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WOMEN, AND THE PRISON.

A woman was taken from Phoenix to the territorial prison last night, to serve a six-months sentence. She was duly convicted, and there was no course open to the court but to pass sentence. She was convicted of flagrant immorality, but that she was not altogether lacking in some of the better qualities was indicated by the fact that she had the support and sympathy of her husband and children to the last. The thought inevitably must occur to every observer that this is one more illustration of the fact that in the matter of the moral code society has one law for women and another for men, regardless of what the statutes say. It is true that occasionally a man is prosecuted and convicted of the same offense, and in that regard the officers of the law cannot be charged with favoritism. But "Stone the woman" has been the cry of the mob through all civilization. It was the same when Jesus told the ready witnesses against a woman of that day that he that was without guilt of the same sin might cast the first stone, and it is a tradition that the entire mob had taken to the brush before the Savior finished his rebuke.

The conviction of this woman also suggests that it is not comforting to any citizen of Arizona to think of imprisonment at Yuma for any creature who retains sufficient of the attributes of womanhood to hold the affections of husband and children. The Yuma prison is not an inviting place. Of all the prisons in the United States the Yuma penitentiary is probably the most repulsive hell-hole. It is little more than a hideous adobe "bull-pen" in which are corralled together two hundred and sixty criminals, many of them among the most hardened and desperate known to crime. So far as the men are concerned, they are perforce herded together indiscriminately, and if there be women convicts it is next to impossible to keep them separate at all times from the men.

There can be no such thing as separation of the youthful and promising from the wholly vicious, and cannot be until the reform school authorized by the last legislature is constructed and provisions are made by law for incarceration therein of young convicts for whom there is hope of reformation. Under existing conditions the young man sent to Yuma emerges a hardened criminal if the vilest and most contaminating associations and teachings can make him hardened. The people of Arizona in maintaining such a prison and refusing to replace it with a modern institution are guilty of a crime—a crime which is reacting upon them each year in an increasing procession of young men on their way to prison—young men who have already served a term or who have been led into crime by ex-convicts.

In all conscience, it is bad enough to send to this moral pest-house a man who still has a remnant of redeeming qualities. What must be said of a community which makes no provision for a woman guilty of some infraction of the statutes? A few days ago a howl was raised in backwoods Arkansaw because the governor of that state pardoned every woman out of the penitentiary, and there was talk of impeachment. But the whole country approved the action of the governor when he stated he had taken the cases into his own hands because the people of the commonwealth did not possess enough public spirit to provide a penal institution which would permit the separation of women convicts from the men. The Republican believes that the governor of Arizona would do a righteous act if he would in similar fashion set the seal of public disapproval upon the disgraceful situation at Yuma.

STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The decision of the supreme court of the United States on the status of the Philippines, in the absence of legislation, which will be rendered soon, is awaited with no less interest than was occasioned by the uncertainty as to Porto Rico before the decision in that case. The decision will settle the question whether the Philippine islands are a part of the United States in the sense that the government may not collect a tariff on goods brought from the islands to the United States. This is the question involved in the "fourteen diamond rings" case. It will determine the validity of the proclamation made by the president imposing a schedule of tariffs on the commerce between Manila and the United States after the signing of the treaty of Paris and before any legislation had been passed by congress.

The fourteen diamond rings controversy were brought to this country by an enlisted man in the First regiment, North Dakota volunteers. He served in Luzon, and while there carried on a little speculation in diamonds. He bought several and others he secured from comrades who pawned them to him. Returning with his regiment July 31, 1899, he was mustered out at the Presidio at San Francisco and went from there to his home in Wahpeton, N. D. He had the diamonds with him all this time and at San Francisco he omitted to declare them or to pay any duty.

He went from Wahpeton to Chicago, where, upon his arrival, a customs officer seized him and his rings on the ground that the latter were smuggled. The district attorney brought suit in the district court of northern Illinois and the case was tried before Judge Christian C. Kohlsaat. The defendant claimed that the Philippines were a part of the United States, and that under the constitution the government had no right to levy a duty on goods brought from one part of the United States to another part of the same.

The court held that for the purposes of a tariff the Philippine archipelago was foreign territory, and declared the property forfeited in accordance with the law governing smuggled goods. From this decision appeal was taken to the supreme court.

In the De Lima case, decided last spring, the supreme court held that congress had authority to legislate for territorial possessions, but it declared that the duties levied on merchandise brought to the United States from Porto Rico between the date when the Paris treaty was signed and the Foraker act was passed were illegal and they have since been refunded. Until the Spooner amendment was passed there was no congressional legislation touching the Philippines, and the tariff was imposed by decree of the president.

It remains to be seen whether the supreme court will find a difference between the Philippines and Porto Rico, permitting a tariff in the former while finding it illegal in the latter.

The main difference in the actual conditions lies in the fact that Porto Rico accepted our authority peacefully, while the Filipinos have been in open resistance which has amounted to a state of war.

