The Herald.

By The
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THE CROWD.

An appropriate resolution for the New Year is suggested to us by the fact that the Mid-Winter Fair will begin Wednesday. Have we formulated, proposed and passed, each of us to himself and for himself, any steadfast immovable resolution as to our relations with the fair, especially as to the personal patronage we expect to extend to it? This question is not addressed to the stockholders or to the business men who have already subscribed liberally to the fair expenses, but rather to the individual citizenship of Brownsville and the Brownsville neighborhood. Have we observed and considered, many of us, the moral effect of the crowd on all public entertainments? Ask the preacher. His sermon may be a gem of eloquence, a model of skillful preparation, deeply spiritual, informed with faith hope and charity; but send him a rainy day and a rainy day congregation, half his choir absent, and even the few faithful souls on whom he is wont to count for sympathy and approbation absent, or nearly all of them absent. It must indeed be a rarely gifted preacher, and an exceptionally cheerful and hopeful congregation who can separate the service from its dismal accompanaments.

Ask the entertainment committee of any lodge, school or literary society. The program may have been carefully prepared, and may have been worked out with consummate care and skill, but afflict the entertainment with a small attendance where a larger one might reasonably be expected. All the genius, artistic skill, literary and forensic ability of the community can not keep that entertainment from being branded as a failure by 75 per cent of the people concerned in it, either as promoters or as spectators. True, there may be a few discriminating persons able to judge it on its merits, but they can not save it from being branded as a failure.

In spite of all our philosophy numbers tell the story in such affairs, as to the verdict of success or failure. Say what we may, we are all impressed by numbers the world over. From a camp meeting to a political barbecue; from a three ring circus to a Presidential inauguration we pronounce it a victory or defeat according to the number of people who go to see it.

Our Mid-Winter fairs are not likely to prove exceptions to this rule. This is where the people of Brownsville and the Brownsville neighborhood are concerned. The fair need not fail for lack of attendance, since there are enough of us here and hereabouts to care for that.

Of course The Herald is not foolish enough to believe that the population of the town can neglect all other interests and go and live on the fair grounds from the 7th to the 17th. No one expects that. Nevertheless it should be a matter of conscience with all of us to boost the attendance by our own presence as far as our business and our means will allow.

As to the daylight hours, we need not doubt that the fair is sufficiently advertised to secure plenty of exhibits and a large attendance from outside points. The evenings will be our opportunity to prevent any possible flattening out of the fair from an entertainment standpoint. Our young people will want to go—will go. Yet we must not make the mistake of leaving the evening altogether to the boys and girls. Let the opulent, dignified elders go and take their wives and daughters; let them go not as a benevolence, or as extending charity to a worthy people, but as a matter of civic pride, anxious to be thus publicly identified with the glory and success of the future great seaport of South Texas.

SAVE OUR CREDIT.

There is one appeal never made in vain to an American. How and why the idea of education got such a strong grip on the American heart, it might not be hard to explain, if there were time and space. It would be absurd to say of course that it has no grip on the hearts of other nations, but for present purposes it is enough to say that love of education is both a striking and an honorable distinction of the Texan wherever he is to be found. In truth he is apt to be a bit boastful about the liberal provision for education by the dauntless little republic of Texas even before she became a member of the great sisterhood of states in the North American union. Since her annexation to the union her sons have abated nothing in their loyalty to her peerless schools—public and private.

Hence the appeals made by The Herald this week, in the interests of the Brownsville public schools, is made with confidence, as to a people whose interest in the schools is an approved fact. Inasmuch as the appeal does not involve any material public sacrifice it is made with the greater confidence.

What is it? Just to pay your school taxes as soon as it is possible to do so. Pay them so that they may become immediately available for the needs of the school board. It is not unfair to ask the prompt payment of a debt, since it is a debt and since payment can not be deferred beyond a certain date without incurring a penalty.

The Herald is not going to pretend that the average man pays taxes gleefully. In fact, most of us pay grumblingly. Yet we pay—avoiding the penalty as far as possible. Also we are most of us alive to the fact that the ten per cent penalty represents a business proposition that works both ways—the use of the money by the school board at this emergency may save the borrowing of other sums on their part at the same rate of interest. The board is in debt. By paying taxes on or about the fifteenth of January we may not only save interest, but we may also save the credit of the district with the banks and with the concerns who have sold to the district on time.

Huerta declares he is in condition, financially, to put 150,000 men in the field. Have the federals at Ojinaga and Nuevo Laredo heard the cheering news?

A Frenchman named Brien manipulated a machine gun very effectively for the rebels at Laredo Thursday. Bet they do not pronounce it the same way in France as we do in this country. Bet they do not know how to pronounce it at all in France.

The constitutionalists seem willing to divide with general Luis Terrazas. They have only asked him to break loose from a quarter to half a million dollars.

