuggling. Their trial, despite repeated efforts of the American consul to hasten it, was delayed until September. They were then found guilty and sentenced to forfeit the goods, wagon, horses, and harness, but were released from further punishment on account of the imprisonment they had suffered.

Wagon Restored.

The sentence seemed monstrously out of proportion to the technical but insignificant infraction of the laws of which they had been guilty. Ambassador Clayton took up the case diplomatically, and finally succeeded in having the wagon and horses restored to them.

NEW CATHOLIC PARISH WILL HOLD A FAIR

Plans Being Arranged by Holy Comforter Congregation to Form Nucleus of Building Fund.

The Church of the Holy Comforter, corner of Fourteenth and East Capitol streets, is the youngest of the Catholic Churches in the District. A great need for a Catholic church in that section of the city had long existed, and last fall Cardinal Gibbons delegated Father Joseph I. Maguire to found the parish.

A former pool room and site were purchased, remodeling was done, a small chapel resulted, and the celebration of the holy sacrifice of the mass and singing of hymns to our Universal Father supplanted the handling of the cue and the clicking of the ivory.

Father Maguire was long identified with charity work in the District, being chaplain to municipal institutions and special works conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and was prominently fitted for his additional duty.

What at first promised to be a parish of 200 or 400 Catholics soon increased to about 1,000, and a quinary at once arose as to how to care for them, as the chapel provided for seating only about 300. Hence, the necessity arose for funds, and Father Maguire and his parishioners decided upon a fair to be held in Odd Fellows Hall, Seventh and E streets northwest, May 1 to 10. Arrangements for it have been under way for about three months. Every effort seems to have been made to make this fair a unique one. Every table or booth will have one or two special features, and yellow kids, Katzenjammer Kids and their ma, Japanese girls selling Oyama tea, a genuine Barney dog to be kissed, etc., are among the certainties, with many other features on the way.

SIMPLE LIFE IN NEW JERSEY

"How far is it to Somerville?" asked the newspaper photographer.

"Eight or six miles," replied the village shoemaker, looking up from his last.

"Can I get somebody here to drive me over?"

"I'll do it, if you'll wait till I hitch up."

In a few minutes the team was ready, and the cobbler and his passenger were on the way.

"Pretty quiet life you lead up here in the hills," observed the photographer.

"Yes, pretty quiet—pot much doing, like there is down in town. But I manage to make a living."

"Shoemaking profitable, is it?"

"No, not very. I 'spose I'll average 80 cents a week at that. But do other things, you see. I carry the paper, and that's good for \$1 every week, sure. Then I drive the mail twice a week, and that's another dollar. And I do barbering, too. Some weeks I make \$4 clear, but generally not more than \$3.50. We get along somehow, me and my family, and we ain't gone hungry yet. Once in a long while somebody wants to be took over to Somerville, and then's when I strike it rich. O, you needn't think I ain't going to soak you!" And he smiled broadly upon the passenger beside him.

The photographer remembered that he had less than \$5 in his pocket.

"How much will you charge me?" he asked.

"Well, you work for one of them big metropolitan papers, and I'm going to make you pay as much as—75 cents, by gum!"—Newark News.

SOMETHING WRONG

Bridget—Me week is up th'day, ma'am.

Mrs. Subbubs—Yes, Bridget, and I was expecting you.

Bridget—So I thought I'd tell ye ma'am, that I like the place an' I'll stay w'ye.

Mrs. Subbubs—Gracious! What's the matter? Are you sick?—Philadelphia Press.

FUTURE AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM THE LAND OF THE CANALS



TYPICAL YOUNG HOLLANDERS.

Baby Immigrants Who Illustrate the Types Coming to the United States With Their Parents in Large Numbers.

Newcomers From Holland Welcome Immigrants

Industrious Dutchmen, Arriving Here in Numbers, Attracted by Tales of Wealth From Settlers on Great Lakes.

Among thousands of immigrants coming to America are some classes and nationalities the authorities are glad to see.

This is particularly the case with Holland Dutchmen and their families. At present there are a large number of Dutch migrating this way, being brought hither by tales of much money to be earned in Michigan and the other States bordering on the Great Lakes.

There their countrymen are already getting rich growing celery, and other fruits and vegetables well known along the canals of the Fetherland.

Commissioner General of Immigration Frank P. Sargent has just received a report concerning this class of Americans to be, and it is very satisfactory.

Not many of the Dutch are congregating in the cities. They are going into the agricultural localities. All appear to be supplied with money. They wear the picturesque garb of their country, as displayed by the young man in the accompanying picture, and his sister.

The returns show that all families have many children, the youngsters in fact outnumbering the adults.

PLUMBER GAVE TIT FOR TAT.

A plumber was sent to the house of a wealthy broker to make repairs. He was taken by the butter into the pantry and was beginning his work when the lady of the house entered.

"John," said she, with a suspicious glance toward the plumber, "remove the silver from the sideboard at once and lock it up."

"Tom," said he to his assistant, who accompanied him, "take my watch and chain and these few coppers home to my wife at once."—Chicago Chronicle.

MISLAID SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

"Doctor," said the man who several weeks before had been operated on for appendicitis, "I'm all right except for a heavy feeling in the pit of my stomach and a slight metallic rattling when I walk."

"There!" exclaimed the M. D., slapping his thigh; "I knew that case of surgical instruments would turn up eventually. Will you pay me for them and keep them or shall I remove them? The cost will be about the same."—Houston Post.

Men Who Have Families Dependent on Charity

Associated Charities Gathers Statistics Regarding Wife Desertions—Laws in Other States and Proposed Remedy.

Men who desert wives and leave children dependent upon public charities are to be gone after in vigorous fashion by the Associated Charities.

