

# The Prison Mirror.

Edited and Published by the Inmates

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## Subscription Rates.

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## TO THE PUBLIC.

THE PRISON MIRROR is a weekly paper published in the Minnesota state prison. All matter published in its columns is contributed by the inmates, except that properly credited. Its support must come from the outside as every inmate is given a paper without cost. It is published in the interest of the prison library and after paying for the printing outfit, contributed \$150 to the library fund the first year. Its objects are to encourage individual intellectual effort, provide a healthy journal for the inmates of this and other prisons, and, above all, to acquaint the outside world with the needs of the prison by reflecting its inner life and thus aid the cause of moral advancement and prison reform.

The Prison Trusty, published by the inmates of the penitentiary at Lansing, Kan., improves with every number. Give the boys a lift.

There are indications of another hot wave in Minnesota—the Minneapolis publishers are talking of swearing to their daily circulations.

The prison directors of Arkansas say the only persons in that state who believe that the convict lease system is the right thing are those who make money out of it.

Mr. John R. De Mier has been appointed warden of the penitentiary at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. De Mier was formerly connected with the Chester, Ill., penitentiary.

There are those who say that the Negro mind is inferior to the mind of the white man, nevertheless the Negro manages some how to graduate pretty near the head of his class wherever the leading colleges admit him.

There are persons so fearful of being accused of sentimentalism that they never commit a good deed. There are even those who would rather be called rascal than humanitarian. As we go down the scale we finally come to the fellow who takes pride in the name of "tough."

This issue closes the fifth volume of THE PRISON MIRROR. A sufficient number of short contributions have been promised by inmates and others to enable us to get out an almost wholly original paper next week—the beginning of the sixth year. There will be one feature, at least, of that issue which will be a pleasant surprise to our readers.

The Progressive Age, of Minneapolis, is one of the exceptions among avowed reform papers. It has been in the field just eighteen years, and its merit has increased with its growth. Reform papers as a rule start out brilliantly like shooting stars and like them end. The success of the Age is largely due, we think, to that jewel of jewels, consistency.

Some of the officers of the Minnesota state prison think they have been in the service a long time, and so they have, but comparatively speaking they are only beginners. Turnkey Elijah S. Darling has been on duty in the Massachusetts state prison at Charlestown thirty-eight years. There are two other officers who have served there nearly as long as Mr. Darling.

At the republican state convention in St. Paul, to kill time while the credentials committee was preparing its report, the members indulged as usual in "patriotic" speechmaking. As ex-Gov. Barto sat down, some one called, "Smith! Smith!" A little less than half the delegates blushing arose and began begging to be excused. The effect was almost as bad as that caused by hallooing "Rats" in a dog show.

Recent arrests of boys for various crimes has had a tendency to injure the theory that youthful diabolism is principally due to the deadly dime novel, inasmuch as a large number of the offenders could not read at all. To be raised in an atmosphere of ignorance and depravity is quite as bad for the minds of children as misdirected education of the primary kind. After all a good deal of ignorance is a more dangerous thing than a little learning.—Pioneer Press.

Here is the state ticket with which the republicans hope to swamp the democratic and people's parties this fall: For governor, Knute Nelson; lieutenant governor, David M. Clough; secretary of state, Fred P. Brown; state treasurer, Joseph Bobleter; attorney general, H. W. Childs; associate justices of the supreme court, D. A. Dickinson, Wm. Mitchell and C. Vanderburg. The name of the Hon. Knute Nelson was the only one presented to the convention for the governorship, ex Gov. A. R. McGill and Lieut. Gov. G. S. Ives having withdrawn on the eve of the convention.

Gen. H. W. Baker, the alliance nominee for governor, withdraws from the race. In his letter of resignation he pays his respects to the people's party in the following lively manner:

The most important step taken by the people's party of Minnesota, and sought to be enforced with relentless discipline, was making the subtreesy scheme the only test of party loyalty. To this procrustean bed must all its followers conform. Above all it is the special child of class legislation. Political charlatans offer it as wine at the banquet to beget iridescent dreams of easy fortune. To morrow it will be consigned to the lumber room of political trash.

Wow! Wow!!

THE MIRROR acknowledges the receipt of a kind invitation from Manager Pilling to come out and enjoy a "scoot" on his water toboggan slide at White Bear Lake. He says, "We should be pleased to have you visit Wildwood and enjoy the lake breezes and ride down one of our toboggan slides, which have almost set the people crazy." How delightful that would be; but from "almost" to entirely "crazy" is too small a margin for one to venture upon whose friends say he is already closely related to that mechanical contrivance by which the grindstone is made to go 'round. However, we are very willing to say on the word of one of our efficient officers, that the Wildwood toboggan slide is the "slickest" and "swiftest" thing of the season. To those of our readers who take delight in novel sensations we cheerfully recommend that they go and slide.

