

WHAT IS CIVILIZATION?

Can it Exist in the Midst of Ignorance, Mob Law and Money Rule?—A Comparison of Local Happenings.

That our civilization is scarcely a skin deep, glossed over with a very thin coat of what is called Christianity, must be evident to all intelligent observers. The daily news reports tell not only of bloody conflicts in the industrial centers where labor is outraged, but also of the inhuman acts of those who pass for cultured and refined people.

It is an old saying that "man's inhumanity to man makes countless millions mourn." We have a government, and we have laws to burn. But the more laws and the more government we have, the less peace and contentment is in evidence. That is because the government and the laws of the ox-cart age are still with us and are expected to give satisfaction in an age of steam and electricity. So far as government and laws are concerned, we are still hammering along close to the border of the Dark Ages while in Science, Industry and discovery we have advanced by leaps and bounds.

The advance of the whole social body is slow work. All advance in the past was the result of the revolt of the oppressed—the masses. The class in control is always satisfied to "let well enough alone." The class in control is always good, patriotic and pious, and if an agitator springs up from the "lower class," he is denounced as a traitor and an infidel by the pious ones, and even those for whom he speaks must shun him. It is so in our time.

But the agitator is abroad, and things are happening everywhere. The masses have, under pious promises of mansions in the sky, been robbed of their homes on earth. Dimly they begin to see how they have been swindled and there is trouble ahead. The swindlers are in control of the government, the press and the pulpit, and progress is necessarily slow. But things are moving much faster than most people observe.

Frank Walsh, chairman of the Industrial Relations Commission, has set the ball rolling, and that ball will never stop until the industrial wrongs are righted. It will do congress no good to suppress the report of that commission, for the people already know the facts.

To talk of constitutional rights and equality before the law is nonsense. The masses leer at it. Ritten experience has convinced them that they are only for their enslavement, and the findings of the Industrial Relations Commission leaves no room for doubt.

secret band to coerce employers to give them work. As usual, one of the detectives made himself president of the organization, caused threatening letters to be written and after he had secured sufficient incriminating evidence, caused their arrest.

Most of these poor devils could neither read nor write. Their only crime was ignorance and poverty. They were brought here to jail in irons, and when the capitalist controlled papers of the county appeared they told horrible stories about the capture of a band of "night riders"—not one of which had anything to ride. According to these papers, the detectives and officers had done great service to society in capturing these "dangerous criminals."

The Kicker was the only paper to tell the story as it was—with the result that the county authorities let go and turned the prisoners over to the federal authorities at Cape Girardeau. Since then three have been released on very light bond, and one was released on his own hook. Had it not been for the Kicker, and the broad-side fired by the Illinois Jimpickle concerning the unscrupulous character of detectives, I have no doubt all of these poor devils would now be wearing stripes.

Let's turn the picture over and see what happens to violators of the law who are not poor. I shall pass up the "confiscation" and destruction of private property in booze by some of the women of Commerce, because women are not regarded as citizens by the ruling class. They have no voice in government and should not be held responsible by it.

But at Blodgett it was different. There the participants are sovereign citizens and, according to news reports, of the best citizens. Of my own knowledge I know nothing of this affair, and tell the story as it is currently reported in the press and otherwise. The affair has gained wide publicity.

Howard Levan is a young married man who conducted a little lunch room at Blodgett. He has a young wife and one child, and is the son of H. E. Levan, who runs a restaurant at Brooks Junction. His wife is a step-daughter of J. K. P. Chevington, one of our oldest citizens. I know very little of young Levan, but have never heard anything against him.

with half the number! And if they rave and become maniacs, we console ourselves that "it is God's will." Some times we do even better. We take the preacher and the choir over and sing and pray for them, and even give them good advice about how to "trust in the Lord!"

Tuesday morning I saw officers dragging toward the court house a limp and helpless human being that was once a man. It was R. V. Johnson, who had pled guilty to a mild form of forgery—4th degree. Sentence had been suspended, and while the court was pondering on what to do with him to make him be good, he went crazy. Johnson was being taken to the court room to be tried for his insanity. The jury declared him insane and he was sent to Farmington as a state patient. But the authorities refused to accept him as a state patient, and the poor fellow was not only without mind, but without home. He was turned over to the sheriff of St. Francois county and, on Wednesday, our county court met in special session and took charge of the case. Can you imagine crazier doings?

