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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1914.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

Milo, the Bottineau county murderer, has been sentenced to death. The fact that not for seven years before has the death penalty been imposed in this state shows pretty conclusively that there is no very great enthusiasm for the death penalty in this state. In cases of first degree murder the penalty, either death or life imprisonment, is fixed by the jury. Juries are made up of all sorts of men, and are chosen largely at random. They may be considered representative of the citizenship of the state. And, although during these years there have been several convictions of first degree murder, not for seven years has a jury in North Dakota assumed the responsibility of ordering the taking of a human life.

The reluctance to impose the death penalty is typical of the changing sentiment all over the country. In the early stages of society, life is rather lightly regarded. Men are put to death for comparatively slight infractions of the community's code. But, as society progresses, there is a growing appreciation of the sanctity of human life, and a growing recognition of the fact that severity of punishment is not a great deterrent of crime.

The torture of offenders has long been banished in all civilized communities. Capital punishment for minor offenses is no longer practiced. And there is a marked tendency to abandon capital punishment altogether. All of this does not imply sympathy with crime or the criminal, but rather an understanding that it is not well for the community itself to deal brutally, even with its greatest offenders.

OUT OF MEXICO.

American troops have been withdrawn from Vera Cruz, and today there is not an American soldier south of the Rio Grande. Whether, in view of the still unsettled state of the country, the withdrawal was or was not wise is a matter on which no one not fully familiar with all the facts in the situation is able to form an intelligent opinion. There seems to be some reasonableness in the view that, the United States being actually in possession of the city, it might have been well to hold on a little longer, until there is some semblance of central authority in the country. On the other hand, our occupation of Vera Cruz was not because of the absence of a stable Mexican government. It was not because there was at Vera Cruz such disorder as amounted to a state of anarchy. The city was occupied as a warning to General Huerta that he must cease his offensive actions toward the government and citizens of the United States or a worse thing would befall him. Vera Cruz itself was being governed by its local authorities, and conditions there were fairly orderly and peaceful.

The conditions which caused the occupation of the city have disappeared. Huerta has left Mexico, and the relations between the United States and all who claim authority in the country are polite, if not cordial. The administration has concluded that there is no further warrant for our presence in Vera Cruz, and we have left. It is for the Mexicans to take such steps as seem proper to them for the administration of the affairs of the city.

The Mexican expedition cost the United States the lives of some 20 of its citizens, and it is said to have cost, all told, ten million dollars in money. These expeditions are costly. In the meantime, we have collected several million dollars in customs duties, and this money is still in the possession of the American government. No indemnity will be asked of Mexico for the lives lost, or for the money spent. On the other hand, the money which has been collected in duties will be held as a trust fund, to be delivered to the national government of Mexico whenever a real government is organized.

The course which this country has followed with reference to Vera Cruz ought to serve as an impressive object lesson to the Mexicans. That it will serve in this manner to those who are able to get the lesson is undoubted. The United States refrained from making use of a series of very unpleasant and irritating incidents in the manner in which they would have been used had this country been bent on a policy of aggression. Our occupation of Vera Cruz could have been made the entering wedge for the occupation of all, or the greater part of Mexico's territory. Or, had it not been desired to grab much territory at this time, the "temporary" occupation of the country's chief seaport could, on one pretext or another, have been made permanent. Instead of that, we restore to Mexico her city intact, and admit the obligation to pay over all the money we have collected as soon as there is some lawful authority to receive it.

The illiteracy of most Mexicans, and the difficulty which exists in the way of their getting accurate information, will rob this lesson of some of its value. Wherever men are educated and intelligent they will understand. But if occasion for the distortion of the facts should arise, it will be easy for some bandit leader in the interior to persuade his ignorant dupes that the Americans, after having held Vera Cruz for a time, were driven out by brave and patriotic Mexicans.

THE RISING TIDE.