By their brutal treatment of Private Iams Col. Streator and Gen. Snowden succeeded in bringing upon themselves the contempt of about nine tenths of the people and in making a hero of Iams. Iams was a blatant fellow or he would not have given vent to his feelings in the manner and place that he did. To express satisfaction at the attempted assassination of Mr. Frick showed that his moral sense was very dull, but why was it a greater military offense for Iams to express his approval of the assault upon Mr. Frick than it would have been had the assaulted person been the most humble and obscure citizen of the United States? Had it been an assault upon one of the leading strikers, O'Donnell for instance, that Iams cheered, does anyone think that the passion of Col. Streator would have led him to treat Iams as he did? Of course not. Yet before the law, military or civil, O'Donnell is the peer of Frick. Iams is said to have been guilty of treason. If that is the case, then the military is out as the champion of Frick instead of the majesty of the state of Pennsylvania. If Iams laid himself liable to trial for treason, then we fear there are many thousands of American citizens who have within the past few weeks been guilty of treason. The conduct of the officers who took part in the disgraceful affair is being reprobated by all classes, civil and military, and, while Iams may not shine very brightly as a hero, the memory of Col. Streator and Gen. Snowden will not be held very sacred outside of the family of Frick.

When a song is sung so much that every one dislikes it, it is called popular.—Puck.

## Reformatory "Black Sheep."

That profound student of penology and friend of the prisoner, Charles E. Felton of Chicago, writing to the editor regarding a paroled man who had violated the rules of his conditional release, makes these pertinent remarks:

"Tell your boys that one 'black sheep' in the Elmira flock is a more determined turnkey, in keeping men locked in prison, than any one of the many in other prisons. When we go to legislative bodies, and ask for appropriations for the construction of reformatories, and the adoption of what is called the Elmira system—a corner stone, if not the keystone of the arch of which is the parole system—we are menaced with the statement that some of the paroled prisoners from reformatories are now inmates of other institutions, and we are powerless in trying to remove the prejudice thus created. I am not blaming the system, not your work, for it is good; but one release may prevent or delay the adoption of the system in other states, thereby detaining men who, if at liberty, probably would cease to do evil. Teach your boys that good conduct outside will result in the more kindly treatment of those who are paying penalties for crimes."

Comment on the above is unnecessary, except it be, perhaps, a statement such as a friend from the Emerald Isle once paused to make, "Th'm's me sentiments!"—Elmira Summary.

## Crime Does not Pay.

The death of Henry Wade Wilkes, commonly known as George Wilkes, is an illustration of the wretched results that follow a career of persistent crime. This man worked honestly until he was 27 years of age. The earnings of a clerkship were too small for him, and he tried to add to them by gambling. From gambling he naturally drifted to forgery, realizing as much as \$100,000 in three years.

The forger developed into an expert burglar, and Wilkes was so successful in his varied criminal operations that he became known as "The King of Crooks." At length the inevitable day arrived when life-long imprisonment stared the master criminal in the face. He saved himself by betraying his companions. Liberated for his perfidy, he sank lower in the scale, and became a homeless outcast, eking out existence by doing work of the most menial sort in a low New York grocery. He met a violent death at unknown hands, and was saved from the Potter's Field by the charity of a former acquaintance.

Such was the fate of one of the most successful criminals of the age. And his case was not an exception to the general rule. Rarely if ever is crime ultimately profitable. Even in the narrowest interpretation, honesty is the best policy.—N. Y. Press.

## Old Newspapers.

The oldest paper in France was commenced by Theophrastus Renaudot in 1632, during the reign of Louis XIII. It was called The Gazette de France.

The so called English Mercurie, now in MS. in the British museum, has been proved to be a forgery. The oldest regular newspaper published in England was established by Nathaniel Butler in 1662.

The first Dutch newspaper, which is still continued under the name of the Haarlem Courant, is dated Jan. 8, 1656. It was then called De Weeckelycke Courante van Europa and contained two folio pages of news.

The first newspaper published in North America was the Boston News Letter, commenced April 24, 1704. It was half a sheet of paper, 12 by 8 inches, two columns to a page. It survived for seventy two years and advocated the policy of the British government at the outbreak of the Revolution.

The first Russian newspaper was published in 1703. Peter the great not only took part personally in its editorial composition, but in correcting proofs, as appears from sheets still in existence, in which are marks and alterations in his own hand. There are two complete copies of the first year's edition of this paper in the imperial library of St. Petersburg.

## Preparing for Contingencies.

"One question more," said Van Sleavek, after selecting an engagement ring.

"Well, sir?" replied the jeweler.

