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NOW FORGET THE THAW CASE

The sustaining by the trial judge of the verdict of the jury that Thaw was not insane has, we hope, for the sake of decency, if nothing else, brought that dirty, disgusting, sith-racking case to a close—and it is to be hoped that the same will be cleaned away and the people allowed to forget it.

The public knew all along just what the jury determined and the verdict was no surprise. Outside of the minds—or rather the words—of paid abjects there was never any thought that Thaw was insane. His insanity plea was a ruse to head off his possible punishment for lawless bloodshed. It matters not what the character of his victim, Thaw's case was not at all a case of the unwritten law. He had married a woman of bad reputation and checked character. He must have known it when he chose and chased her into matrimony. It was small excuse for asperitation that he heard after marriage what everybody else seems to have known before the wedding, and slew the man who had borne relations with her when she was little better than a wanton.

But it was not insanity that led to the killing of White. It is doubtful if any single person ever believed that Thaw was insane. It is rather to his credit that he protested against bleeding madness when his lawyers adopted that plea as the easiest way out of his trouble.

Thaw's money and the seal of eminent lawyers to get it away from him are responsible for the endless litigation. He had the money and was willing. If not eager, to spend it in securing his liberty from the fix in which his lawyers had placed him. His course has been an eminently sane one. He believed that money could buy his freedom. The New York authorities sought to demonstrate in his case that money was not all potential. The longer they resisted the harder he fought. That he was able to do because lawyers were ready to try every expedient that would draw more fees from him.

Undoubtedly some of the lawyers who have profited from Thaw's dilemma have enjoyed this endless dalliance with the law and the courts. Nobody else has enjoyed it. It has been a humiliating reflection upon the American bar and the American judiciary everybody not in the case long ago wanted it terminated. Next to the war, there is probably nothing upon earth of which the reading public becomes so weary as the ramifications of the Thaw case. Now that it appears settled, let us hope that Shuster Thaw has enough left to avoid becoming a pauper. Thaw rich is had enough. Thaw as a pauper might be infinitely worse. Perhaps the best evidence that he has squandered his fortune lies in the fact that he has secured a verdict of sanity which may get him out of the clutches of the lawyers.

Perhaps his experience may have sobered the dazling youth into some consciousness of what he has been and what he ought hereafter to be in society. He has had time for reflection. If he has any surplus change left he may profitably devote it zealously to only such good works as may come for the life he led before ill fortune ensnared him.

YELLOW PRESS AND ASSASSINS

When Thomas Jefferson was inaugurated president of this republic, he rode alone from Virginia on horse back, tied his horse to a tree, went into the capital unguarded and took the oath as the chief executive of the United States. As previous to this event, and for some time after, there was no danger to presidents from assassins, for, for many years presidents went about unguarded, the people believing that tyrants and kings were the only ones who need fear assassination.

But the last fifty years has taught us differently. Three presidents have been assassinated, two of the assassins undoubtedly were demented and there is some doubt whether the other was of sound mind. These demented persons were undoubtedly influenced by extravagant writings in the yellow press. At the present time such persons are appearing again, and any newspaper that "plays up" fake stories about there being a large organization directed by some persons, that is engaged in un-

derhand warfare in this country by the use of bombs, deserves the severest condemnation of the people. There is no telling what serious effect it may have on unbalanced people. These people are to be killed and restrained wherever discovered and there seem to be a good many of them. There would be less difficulty in discovering and controlling them had some of the alienists not disgraced the profession in testimony that they have given at criminal trials for big fees.

No fair man will believe that there is any foreign government giving aid or counsel to any of the demented bomb throwers or undertaking to inaugurate war in this country. The principal cause of it is a yellow press, and it is to be regretted that St. Joseph is not entirely free from that kind of journalism. As the situation is, it is incumbent upon the authorities at Washington to take such measures as will make safe the life of President Wilson and other prominent men.

CARRANZA HAS RECONSIDERED

Something has happened that will at least form a hope for peace in Mexico. That happening is the fact that Carranza has at last reached a happier frame of mind with relation to the United States and President Wilson.

Ever since Villa's military triumphs established a constitutional government for Carranza to represent, the latter has avoided an opportunity to let the world know that he has little confidence in the bona fides of the United States and mightily little use for the president.

General Villa has been the one who has openly and at all times exhibited firm faith in the good intentions of the United States government in all its relations with the shifting situations in Mexico. Now with Carranza professing to recognize in President Wilson the modern Thomas Jefferson, it does seem as if things are notably improving in the caustic republic.

Carranza professes to desire to see established in Mexico a government along the lines advocated by Thomas Jefferson. The great question that has been at issue during all the long revolution has been that of the disposal of the lands. Villa has never favored Carranza for president because he professed to believe that Carranza would never carry out the promise made long ago in the constitution that soldiers that they would be given land for homes through the breaking up of the feudal system of holding lands.