Chicago Herald: The tide is beginning to rise. Already the good ship Business feels the lift and movement of it. From present indications, it should not be long before the tide is high enough and strong enough to bear her out from the shallows of hesitation on to the broad sweeping currents of general activity and prosperity.

We know the tide is beginning to rise because certain important, familiar indications are present. One of the principal things experts look to is the bank clearings. The report from Chicago and other cities of the central west is that clearings are increasing.

Another sign to which particular attention is paid is the situation in the iron and steel industry. This is because of its immensity as a business and the fact that it is connected directly with so many other great industrial activities. The news comes that throughout the steel and iron district in Pennsylvania the labor forces are being increased.

Our export situation is rapidly changing for the better. We showed approximately a $60,000,000 surplus of exports over imports for October. Since July 1 this country has exported nearly as much wheat and flour as it did during the entire twelve months of 1913. It is estimated that we will have a total exportation surplus of 300,000,000 bushels of wheat, to say nothing of corn, oats and other grains. This great surplus comes just in the nick of time. It helps fill the gap made by diminished foreign demand for cotton.

Evidence of the same sort comes from scores of scattered but significant sources. Now it is a great automobile manufacturer who reports that he has an immense order from a foreign government. Now it is a manufacturer of boots and shoes or saddles who reports that the prosperity wave has struck him. Now it is an arms and ammunition concern or a tent stove manufacturer who is getting busy to supply one of the greatest buyers in the present market—the European war. Now it is a flour manufacturer who is working night and day to comply with export contracts.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE

The Herald takes pleasure in being able to announce to its readers that it is perfecting arrangements for a special and exclusive news service from Bismark during the legislative session. This work will be handled by Mr. H. D. Paulson, whose work during former sessions has been so favorably received, and whose thorough familiarity iwth the details of the work and personal acquaintance with state officials and many of the members of the legislature give him a distinct advantage in the collection of information which will be interesting and useful to the public.

This work will be started somewhat in advance of the opening of the session, and will be conducted until after adjournment. This legislative news feature will be of interest to those who wish to keep in touch with the routine of the two houses day by day, to those who wish to follow the political developments which are indicated in the progress of legislative work, and to those who have a liking for the human interest which attaches to a meeting of the state's lawmakers, and which comes to the front in the various feature stories and bits of corridor gossip which will characterize this work.

Other special features are now under consideration, and proper announcement will be made of these later on, but the readers of The Herald may rely on the best reports from Bismarck this winter that have ever appeared in a North Dakota paper. Readers whose subscriptions are about to expire should look after their renewals, in order that they may not miss any of the papers containing this service, and for those not now on the list, there could be no better time to subscribe.

MOVING PICTURE CENSORSHIP

There is no other public entertainment feature which appeals to so many people in America as the moving picture, and because of its wide appeal, especially to the young, there was, and is, a very active demand for the official censorship of the moving picture.

It is generally known by those who frequent the "movies" that there is, somewhere, under some auspices, a moving picture censorship. The announcement, accompanying the display of each film, that it has been passed by the official board of censors, conveys this information, but many people entertain the erroneous opinion that this board is "official" in that it exists and operates under some sort of legal authority. No such legal board exists, and, so far as legality goes, there is no public body which has the right to exercise censorship over any pictures, nor is it necessary, legally that any films be submitted for the approval of any board.

There is, in the city of New York, a body known as the board of censors to which are submitted nearly all of the films intended to be shown in this country, and this board, according to its judgment, recommends the destruction of entire films, the elimination of specially undesirable features from them, or the incorporation of other features which are believed to be desirable. All of the recommendations of this board are followed and the picture actually shown in this country, 95 per cent have been approved by the board. The other five per cent have not been submitted.

The board of censors was established by the People's Institute of New York, in co-operation with motion picture manufactures who realized that the reputable part of their business was bound to suffer from the odium brought upon it by those who catered to the lewd and the base. The arrangement is entirely voluntary, but it has proven effective in bringing under the influence of ernest and discreet people nearly all of the motion pictures in the country.