The latter has been gathering ammunition in the shape of an exhaustive and interesting study of "Family Desertion and Non-support Laws," which includes a review of all the legislation in the United States on the subject of wife desertion.

William H. Baldwin, a member of the board of managers of the Associated Charities, has spent months of voluntary labor and several hundred dollars from his private purse for the completion and printing of this valuable inquiry.

This study begins with a review of the number of deserted wives assisted by the Associated Charities during the last nine years. In this time, by adding the number of deserted families aided each year, Mr. Baldwin secured a total of 1602 families who have required charitable assistance because their proper supporter had run away from his responsibility.

Remedy Is Proposed.

The later pages of the report suggest a model law which provides for the punishment of the man who deserts his family. It is proposed to bring him to public trial and to sentence him to a term of hard labor in the workhouse, suspending sentence in most cases, upon the man's agreement to contribute a reasonable sum regularly to the support of his wife and children. The proposed law provides that the court may order the man to pay the money to some approved guardian or organization through whom it can be expended wisely for the support of his family. The most important feature of the new legislation advocated is the provision of means for bringing back the deserting husband who may have gone into Virginia, Maryland, or some other jurisdiction outside of the District of Columbia.

At present men who leave their families are not brought back through force of legislation. Some States are meeting this difficulty by making desertion a felony; it is thereby recognized as an extraditionable offense.

Mr. Baldwin has made the important discovery that extradition can also be secured for misdemeanors, and he has secured definite written pledges from the governors of several different States saying they will be glad to return deserting husbands whom the authorities of Washington desire to prosecute.

Titles of Chapters.

The general character of the exhaustive study made by Mr. Baldwin may be judged from the titles of some of the leading paragraphs. The one explaining "Why Desertion is Increasing" is followed by a paragraph explaining that the offense is "due to moral, not physical defects."

It is learned that out of 234 cases of the Associated Charities, of Boston, 50 per cent were skilled workers and 10 per cent clerks or in special occupations, leaving only 40 per cent unskilled laborers, and there was, as a rule, no inability to furnish support.

The deserted families were not large and in nearly one-fifth of the cases there were no children under fourteen years of age, while in all the other instances the children averaged less than three to a family. The discovery that desertion is due to moral delinquency rather than to industrial depression, leads Mr. Baldwin to the conclusion that it "should be treated as a criminal offense," and that "society has an economic interest in the matter."

Mr. Baldwin by communicating with

the legal authorities in all the States and Territories of the Union, has discovered that desertion is "made a criminal offense in forty-four States." It is a "felony in four States."

A Typical Case.

In explaining the obstacles which make it difficult to deal with desertion by civil suits only, Mr. Baldwin tells the story of a typical application for assistance to the Associated Charities of Washington. In this instance the man did not actually leave his wife, but he failed to support her and the legislation advocated by the Associated Charities is planned to deal with such instances of non-support.

There are many such cases of what is called "potential desertion," in which the man does not leave the city, but fails to contribute to his family's maintenance.

Another difficulty in Washington at present is found in the qualifying words of "sufficient financial ability," which have caused the court to hold that the man without means "was, therefore, not subject to the law, notwithstanding the fact that he might be able to earn good wages, as this man could, if he cared to work."

The new law proposed will regard the earning capacity as well as the financial possessions of the defendant.

Mr. Baldwin has an interesting paragraph entitled, "The wife should be a competent witness." It is found that the abused, neglected wife sometimes refuses to testify because she fears injury from her husband. It is, therefore, proposed that any interested person or agency shall be allowed to bring action in case of wife desertion, and that the court shall be empowered to compel the wife to testify, if necessary.

This puts desertion on the same ground as other criminal offenses, which may be reported to the legal authorities by anyone cognizant of the facts. It removes the chance of the man's escaping punishment or correction through the timidity, ignorance, or lack of ability and energy on the part of the wife herself.

WOULD COMPEL CONCLUSION OF REAL ESTATE DEAL

John L. Knopp has instituted proceedings in the equity branch of the District Supreme Court to compel Albert H. Erskine and his wife, Winifred Erskine, to specially perform an agreement to sell him certain real estate in the District.

The complainant says Mr. and Mrs. Erskine agreed, on July 18, 1904, to sell him lots 39 and 40 and part of lots 37 and 38, in John B. Kibby's subdivision of a tract of land known as Granby, aggregating nearly ten acres, at \$1,200 an acre, and accepted \$150.83 in part payment.

He says he offered on April 12 a deed to lot 3, in block 61, Fort Saratoga, Brookland, D. C., and the remainder of the purchase price in cash. Mr. Knopp says, however, that the Erskines refused to carry out their part of the agreement.

Wilson & Barksdale are counsel for the complainant.

JUDGE WRIGHT RETURNS SOLDIER YOUNG'S GUN

Justice Wright presiding in Criminal Court No. 1 has signed an order directing the return to Samuel R. Young the pistol used at his trial when charged with being responsible for the death of Policeman John J. Smith, July 4 last.

Young was indicted for manslaughter and was acquitted of the charge. It was contended by the prosecution that the policeman died from the effects of a wound caused by being struck with the wad from a blank cartridge.

WALTHAM WATCHES.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, in his Essay on Eloquence, said, in speaking of a man whom he described as a Godsend to his town, "He is put together like a Waltham Watch."

This was no idle comparison, for as Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "If you have seen a cat picking her footsteps in wet weather, you have seen the picture of Emerson's exquisite intelligence feeling for its phrase or epithet—and at last seizing his noun or adjective, the best, the only one which would serve the need of his thought."

We can thus follow Emerson's mental process, by which he selected the phrase, "He is put together like a Waltham Watch."

"The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request.

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