TRAINING OUR OWN SOLDIERS

There will be two great camps at the coming session of congress for the national defense question is going to be a paramount one.

The jingo element will be there strong for tremendous expenditures for enlarging the army and navy—for it brings them money for their murder-dealing implements. There will be no extreme of recklessness in expenditure that will be too far for the jingoes to go. Even some of those who stand for peace wherever peace may be found consistent with honor and national advantage will probably agree that the navy should be reinforced to some extent, but the extent to which it is to be enlarged will be a matter of wide difference of opinion.

Where peace advocates will part company will be upon the question of how far the government should go in providing a citizenship trained for national defense, which may or may not mean for war.

From the message he sent to the last congress, in which he declared that this nation will be ready to defend itself, not through a large army or navy, but through a citizenship trained to arms, President Wilson has shown where he stands. He believes that the young men of the nation should be given military training to the extent to which they are voluntarily ready to absorb it. He would not, one may judge from his utterances, have them forced to acquire such training. Perhaps he thinks that there is enough inherent martiality in the youth of the country to provide all of the forces that time may disclose need for.

taught him that a defenseless nation, like a defenseless person, is liable to encounter some so reckless as to assault its rights, and that it is idle to protest if there be no accompanying and available power to make that protest good.

In the next congress, of course, everyone will be professing a desire to conserve the national defense. The jingoes will be insisting that what is needed is enormous expenditures for army and navy preparedness. The ultra peace advocates will be insisting that what we need for defense is such a repugnance for war as will, as an earnest of sincerity, leave us with no army or navy. Between these extremes will stand the exponents of a system that will provide defensive naval and military forces available in case of extreme emergency, and bring them into the field with training for the duties they must perform.

THE REAL TRAGEDY OF IT

The stopping of a couple of big revolver bullets by J. Pierp Morgan's body and the subsequent dramatic suicide of the shooter promptly called into prominence Frank Holt, who was proclaimed the heavy villain of a tragedy. But these acts were not the real tragedy.

The real tragedy of his whole wretched proceeding was developed when his broken body was carried 3,000 miles or more from the scene of his mad activities to its last resting place at Dallas, Tex. when an affectionate wife, prostrated to distraction by the knowledge of his terrible taking off, stood beside his grave clasping the hands of the two children that were the product of her unsuspecting love for this wrecked and despoiled creature. It was her friends who had brought flowers to lay upon his casket, not for love of or respect for him, but out of tender consideration for the still forgiving wife and mother and the children who must live to dread the mention of their father's name.

No greater tragedy was ever enacted, or even pictured in imagery than that which transpired at Dallas when the body of Frank Holt was consigned to its dust. What a termination was that of a refined woman's romance, of a doting father's hope and ambition for the happiness of an adored and deserving daughter and of the life prospects of two children of otherwise respectable lineage.

The injuries that Mr. Morgan sustained and the recollections of this unfortunate lunatic's self-slaughter are trivial when placed in comparison with the awful heartache of the woman and children whose love he did not even forget in his maddest ravings when his disordered brain was luring him on to death.

Old Senator Burton of Ohio is to make a swing around the circle, seeking for the Republican nomination for president. If we can only induce him to come to St. Joseph he will be given the most glorious of water welcomes—a splash in the big Muddy. He is the man who has always kept us from getting money to save the fertile farms that lie along the banks of the Missouri—but any old creek in Ohio could have millions.

If the Kansas board of pardons parole John A. Flack, who two years ago stole \$100,000 from trusting depositors of an Abilene bank, it will but demonstrate that the turning loose of self-confessed thieves is a latter day accomplishment.

Possibly Hadley may go through his opponents "like a posse of hounds through a country village," as he so cheerfully notifies his friends. He went through the whole state Republican party like a dose of salts when he mislaid the Missouri gubernatorial chair.

The fixers who picked the state Republican ticket at Jefferson City last winter and expected the gophers to swallow it, are a badly disappointed bunch. They have ripe, rankling discord in the ranks as a result and have made an increased Democratic majority a certainty.

That Florence row seems to be getting worse. The Florence people say that the Burlington people want to buy the choice part of their suburb, and the other side says that the Florence people are trying to force them to buy it.

Every reader of this paper should digest that great letter of Senator Stone's, published in this issue. Senator Stone offers some advice which every Democrat should heed.

Bill Evans of St. Louis and Al Speers of Osage county are trying to break into the forlorn honor class in the race for the empty honor of running for governor of Missouri on the GOP ticket.

It is not too early to begin the work of getting ready for the state campaign. The National ticket will settle itself, as everyone knows that President Wilson will be renominated and re-elected.

If the jingoes could do as they wished your boy would now be carrying a musket and shooting their powder and ball on some foreign battlefield—or possibly be in his grave.