The voluntary nature of this censorship is its great strength. The involuntary nature of a legal censorship would be its great weakness. If the censorship, as at present constituted, is unwise or impractical, it will not work. It will fall to pieces of its own weight. The fact that it continues to exist, and that it is generally accepted is not conclusive, but at least prima facie evidence of the efficiency of its work. With a really official board there would be no such test. Many creatures of our legal system outlive their usefulness, if they were ever useful, and exist as obstructions and annoyances instead of helps. This, it is almost certain, would be the history of a legal censorship, if one were established.

A board is made up of people. Upon what group of people is the average citizen willing to confer authority to say, absolutely, and without appeal, what pictures he and the members of his family shall see? Let a board of censors acting as voluntary organization, condemn a certain book. No harm would be done. Those of us who wanted the book would buy it, and those who were willing to be guided by the verdict of the board would act accordingly. Incidentally, the fact that the pronouncement of the board would be generally ignored would demonstrate that the public does not want legal censorship of its reading. But if the same thing were attempted by a legal board the community and the board would be immediately be arrayed against in opposition to each other, and we would have introduced into our system an element foreign and antagonistic to it.

The same rule will hold with motion pictures, except that there is a greater willingness on the part of the public to have some central supervision over motion picture displays. This would certainly not go to the extent of accepting the decisions of a legal board. Let the board act as a voluntary body, and its decisions will be received, if not with entire approval, at least with respect and toleration. Let the same board be made legal body, with the authority of the state to enforce its mandates, and it would be regarded as an oppressive bureau, a relic of the dark ages.

One trouble with very many of those who demand legal censorship is that they fail that most people go to the motion picture shows to be entertained, and not to be educated or uplifted. It is against most of that which the crowd regards as entertaining that the denounciations are directed. Let the moving picture be refined to a point where it will contain nothing of the farcial, nothing of the melodramatic, nothing save that which will appeal to the educated and cultured, or those who are making a conscious effort to become so, and what will happen? Simply that the populace will quit going to the movies, and will go elsewhere, where it can find more fun.

LAUGH WITH US

A private anxious to secure leave of absence, sought his captain with a most convincing tale about a sick wife breaking her heart for his presence. The officer, familiar with the soldier's ways, replied:

"I am afraid you are not telling the truth. I have just received a letter from your wife urging me not to let you come home because you get drunk, break the furniture, and maltreat her shamefully."

The private saluted and started to leave the room. He paused at the door, asking: "Sor, may I speak to you, not as an officer but as mon to mon?"

"Yes; what is it?"

"Well, sor what I'm sayin' is this," approaching the captain and lowering his voice: "You and I are two of the most illigant liars the Lord ever made. I'm not married at all."

PAPA'S DESIRE.

Mr. Alway—Every minute your father withholds his consent is torment to me.
Miss Alys—Don't tell him; he'd be tickled to death if he thought he was tormenting you.

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AFWUL LACK OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Conditions Governing Care of Wounded in Europe Are Frightful.

New York, Nov. 24.—A distressing lack of medical supplies for the wounded for the battlefields of Europe is shown by appeals received by various relief organizations here and by the tremendous orders received from the warring nations by American manufacturers of such materials. Reports received at Red Cross headquarters from nurses attached to some of the hospital units sent to Europe by that organization show that the supply of absorbent cotton, bandages, gauze, aesthetics, iodine, alcohol, and similar necessities are utterly inadequate.

Operate While Conscious.

Servian hospitals ran short of anesthetics three weeks ago and surgical operations there since have been performed while wounded were conscious, according to Red Cross reports. Many deaths from shock of operations are reported. From nurses in French hospitals come such statements as "bandages, medicines and ambulance necessities are like the treasurers of kings. Gauze and anti-tetanique serum are very difficult to get and cotton is disappearing."

It is also reported that there is a great shortage of surgical instruments in the field hospitals behind the armies.