WITH THE EDITORS

In the desire to expedite all forms of judicial procedure the English government has appointed a royal commission to see what can be done. "This suggests," says the New Orleans States, "that if England is in need of more speed in the courts what must be our needs in a similar way. The English courts are always have been much quicker in getting results than our own. Quibules and technicalities and the tangles which result from them have never found favor with British jurists. Their procedure is much simpler and more direct than ours, hence we might take a leaf out of the book of recommendations which has just been issued by the royal commission mentioned above." The commission recommends among other things the elimination of long winded grand juries, the putting of retired judges on a reserve list subject to call when cour work has accumulated, and measures for the suppression of unnecessary adjournments in trials.—Houston Post.

Three-fourths of the radium produced in the world during 1912 came from American ores and yet there are only two grams of radium in the United States, each gram being valued at $120,000. These are two statements made by Mr. Lane secretary of the interior, in advocating before the house mines committee a measure to withdraw all lands of the public domain suspected of containing radium. Certainly a bill for that purpose ought to pass unanimously and at the earliest possible moment. The rarity and fabulous value of radium make, in themselves, a sufficient reason for safeguarding jealously whatever few grams or grains of it may be secreted beneath the public domain. But an additional and more imperative reason for doing this to be found in the fact that radium promises to disclose curative powers which medical science suspects but lacks the hardihood to predict. Already there is an accumulation of evidence which warrants the hope, if not the belief, that in radium medical science will find the long sought cure for cancer, a frightful affliction that is becoming more common than one wishes to believe. Surely if nature in radium has given us a cure for cancer, what precious little of it there is to be obtained belongs, not to a individual nor to any company of individauls, but to all of the human kind, and it would be a crime against nature and civilization to neglect any measure that will safeguard it against private exploitation.—Houston Post.

That Washington court that decided a jackass is a horse in the eyes of the law may be correct, but we'll bet King Richard would not have offered his kingdom for one of that kind.—San Antonio Express.

The three persons who had the largest part in framing the new banking and currency bill were born within fifty miles of each other in the State of Virginia. President Wilson was born at Staunton, Va., in 1856; Senator Owen, chairman of the senate banking committee was born at Lynchburg, Va., in 1856, and Congressman Glass chairman of the corresponding house committee, was born at Lynchburg in 1858.—Fort Worth Record.

Forty-six per cent of the divorces in Chicago, and there are many, are caused by drunkeness, so reads the report of the commission which has gone to the court records and has classified the cases in their allegations. The mother-in-law has been responsible for only three per cent, and the other half of the complaints have been distributed among many causes.—Temple Telegram.

Some of the brightest, most piquant faces we ever beheld were covered with freckles. One brillian young lady whom we knew in our youth and who was a leading belle in a Southern city for many seasons used to declare that her freckles were a valuable adjunct to her personal appearance, and that without them she would be bereft of half her power to charm. There are spots on the sun; why should there not be spots on the daughter?—Denison Herald.

When Luther Burbank develops the odorless onion he might try his hand on silent celery.—Washington Herald.

HEALTH POINTERS

A certificate of death recently received assigns as the cause of death, "emphysema following bronchial asthma." For the contributory cause is given "Narcotism from smoking and chewing large quantities of tobacco from two years of age." The decedent at death was four years old. Although poisoned by the parents, we are informed there is no law to reach them. "Oh, pshaw," said the doctor, "this is not the only way parents kill their children."—Board of Health Report.

Of all the parasites that have their being in and around the habitation of man the rat has less to justify its existence than any other. As devoid of any redeeming traits as the fly, which has been the subject of a nationwide sanitary crusade the rat is a greater pest because of its depredations and its possibilities for harm in the transmission and perpetuation of bubonic plague in a community. The latter consideration is of more serious import in seaport towns wherever they may be and in those localities where plague has once appeared but with the worldwide march of bubonic plague in no city should its advent be considered as improbable.

Squirrels to the westward of the Rocky mountains and the marmot in Asia are subject to the disease in a more or less chronic form, but these animals, on account of their infrequent contcat with man, are a menace not so much in transmitting the disease to man as they are in being the source of a continued reintroduction of the disease among the neighboring rat population. It is, therefore, evident that the slogan "No rats, no plague" is very expressive of fact.

No discussion of the part taken by the rat in spreading plague will be attempted, except to say that plague is, primarily and essentially, a disease of rodents, chiefly the different species of rat, and that it is conveyed to human beings from plague infected rats through the agency of fleas which infest the sick animal.

When the plague has once gained a foothold in a country, the cost of stamping out the infection will be manifold the expense attendant upon the eradication of any other epidemic disease. The toll of human life may vary according to local conditions, but always the commercial prejudice against a plague infected port and the expenditure for eliminative measures will result in heavy financial drain.

Turning from the aspect of a sanitary menace to an ever-present and continued commercial drain, the following is of interest. To assign any accurately fixed sum to the amount of injury done by rats in the United States is impossible, but, estimating the loss at a rational minimum amount the sum is astounding. The calculation embraces two factors, namely, the rodent census and the average amount of damage done by one rat. Both of these factors can be determined within reasonable limitation.

