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BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, DEC. 14.

WANTED. When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper.

The New England division of States is the only one showing an excess of females. Statistics like looking-glasses do not flatter.

It has been officially determined that the battleship Maine was blown up by an explosive administered externally.

In view of the fact that Darwin took \$75,000 for defending the Mc-Namara, though he knew of their guilt, it is natural that union men should demand information as to where that fund of \$150,000 went.

Gifford Pinchot now glories in the announcement that he hopes to form a third political party in the United States.

A social science lecturer in Boston asserts that women should do the proposing. Well they do sometimes do they not? Then, too, it is not to be forgotten that the gentler sex are experts in the gentle art of diplomacy, whenever Cupid is umpire.

If there are some people who are trying to organize a movement in Vermont against President Taft, as intimated in a Boston paper, it is well to know where the State stands.

A coming tariff report. It will be worth while to keep an eye out for the report of the tariff board.

The President is already in possession of a summary of investigations which should prove an immediate forerunner of the report.

This tariff board, as most of us remember, was created by the Payne-Aldrich tariff law, as a lame apology for not following President Taft's advice in the matter of a tariff commission.

Pointed paragraphs. A man always wins a fight—in his mind.

Bill collectors seldom dun as they would be done by.

But beautiful houses do not necessarily make beautiful homes.

How many it is to think you would head the list of philanthropists if you only had the money!

Some women know things by intuition and some others get them by having husbands who talk in their sleep.

James R. Garfield, secretary of the Interior under Roosevelt, says: "Taft will not get the Ohio delegation to the republican national convention."

What's that racket out there? "That's Ed. He's chased your fuzzy hat up the hall tree."

CRIMINOLOGY PROBLEMS AND A BETTER VERMONT

Changing conditions in rural regions as well as in crowded cities are leading to careful investigation of the influences that tend to promote crime. We have been punishing the criminal for the purpose of protecting society and doing little else.

The wave of crime which has been sweeping over Vermont has prepared the people of this State for an attentive hearing to all having remedies to suggest.

The two chief influences leading to crime are heredity and environment. It is recognized that crime in all its phases can be traced to the transmission of physical and psychological characteristics and tendencies, or to peculiar surroundings which help to create criminal propensities.

There are sparsely populated localities amid rural surroundings that are just as fertile breeding places for crime as are the notorious rowdy centers in great cities like London and Paris.

It is recognized by all who have discussed the problem of criminology in Vermont that we are confronted by conditions that differ from those prevailing in the larger centers of population in extent as a rule more than in character.

The first step to be taken, therefore is the reformation so far as possible of the criminal of today, and the throwing of wholesome influences around his living progeny, if such there be.

The chief remedies for crime are prompt justice and the overcoming of all influences that would interfere therewith; and the adoption of measures and the promotion of conditions in penal and reformatory institutions that will transform the offender into a law-abiding individual.

As a means to the latter end, as has been pointed out by Superintendent Barss, Dr. Sears, various governors and others, is the separation of these new in crime and susceptible of reformation from the hardened and hopeless criminal.

In some instances, notably in Washington county, a probation system has been adopted, while in Chittenden county a somewhat similar result has been reached by affording prisoners useful employment at times.

Better still, there should be established an institution surrounded by extensive lands where first offenders and those capable of reformation can be provided with wholesome employment and healthy exercise.

Recognizing the fact that crime is the outgrowth in no small degree of mental defects, Superintendent Barss joins other students of criminology in calling for more thorough State care for children and adults who, while not insane, are mentally deficient.

Vermont is to-day paying Massachusetts annually the sum of \$6,000 for the care of twenty unfortunates of this class and is therefore partially performing its duty. This is four per cent. on \$150,000.

If our State were to capitalize this expenditure and add a comparatively small appropriation, we could properly care for double the number of mentally deficient persons with little increased expense.

Superintendent Barss is too modest to say so, but provision for unfortunates of this character could be made nowhere else so economically as in connection with the State industrial school at Vergennes.

In addition to caring for new offenders and for those mentally deficient the authorities of the triple institutions could then segregate in different quarters the normal boys, and the mentally deficient boys, and the boys having criminal instincts, and the same course could be pursued with the girls.

In the course of time a policy of segregation will undoubtedly be demanded in our State prison at Windsor and our House of Correction at Rutland, but he this as it may opportunities for useful employment are coming to be recognized as one of the fundamental principles of prison reform.

Going beyond the reformation of the criminal of to-day we come to the elimination of the embryo criminal of tomorrow. The means to be employed in this connection include steps to prevent the reproduction of the criminal family, as well as the amelioration of those conditions of environment which tend to produce criminals.

In short we must eliminate in Vermont as well as elsewhere the breeding places of crime as well as the breeders of crime.

THE HOUSE MANAGER—The audience is calling for the author.

THE HOUSE MANAGER—I hear 'em; but you can get out through the alley; and Phil said 'em back while you beat it.

THE PRESENT METROPOLITAN OPERA house on Broadway, New York, is to be abandoned and another, the most costly in the world, will be erected north of the Grand Central station, facing in two city streets and probably in Lexington avenue and the extension of Park avenue.