Why didn't you save up your pennies and buy the Wabash railroad Wednesday? It is not often that you can buy a \$202,000,000 corporation at a knockdown price of \$18,600,000.

Teddy and his tin soldiers marched up the hill and down the other side, at San Francisco, Wednesday. The froth blew bravely from Teddy's front.

Of course there will be no peace in Europe now for a long time. Jane Addams says so—and when Jane says so, it is so, for she says so.

Many a rich man will probably find it as difficult to enter the kingdom of heaven as he finds it easy to keep outside a mundane jail.

Don't worry—there never was a better, or finer, or greater crop grown on the Missouri uplands than this year.

It will be plenty of time to snort about the city bond issue after Mayor Marshall and the council have fought it out.

What has become of that rare combination which "arranged" the coming Republican state ticket at Jefferson City last winter?

Hon. H. P. Stapel of Rock Port is announced as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

Some people are always saying "There ought to be something done about it," but they never do anything themselves.

Blessings of poverty are appreciated, especially by those who have never been blessed that way.

A News-Press headline of yesterday says: "Italians Push Ahead." They possibly slipped on "de banan."

If you keep quiet and listen you may learn a lot from people who talk too much.

Experience is a great teacher, but even experience can't teach some people.

A woman fights harder to get into society than she prays to get into heaven.

Robert I. Young has some wholesome truths in this issue of The Observer.

Ohio people are tired of the initiative and referendum—and propose to eliminate it.

The man who always looks straight ahead misses a lot of beautiful scenery on the side.

What have you to say about this real Missouri weather that we have had this week?

The fishing season for the tired St. Joseph business man does not seem to have arrived.

Another thing—let President Wilson settle the foreign question—you can't.

And now Bryan is charged with "splitting the Moose." Explain, please.

Sayings of Missouri Editors

It is to be expected. Of course cranks may be expected to turn out eccentric letters.—Kansas City Times.

Same Here in St. Joseph. A lot of our best fishermen depend on salt mackerel for breakfast.—Excelsior Springs Standard.

A Shame That Diaz Died. Diaz controlled Mexico for nearly forty years. He needs no other testimonial to greatness. Sorry he is dead.—Boonville Advertiser.

Lucky for the Pickpockets. Perhaps it is a lucky thing for the pickpockets who were traveling with it that the old bell has lost the power of speech.—Marble Hill Press.

Plenty Over Here, Too. The census bureau has discovered and reported that blindness has decreased in Nebraska in the past fifteen years. Come to think of it, a good many people in politics have had their eyes opened during that period.—Sedalia Capital.

Old Croaker White Exposes Kansas. William Allen White is quoted as saying that Kansas still spends \$2,500,000 a year on liquor. And such liquor!—Kansas City Times.

Give the Old Girl the Job. Mrs. Fankburt offers to help make ammunition for England. She is used to blowing and blowing up, and her offers ought to be accepted.—Boonville Advertiser.

She Captured his "Goul". Mas possesses no such thing as an immortal soul which lives on after he dies, says an evangelist. Ah, ha! His wife took it, probably while rifling his pockets.—St. Louis Times.

Just a Quip About Ark. An Arkansas citizen has discovered that that state is the only one mentioned in the Bible, and here is his proof: "Noah looked out of the Ark and saw land."—Nodaway Democrat Forum.

More Work for the Missionaries. At last China is waking up. She wants to learn the lingo, fox-trot, two-step and bunny bug. More and harder work for American missionaries.—Boonville Advertiser.

Some Salve for the Bullets. J. P. Morgan, Jr., has already made many millions in commissions for acting as agent for the European fools at war. That's some compensation for the two bullets Frank Holt put under his thick skin.—Fayette Advertiser.

Of Course They are Noisy. Texans have never really been able to overcome their desire to show Mexico what Texas has done and can do if left to her own strong inclinations and ample resources.—Kansas City Post.

Much Too Warm Down There. An Excelsior Springs exchange has an advertisement which says "Palm Beach Suits, 1/2 off." Evidently it has been warmer down there than in Linn county.—Linneus Bulletin.

Why There are Jingoes Here. When one reads of how the authorities at Munich have decreed imprisonment for those who charge excessive prices for food, it is the easier to explain why there are jingoes in the United States.—Kansas City Times.

Not While the Ball Rolls. So far as The Democrat is concerned, it has no desire to go to Europe in these troublous times. If we had the price, we might enjoy a trip of the kind after this turmoil is all over.—Memphis Democrat.

No More Than Before. Such is the confidence of the public in the legal system of this country that now that a jury has held Thaw sane, nobody knows any more about his sanity than was known before he escaped from Matewan.—Higginsville News.