"If this engagement should result in marriage, I suppose I could have this stone taken out and a genuine diamond of the same size put in?"—Midsummer Puck.

## Where the Hitch Comes In.

Bobby: How funny! I've been trying to subtract 925 from 837.

Mr. Lotos: Can't you do it?

Bobby: Almost; it goes all right till you get to the last figure.—Midsummer Puck.

There are in the South over 25,000 common schools for the negroes. Twenty-seven years ago there was not one, and there was a law against a negro learning to read or write.—Progressive Age.

Death! great proprietor of all.—Young.

## NEWS OF A WEEK.

July 27.

Fifty deaths and more than twice as many prostrations from the heat occur in Chicago.

The damage done to St. Paul by the great storm will exceed a quarter of a million of dollars.

The Minnesota Packing company's refinery at South St. Paul is burned. The loss will aggregate about \$50,000.

An Englishman and an American, each claiming superiority for his countrymen, lose their lives in a Mexican volcano.

H. C. Voorhees is nominated by the Republicans in the Fifteenth congressional district after a two days session, and on the 550th ballot.

The demand for farm hands in South Dakota is daily increasing, and the situation is becoming alarming as fears are entertained lest the bountiful harvest cannot be secured.

July 28.

Knute Nelson is nominated for governor by the Minnesota Republican state convention.

The senate passes the eight-hour bill. The measure goes to the president and will undoubtedly be approved.

Rioters take possession of the town of Merrill, Wis., and the Mayor asks assistance from the Governor for protection.

Three boys at Bedford, Mass., are suffocated in a closet through the catch of the door snapping and making them prisoners.

An explosion occurs in the Crane chemical works at Springfield, N. Y., blowing down a number of houses in the vicinity.

Forty street car conductors in Portland, Oregon, have been arrested for knocking down fares. The company claims that the loss averages \$4,600 per month.

July 29.

Canada proposes to submit the canal toll disagreement with the United States to arbitration.

It is said that a syndicate has been formed in Paris to push the Panama canal to completion.

Eastern cities still suffer with the intolerable heat, forty-two sunstrokes occurring in New York.

A prominent member of the Prussian landtag and a provincial councilor, is arrested in Austria for embezzlement.

A charge of theft preferred against Dr. Albert George, an attaché of the Swiss legation at Washington, may lead to international complications.

A sensation is created in the house by Mr. Watson, the Alliance congressman from Georgia, by charging members of that body with being drunk on the floor of the house.

July 30.

Alice Mitchell the murderess of Freda Ward is pronounced insane by the verdict of the jury.

The result of a mass meeting held in Merrill, Wis., by the striking mill hands, is that the trouble will be settled by arbitration.

Hon. Joseph R. Clarkson, one of the most prominent lawyers in Nebraska is drowned near Council Bluffs, Omaha, where he was fishing.

Physicians in Germany predict a general epidemic of cholera and say that all Europe will be attacked by the plague sooner or later.

It is reported in London that the queen has continued to make no concealment of her antipathy to Mr. Gladstone as the home rule champion.

July 31.

A prominent Italian engineer is arrested in Toulon, and will at once be expelled from France.

Hogbarth Sahlgard, for twenty-two years vice-consul of Sweden and Norway in St. Paul is dead.

The chief of police of New Orleans receives a letter from the Mafia, who claim they have the missing Judge Marr in their keeping.

Leo XIII. addresses a letter to the archbishops and bishops of Spain, Italy, and the two Americas on the subject of Christopher Columbus.

Owing to danger arising from small pox at points in Manitoba the governor of North Dakota, issues a proclamation absolutely quarantining against Manitoba.

The secretary of the treasury sends instructions to collectors of customs calling attention to the act passed by congress regarding the tolls to be exacted from Canadian vessels passing through the Sault St. Marie canal.

August 1.

Good progress is made in the work of closing up the wine rooms in St. Paul, and several saloon licenses are revoked.

The bill prohibiting all employes of the government from working over eight hours a day is signed by the president.

Designs are adopted by the postmaster general for a new series of postage stamps to be issued in commemoration of the discovery of America.

Gen. Speed S. Fry, superintendent of the Kentucky Soldiers Home is dead. He became famous as the man who killed a confederate general in single combat at the battle of Mill Springs.

August 2.

The Commercial bank of St. Paul will open for the transaction of business about Aug. 25.

Private Iams has Col. Streator of Pennsylvania arrested for aggravated assault and battery.

Three well known young men conspire to defraud several banks in Chicago. Rich relatives make good the loss.

No more attempts will be made by the Alliance of Minnesota to put up a ticket for governor, Gen. Baker having withdrawn from the candidacy.

Hotel Russell on Rest Island is purchased by John G. Woolley and will be occupied by the patients on the island until the Willard cottage is completed.