Our newspapers tell us that "the situation is very serious," but this does not seem to interfere with the presidents game of golf. The German newspapers say that the submarine warfare will go right on. Germany has nothing to fear from us. We could do Germany no injury by removing the hypocritical mask labelled "neutrality" and declaring open war. We insist upon an open sea. We want to trade. But why do we want to trade only with England? There is no open sea to German ports. England blockaded these long ago. But the closed sea to Germany does not worry our statesmen. Only to England must the toll gate be removed.

While attending court here Monday Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roth of the Macedonia neighborhood spent an hour or so with the Kicker family, and Henry told of some of the queer doings of his neighbors. About two months ago Henry Koch was sawing wood and carelessly got his right hand against the revolving saw, that cut into his thumb joint. The hand about his neck when Saturday, Henry got mixed up with a threshing and now has his other hand in the hospital. Wm. Menneke climbed on the roof of a shed to sweep off the chaff. In coming down, he and the ladder fell across a fence, bruising him up. Wm. Uelsen had a baler block on his lap repairing it—using a sharp knife. The knife slipped and cut a long slit across his thigh. Work people meet with many painful accidents.

As a youth I was a reader of a pink sheet called the "Police Gazette." Among the better class it was considered immoral to read such a sheet. Its contents was chiefly such stuff as you see in the capitalist papers of today—crimes and sporting news. Even the average country paper of today is quite equal to the Police Gazette that was suppressed 30 years ago. In a Stoddard county paper I find the front page occupied with accounts of a 16-year-old boy ravishing an 8-year-old girl; one "prominent citizen" accused of having three wives and another who; Joe Bennington shooting a man named Knowles at Essex; and the hanging of W. H. Sproul in St. Louis county. Capitalist news is sure "juicy." The masses are fed on this in order to keep their minds off the bread and butter question.

Some two months ago the Kicker noticed an item in the Campbell Citizen relating the success of Dr. D. C. Pollock of that city in curing surface cancer. Knowing that many people of the county were suffering from cancer, I reproduced the item. I felt that if there was such a man the people should know it. First to take notice was J. E. Lofton of Redman, who went down to investigate. After talking with the people and satisfying himself that the doctor was no fake, he began the treatment. Last week Dr. Pollock was here to see how Mr. Lofton was getting along, and George Bryant, of near Commerce, began the treatment. If the doctor is successful in these cases, of which he expressed no doubt, he will find much to do in Scott county.

According to the Cape Tribune, the Frisco shops may be moved from Chaffee to the Cape. For years these towns have been quarreling over the shops. But it is not the shops they are concerned in so much as the workers that use these shops. Nobody is ever concerned about where a capitalist lives. But communities will quarrel over the privilege of exploiting the workers.

Matt Ross of Commerce was here Wednesday and told the humorous side of the booze smashing affair at Commerce. He says that the women were not experts, and that while they rapped on the bags containing the booze and dumped them in the river, the bags were later fished out with grab-hooks and nine quarts of whiskey and 18 bottles of beer were rescued.

The lake steamer Eastland up in Chicago river at Chicago Friday with 2,800 excursionists on board. About 1,500 are reported drowned. The capacity of the ship is given at 2,070. But that holy incentive to profit caused the over-crowding. As usual, there will be a "rigid investigation."

Mrs. Caroline Schrock died at Scopus, Bollinger county last week in her 95th year. She was born in Germany and settled where Marble Hill now is in 1860. Seven children survive her, the oldest being 71 and the youngest 55. There are 36 grand children and 67 great-grand-children.

Two years ago Vander Fish and John Robertson, both farmers of near Zionsville, Bollinger county, got into a fight in which Fish got Robertson severely and was sent to the pen. Fish was paroled because of bad health, and last Friday, slipped off behind Robertson and shot him dead.

Charley Arnold and E. R. Tisdale of near Blodgett were here Tuesday on their return from Illinois, where they had taken a load of cantaloupes. They said money among the railroad employees was so scarce that sales were slow, and they shipped out the bulk of the load from Illinois.

The Kicker is indebted to Joel Hopper of Sandywoods, for the first watermelon of the season. It was a fine one. A. A. Evans of Morley brought Mrs. Hafner a half dozen nice cantaloupes, but he was honest enough to say that Fred Williams grew them.

The colored people of Jackson are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their emancipation on August 1. The trouble with the emancipation of the negro is that it is too much like the "freedom" of the whites. It's all on paper.