Can Have Our, Too. The Sikeston Standard says it has an account against a "specialist" for advertising amounting to \$165 due for more than a year that will be sold privately. The Gazette has some similar bills that will be given away.—Howell County Gazette.

Who Would Do So? Where is the merchant who would sell a deadly weapon, knowing that it was to be used in the slaughter of his neighbor? And what of a neutral nation that would sell deadly weapons knowing they were to be used in the slaughter of foreign neighbors?—St. Joseph Eye.

Long Time Starving There. It is now nearly two years since the daily press set up the alarm that unless food reached Mexico City within a few days, the people will starve. There has been as many cases of starvation in the cities where the big dailies are printed, but it is long distance starvation cases that worries them.—Marcelline Mirror.

The Kansas Alfalfa Crop. Kansas farmers have returned temporarily to the fashion of long hair and long beards to prevent mosquitoes from interfering with harvesting. According to reports from western Kansas counties, the farmers and their hired hands have found this the only protection from the insects.—Kansas City Journal.

Savannah Democrat's Birthday. The Democrat this year starts on the fortieth year of its existence, and we do not know that there is much else to say concerning that fact, except to state that the paper expects to continue its existence and to advocate those things which it believes to be best for the people it serves and the town, county and nation in which it lives.—Savannah Democrat.

English Get Ready Slow. A reader explaining the success of the German forces in France, says the English have not yet begun to fight. That's the way it has impressed us. We know they were slow, and we would like to be informed when they will begin to appreciate the fact that unless they soon begin to do something Berlin will be the capital of Germany and London that country's greatest city.—Boonville Advertiser.

His Last Rustle the Best. "Some time since," said County Judge Ben Collins, "The Democrat, in mentioning the death of the negro Bill Wright, in Springfield, said that the court had paid his way to Hot Springs, and that he had only gotten as far as Springfield. What the court did was to pay his way to Springfield and no further. It was understood he was to rustle for himself from there on, and he rustled himself in front of an engine and was killed."—Henry County Democrat.

Qualifying for the Presidency. "The Underwood tariff is a failure," said Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman of Illinois in his Kansas City interview. "It has neither reduced the cost of living nor produced revenue." Of course, it would not occur to a Republican senator to point out that no tariff would produce revenue while the war was keeping tariff paying goods from coming into the country. That would be doing justice to the Wilson administration. But why should a party "statesman" believe that one way to prove he is qualified for the presidency is to show himself to be loped and unfair?—Kansas City Times.

AS TO "HERO" HOBSON

The Baltimore Sun Pays Its Respects to the Noisy Alabama Now Involuntarily Retired.

Former Congressman Hobson calls for a "dry White House," and suggests to the Anti-Saloon league that Mr. Wilson be "urged to practice total abstinence as an example and banish all intoxicating liquors from the capitol."

A great many persons have thought for a long time that the "hero of the Merrimac" got a permanent case of water on and weakening of the brain as a consequence of his protracted cold bath off Santiago. Certainly there is ground for the suspicion that something has given way in his upper story when he calls for a dry White House under such an administration as this, and when he urges so temperate a man as the president to become a total abstainer.

A good many congressmen probably need Mr. Hobson's lecture, but he knows perfectly well that the president has no power to force them to stop drinking and he ought to know that such an attempt on his part to regulate the personal habits of congressmen would merely create resentment and opposition.

As for Mr. Wilson himself, the suggestion is as impertinent as the brain of an officious meddler ever conceived. We do not know that Mr. Wilson ever touches alcoholic beverages, but we all know that he is the very personification of temperance in all things. If everybody in the country were as temperate as the president, there would not only be no liquor question but no temperance fanatics of any sort. Would the country be willing to swap a temperate, self-controlled president like Mr. Wilson for a dry one like Mr. Hobson, swept by the fevered brainstorms and deluded by the emotional mirages of the desert? We doubt it. It would be a "dry White House" indeed with the Hobson type of president in it—dry of statesmanship, dry of inspiration, dry of everything that makes for national greatness.

If Mr. Wilson ever takes a "nip" of anything, we can only say, as Mr. Lincoln said of Grant, we wish Mr. Hobson and other public men could not hold of his particular brand.—The Baltimore Sun.

WAR REPORTS FALSE

London, July 22.—"One of our principal assets in the war is our power to tell the exact truth from day to day about the military operations. This asset has been lost."

So says the Manchester Guardian Tuesday under the heading, "The War in Flanders, by a Student of the War." The writer adds:

"The German reports, when allowance is made for occasional exaggerations of victory and for an intelligent anticipation of events, are quite as reliable as our own. It is the more necessary to make this clear as we have several times made much of inaccuracies in the German reports of military operations. "Impartial American opinion ranks the truthfulness of German reports of land operations above our own. To many Englishmen the lack of frankness in the official reports is the most discouraging thing in the war."