"This country does not know the awful need of medical supplies in Europe," said Cranton Brenton, New York war relief director of the Red Cross. "Imagination cannot exceed the horrors resulting from the lack of them. We are doing all we can but there is a great and pressing need of money to purchase the supplies."

Huge Orders.

American relief organizations and American manufacturers of hospital supplies are responding nobly to the call for aid. Many American manufacturies are being operated night and day and still are unable to fill the huge orders for absorbent cotton, gauze, bandages, and first aid packages. One manufacturer estimated that more than 2,000,000 pounds of absorbent cotton, hundreds of thousands of pounds of bandages and gauze and first aid packages have been shipped to Russia, Servia, Austria, Germany and France since the war began. One large order for surgical instruments has been placed in New York by the Russian government.

No national distinctions are made by the Red Cross in making shipments of medical supplies as fast as they can be purchased or donated. One large shipment containing 150 bales of absorbent cotton, 50,000 yards of gauze, 30,000 pounds of bandages, and 20,000 cases of hospital supplies was sent to Germany. Other large shipments have been shipped to Russia, Servia and France. Within ten days a large shipment will be made by the Red Cross to the Belgian refugees.

Great quantities of hospital clothing, supplies and surgical dressings are being received here from voluntary organizations of women throughout the country, working under the direction of the Red Cross. These are being forwarded to Europe as promptly as possible.

In a letter to the Red Cross headquarters here an American nurse, sent to Servia early in the war wrote:

Use Bandages Over Again.

"Passing through Uskub weeping women begged us to stay and help them organize. They had 1,200 wounded and expected 3,000 more. There are now 30,000 wounded and less than ten trained nurses so far as we know. The need is fearful. Surgeons are pitifully lacking. They are seriously short of doctors. Dressings are running so short that we are never allowed to cut off bandages, however stained, as they are washed and used again and again and we have to use wool to clean the wounds."

Receipt of this letter was in part the cause for the dispatch of the Red Cross Servian hospital units now enroute to that country.

NEAR THE FRONT WITH HOSPITAL

Paris, Nov. 24.—Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney's Irish hospital is located for the present in the College of Juilly, a famous institution dating from the sixteenth century in the town of Juilly, not far from Compiegne. Dr. Walton Martin and his seven assistant surgeons, all of New York, and fifteen nurses were setting up the hospital of 200 beds. This is one of several auxiliary units of the American hospital in the field. Robert Bacon, former American ambassador to France, arranged with the French military authorities for the site.

OLD-TIME HOUSEKEEPING.

How They Used to Do Things Back on the Farm.

(Leslie's Magazine.)

In a certain New England home, even so late as forty years ago, all the sugar used was made on the farm from maple sap. The starch was strained from boiled potatoes, the saleratus was scraped as pearly ash (hence called "pearl ash") from burned wood. The blankets and most of the woolen outer and under garments worn were spun and woven from wool raised on the place. The big flax patch supplied the linen, slowly and laboriously hetcheled, and finally manufactured into wonderful patterns.

The meat eaten was all home raised. The pork and beef were salted, dried, pickled or chopped into sausage by the women of the family. All of their vegetables and fruit grew in their gardens and orchards, and were transformed in their own busy kitchen into jellies, marmalades, preserves and pickles, and there was always a barrel of cider apple sauce on a stout, low shelf near the back door.

A tailoress came to the house occasionally to cut and partly make the men's clothes (which lasted, so to speak, forever); but the women cut and made their own clothes. Palm-leaf hats were worn around the farm by both the men and the women, and were always braided by the latter, who turned an honest penny by braiding them also for merchants in the nearest large towns. The stockings were all knit at home.

"We didn't have to get much of anything from the store but tea and coffee," said the bent and wrinkled, but soft-voiced and sweet-faced farmer's wife to me one day, "and half the time we drink some kind of herb tea. We like it first rate."

This was "woman's work" in the olden time. Now it is done almost entirely in factories—yet still it has to be done by women. That is the secret of the sincere part of the feminist movement.

The First Step

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