For three nights of last week the motion picture show of the Pence people of Fornefelt entertained our people and concluded Saturday night with a dance. They were well patronized and gave satisfaction.

As truck farmers Mr. and Mrs. Martin Glastetter, northeast of Benton take the ribbon. Mr. Glastetter brought to the Kicker a nicely formed tomato that weighed a pound and three quarters.

Report says that about 600 attended the Republican meeting at Sikeston Monday night, and that the opinion was confidently expressed that they would elect our next congressman.

F. E. Kies, Bucher, Sperling, Henry Puls and Claus Kerstner of Jackson were here Monday. Kies is editor of the Jackson Items and Volksfreund and dropped in to see the Kicker.

A letter from Souix City, Iowa, relates that George Brent of Pierson, Iowa, and Miss Anna Wagoner, of Blodgett were married there by Rev. Walcott July 16.

Reports from Morley Tuesday had it that cantaloupes were selling for 9 cents per basket. Deduct 5 cents for the basket and 14 cents remains for growing and marketing.

Mrs. Tom Swofford and children went to Redman Sunday to visit her sister, Mrs. J. S. Webb, and were taken to their home near New Hamburg Tuesday by Mr. J. S. Webb.

Notice.—On and after July 30, 1915, I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by anyone in my name without verbal or written order from me. W. W. Bray, Morley, Mo.

Dr. Schneider, the Cape optician, made his monthly trip to Kelso, New Hamburg and Benton last week.

John Vetter and son Lawrence of Big Island were here Tuesday. W. J. Worsley of Commerce was a Kicker visitor Tuesday.

The regular August term of the county court meets here Monday.

WEEKLY WEATHER REPORT issued by the weather bureau at Washington, D. C. for the week beginning Wednesday, July 28—Widely scattered showers and thunder-storms are indicated for the first half of the period, and generally fair weather during the latter half.

FROM NEW HAMBURG
We are to lose some good neighbors, but fortunately they are not going far. Mr. and Mrs. August Glaus gave a farewell luncheon Sunday at which many relatives and neighbors were present. They expect to move to their new location near Chaffee next week. A large crowd assembled to express regret at their departure from the neighborhood. They are good people and desirable neighbors.

FROM COMMERCCE
Sunday Marvin Taylor and his father, W. B. Taylor, and Will Hawkins were speeding along in Marvin's automobile between Jackson Hill and Macedonia. An inner tube of a front tire exploded, the machine turned a summer salt and the occupants were thrown in different directions. Marvin's collar bone was broken, while Hawkins seems to have escaped unhurt.

FROM LUXEMBURG
Mrs. B. J. Enderle and daughters spent Thursday of last week with their parents, and Mrs. John Enderle spent the same day with Mrs. Joe Enderle.

FROM MACEDONIA
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Spradlin of St. Louis visited his parents here last week.

FROM ORAN
J. D. Bowman, accompanied by Frank Walter, are off on a melon buying expedition. They went into Dunklin county in Joe's car.

FROM OWENSBY
Rev. Harris, our pastor, has moved back among us into the home vacated by him two months ago.

FROM BENTON
Miss Rita Rogers spent Sunday with her cousins, the Misses Pauline and Della Sneed.

FROM BENTON
Jonah Stark of Lemons went to Kentucky last week to visit the old folks at home.

FROM BENTON
Tom Cason of Lemons has gone to Dawson Springs to try to improve his health.

FROM BENTON
George Humphrey of Cary left Monday to visit his parents in Kentucky.

FROM BENTON
Mrs. Hugh Adame of the bottoms visited Mrs. Maud Gibbons Sunday.

FROM BENTON
Jim Johnson and sons of Thompson Bend, visited Curg Rogers Tuesday.

FROM BENTON
Cary has about 15 strangers looking for work, something unusual.

FROM BENTON
Green Sneed, who was at Lambertville, is now working at Blodgett.

FROM BENTON
Dell Mott of Cary visited his parents in Kentucky last week.

FROM BENTON
Tom Gibbons and family visited relatives at Dexter last week.

FROM BENTON
Mr. and Mrs. Dee Simpson were at the Cape Monday.

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER
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Why give your wheat away when you can get the top price for same by shipping to us? If you need sacks, write us and we will give you full information how to ship and what the market is. Address, Farmers Co-Operative Exchange Co., 404, N. First St., St. Louis, Mo.