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

A Thrilling Incident in Champlain Seafaring Life Recalled. To the Editor of the Free Press:

It is 35 years ago to-day since one of the most thrilling incidents recorded in the seafaring life of Lake Champlain occurred at nearly the south end of the breakwater.

The thermometer was below zero and a howling gale raged over the lake. Soon after noon the schooner, General Butler, loaded with stone, was approaching this port.

Then again, what an illustration of Vermont husband and intelligence was the defeat in the last session of the Legislature of the direct primary bill by the circulation of the lobby's silly yarn that such legislation would curtail the power of the little town.

Being unable to find a seat on the overcrowded train, a large woman went into the smoking car and sat down by the door.

The man next to her, absorbed in his newspaper, bent on smoking.

"I was foolish enough to suppose," said she, glowering at him, "that some of the men in here, at least, were gentlemen."

"Pardon me, madam," he answered, politely offering her a cigar—Housekeeper.

THE PLAYWRIGHT—Ah, the audience is calling for the author.

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A SMILING MONARCH.

Intimate Observations of the Sultan Showing His Kindly Nature. (From the London Chronicle).

One of the most characteristic traits of Sultan Mehmed V. is his smile—a swift, sunny, kindly smile upon a melancholy, meditative, benevolent face.

When he meets his foreign guests at the Friday religious ceremony of the "Sema" he greets them with a smile, silent but expressive of his benevolent nature and of the thought that he is grateful to Allah for kindly friends from afar and near.

Once he fell and injured his knee. His attendants rushed up, greatly alarmed trying to help him up with subdued dismay and exclamations of "Aman!" He looked up to them, smiled his usual swift, melancholy smile of resignation, and said, "Why this haste, my friends? We are in the hands of Allah."

There is something of the nature of Oriental fatalistic fatalism in his smile, inasmuch as he is conscious of the order of providence in the divine course and order of things.

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The "Sure Thing" In Buying Christmas Gifts for Men. THE GORDON FUR COATS. Are worn by hundreds of men in this city and vicinity who will bear witness to their value. LIKLY Baggage Trunks, Leather Bags and Suit Cases are shown in large variety. CROSS LEATHER GOODS. Pocket Books, Coin Purses, Card Cases, Ladies' Shopping Bags, in beautiful designs and finest quality. Knox Hats Soft and Stiff. Any one of your friends would like a Knox Hat. Leave an order here and send him in to be fitted. House Coats, Bath Wraps for men, Bath Wraps for boys and girls, Cross Gloves, lined and unlined, for men and women, Sweaters, Fancy Vests and everything worn by man or boy, from head to foot. Pease's, The Daylight Corner—Burlington.

VERMONT NOTES. The Ludlow Woolen Mills company, which will five weeks ago, a woman cloth in Ludlow, is to be succeeded soon by the Halford Yarn company, stock for which has already been subscribed. Charles Edward Sturges, aged 88 years, a prominent Odd Fellow and Grand Army man, died at his home in Brattleboro Sunday morning. Deputy Secretary of State Rawson W. Merrill and A. C. Thierhalt, his assistant in the secretary of state's office at Montpelier, have found the following notation in the birth and death records from Wallingford for November, 1857. "Margaret Boye, aged 35 years, 4 months and 10 days, one of Lafayette's body guard home to France, was killed by a ball through a vertebrae of the loins on a privateer off the coast of Maine, La. Revolutionary patriot of the country." Carelessness in the handling of candy and food are believed to have been the cause of the death from typhoid fever of 63-year-old Annie Beaudry at her home in Sturford, and also that of Mrs. Timothy McCullough, besides the illness of six other persons, all members of the family and McCullough families. John McCullough, Jr., returned from Montreal ill with the disease, which had not reached a stage preventing him from being about the streets, and he is said to have given the Beaudry child some candy. Two other members of the Beaudry family are now recovering from the disease and the father, A. Beaudry, has been taken to the hospital at Brattleboro. Besides John McCullough, Jr., who recovered, his wife and father are improving because the typhoid has shown itself only in these two families, the origin of the cases is believed to be certain. Fancy creamery butter has been advanced at a charge of 25 cents with 25 cents refused for carload lots. Retailers are asking 45 to 50 cents, the highest in 25 years. Pension system which Standard Oil and its subsidiaries have had in force for a number of years and which affects 72,000 employees will be in no wise altered by recent dissolution. "I see," says the man with the crocheted cravat, "that the secretary of agriculture has published a valuable pamphlet on 'How to Prepare the Cheaper Cuts of Meat.'" "Yes, I read about that," answers the thoughtful man. "I wish I'd get out a companion pamphlet on 'How to Procure the Cheaper Cuts of Meat.'" That would be really helpful.—Exchange. "What is the matter with this rail way?" asked one late passenger. "This train is three or four hours overdue!" "Think of me," said the stockholder, "and have patience. Its dividends are three or four years overdue!"—Washington Star. "Hangs is a very ill-tempered man, I hear." "So ill-tempered that he won't ride in anything but a sulky!"—Baltimore American.