The Spooner amendment, passed just at the close of last session, gives the president power to exercise, through appointees, judicial, civil and military functions in the Philippines. This act has not yet come before the courts for adjudication as to its constitutionality.

EUROPE'S SUGAR SURPLUS.

The proposed conference in Brussels to discuss the abolition of the sugar bounties seems to have been definitely arranged, says the New York Sun. It will be held in December or January, and only the sugar-exporting countries of Europe will be invited. The conference has become necessary on account of the critical position of the beet sugar industry.

Germany, Austria-Hungary, France and Russia, the great producing countries, have gathered a beet crop this fall that will yield the largest output of sugar yet produced. Germany in particular bids fair to be so overwhelmed with sugar that it can neither consume it nor sell it abroad except at a ruinous sacrifice. Owing to the enormous stimulation which the bounties paid on export sugar have given to the cultivation of the sugar beet this article is now the largest industrial staple of the German empire. About one-fourth of the sugar consumed by Europe and America is German beet sugar, although, curiously enough, the Germans themselves are small sugar eaters. They use only one-third as much sugar per capita as the people of the United States or Great Britain. The result is that for years past it has been necessary to find foreign markets for a great deal more than half the crop.

Year after year, the Germans have been putting more and more land into beets in spite of the increasing difficulties of selling sugar abroad at profitable prices. The unusually large crop of this year has come at a most unfortunate time, for Germany is suffering from a poor yield of wheat and rye, and industrial depression generally. The result is that the purchasing capacity of the poorer classes dependent upon the factories or the farms for support, has been seriously reduced. It is estimated that the decline in sugar consumption in Germany alone will amount during the fiscal year to 70,000 tons. With a decreasing home market Germany also sees a foreign market threatened. Cuba is reappearing as a competitor in the United States, which during the last few years have bought on an average about $12,000,000 worth of German sugar every year.

Although the crisis is most intense in Germany, similar conditions are found in all the other countries paying beet sugar bounties. Even in Spain, which a few years ago, did not produce sufficient sugar for its own consumption, the cultivation of the sugar beet has been so stimulated by bounties that the country now raises all its own sugar and has a surplus which it can scarcely sell abroad at a profit. In short, the supply of beet sugar must be curtailed or prices are certain to fall to a ruinous figure.

The governments of the sugar beet growing countries of Europe have decided that a definite and large restriction of the sugar beet area to be planted next spring has become an unavoidable necessity. Many persons are advocating the immediate reduction or the total abolition of the sugar bounties, but the question is whether a serious crisis may not be precipitated by suddenly withdrawing the stimulant on which a great industry has been built up. It may be interesting to see what remedy for the trouble will be applied.

THE MONEY ORDER BUSINESS.

The postal money order business of the United States is assuming large proportions. During the fiscal year ending June 30th last, the postoffice department issued 35,586,379 domestic orders, an increase of 3,525,396 over the number sold in 1900. Foreign orders to the amount of 1,247,888 were also issued. The aggregate sum called for by domestic orders was in round numbers 274½ millions of dollars, a gain of 35 2-3 millions over 1900. The increase in the last four years has been no less than 106¾ millions of dollars. The fees received during the year amounted to nearly $2,400,000, and the gross revenue, deducting arbitrary charges, tax, etc., was $1,668,659, which amount was turned over to the department in payment of general expenses.

Since its organization the department has transmitted the enormous sum of 4,386¾ millions of dollars, represented in 474½ millions of orders. In two years the loss to the department through improper payment of orders was $172.45—this, too, in a total business involving the payment of 570 2-3 millions of dollars. The losses through fire, robbery, etc., amounted to $15,018 in the same period. The average amount of each order, a subject interesting bankers, is not given in the figures issued by the department, but it is worthy of note that the cash held in sub-treasuries amounted at the end of this year to $3,436,614, and in postoffices, or in transit to the treasury to $6,576,007, a total of $10,012,622. This amount may be assumed to be constant in nature, and shows clearly that in a banking sense a very large idle sum is available as working capital. It is a known fact, indeed, that the express companies can always count on a heavy cash balance in bank, growing out of their money order business. The losses in the public service are immaterial, and are probably not heavier in proportion in semi-public or private transmission. There are in the United States 30,529 domestic money offices in operation, and commissions paid to third and fourth class offices amounted to $704,667. The postal money order department employs in its management between four hundred and five hundred officers and clerks. It is plain that the business is profitable in the highest degree, and bankers, whose revenue has diverted to postoffice channels, largely through inattention or indifference, should realize that the policy heretofore pursued by them is costing every year a large sum of money that ought to be added to bank revenue.

General Gomez has come out for Tomas Estrada Palma for president of Cuba, which doubtless settles whatever doubts there was as to Palma's election.

Every time a man receives an express package, he says the other man agreed to pay the charges.