Among the illiterate classes there is a geographically widespread folk belief that snuff dipping and tobacco chewing are preventatives againset anaemia. This folk belief one of us has encountered at various points from eastern North Caroant physician, as his place is rapidly question that it has received professional sanction from the more ignorant of the rural physicians.

With the passing away of the ignorant physicians, as his place is rapidly being taken by the modernly trained man, the professional sanction of these taints for children will rapidly pass away and with the phenomenal strides now being made in extending the public school system, a more enlightened rising generation will see the folly of the old popular belief.

The government which refuses to allow railroads to convey liquor into the forbidden territory of the dry States, obligingly forwards the patent medicine bottle by mail! Maine until recently dry, had a very large trade in patent medicines, as have the Southern States. It must give a peculiar satisfaction to the demon to thus get back to his former stamping grounds.

The alcoholic speedway down which the drunkard ordinarily coasts, includes beer, wine, whiskey, brandy and absinthe. But the patent medicine devotee leaps at once into the middle of the race, and finds himself with opium and cocaine ahead. Often he does not encounter them, but goes to the alcoholic ward by his own route.

Poor old John Chinaman took $30 000 worth of Uncle Sam's nostrums last year, having just awakened to the fact that the opium forbidden in other forms may be obtained in the patent medicines of his foreign neighbor. There was a goodly proportion of bracers, too, for John easily makes friends with the demon rum.

"I believe you said Rastus that you had a brother in the mining business in the west?"

"Yeh, boss, that's right."

"What kind of mining—gold mining, silver mining or copper mining?"

"Kalsomining, sah." — The Housekeeper.

MEXICO'S ONLY HOPE

To The Herald:

In my address before the City Council in Brownsville on the 29th of December, I stated that the lack of public schools was the principal cause of the unhappy condition of Mexico, but a sentence was omitted which destroyed the sense, hence I have repeated and amplified the argument.

The cause of the continuous wars in Mexico is usually attributed to the ambitions of unscrupulous politicians, and grafters, but the primary cause is the lack of education among the masses. The ambitious leaders would never have a following if the masses of the people were educated. The soldiers in many instances do not know what they are fighting for, hence we see them deserting from one party to the other without compunction.

A public school system was inaugurated under the Diaz administration and was being developed as fast as conditions permitted, but it had not yet reached the masses of the sparsely populated districts. I mentioned the fact that Argentina with a population of seven and a half millions had in her National primary schools, 1,200,000 pupils besides those in the sectarian and state schools This was in 1911 when Mexico was at peace, with a population just twice that of Argentina, but the imports of Argentina were four times and the exports eight times those of Mexico per capita.

I have mentioned Argentina because it is one of the Latin countries of America which are sometimes referred to as non-progressivev. Similar conditions prevail in Chile and Brazil where the public schools have been universal for many years. You will find peace and prosperity among the Latin countries in exact proportion to the quality of the system of public eduction. It may be said that white emigration from Europe has had much influence on the prosperity of the Latin countries mentioned, but those who know the Mexican population know that the masses who are of Indian descent are not inferior intellectually Juarez was of pure Indian descent and Diaz partly, and they have been preeminently the two greatest Mexican citizens. I have observed the Mexican character and civilization for several years and I am convinced that the Mexican people of Indian descent are capable of developing the very highest degree of civilization if given the opportunity. They are by nature amiable in disposition and artistic in all handicrafts.

I believe with opportunities they would be in no degree inferior to the Japanese whom they resemble racially. Personally I have little hope of permanent peace for Mexico and believe with all other Americans who are familiar with conditions that intervention must come finally. I am sure that the American people agree with President Wilson that we will never attempt to hold any part of Latin America as a permanent ocnquest. If intervention comes we should be satisfied to control the country long enough to establish a public school system that would give one generation the benefit of a common school education. If the public school system has been inferior in the past, what will it be for many years when at the present time it is practically noexistent. It is not the least of her calamities that her children are growing up in ignorance while the adults are being slaughtered and the land laid waste.

What hope have we for permanent peace in Mexico when the only education that the rising generation is getting is that of rapine, assassination and cruelty? When the civilized nations of the world intervene in the affairs of any nation for the sake of international peace one of the most important conditions insisted upon should be that the nation taken in hand shall establish and maintain a permanent public school system, for education is the only distinction between civilization and barbarism.

DR. W. F. COLE.

The Brazos flood has developed a large opportunity for the Carnegie hero commission. A portion of the Carnegie fund and numbers of Carnegie medals could be distributed as worthily here as any that have ever yet been bestowed for heroic service and deathless devotion to duty. All the annals of the past do not reveal greater acts of unselfish service and absolute heroism than have been displayed in the rescue work in this vicinity.Bryan Eagle.