

Windham County Reformer

Published every Friday afternoon by
THE VERMONT PRINTING COMPANY,
(Incorporated)
HOWARD C. RICE, Editor.
E. H. CRANE, Treasurer.

Subscriptions.—Per year, \$1.50; six months, 75 cents; four months, 50 cents; per copy 5 cents. All subscriptions are payable in advance. Sample copies will be mailed free on request.

Advertising Rates.—The Reformer charges five cents per line of seven words for resolutions, obituary notices or cards of thanks, cash in advance, classified advertisements, ten cents a line for the first insertion, and five cents a line for each subsequent insertion. Display advertising rates on application.

The business offices and editorial rooms are in the Ullery building, Brattleboro, just below the American house; the mechanical department and the Reformer Print Shop are in the Ullery annex, in the rear of the Ullery building.

ENTERED AT BRATTLEBORO POST OFFICE AS SECOND CLASS MAIL
BRATTLEBORO, FRIDAY, APR. 13, 1906.

The Prison Reform.

The report to the governor of the committee which has recently investigated state prison conditions, given in summary elsewhere, will be a disappointment to the general public.

The testimony offered at the hearings during this investigation was published in the state newspapers and showed a condition of things which called for the placing of responsibility in some answerable and punishable quarter. The committee, however, although noting a great many deplorable conditions and things which "should not have been done," find the directors and superintendents efficient and faithful; and have almost unqualified commendation for everybody above Warden Harpin who, although qualified as efficient and a good disciplinarian, is declared to have been guilty of personal conduct "of a character that cannot be too severely censured." This is the high tide of the committee's denunciation of the doers and permittees of evil at the state prison, whose record is already familiar to the public. They content themselves with throwing the responsibility for immorality disclosed upon doors, locks, wash rooms and other inanimate objects.

With so many abuses and errors admitted, the public might reasonably expect that attentive directors and an efficient and conscientious superintendent, together with a financial surplus of over \$7,000, should have ensured irreproachable doors, locks, stairways and wash rooms and thus have prevented the deplorable conditions which the state now remembers with shame.

Nevertheless, in spite of its failure to place blame outspokenly where it belongs, and considering its assurance that all offenders will be punished, the report of the committee, when carefully read and considered, is encouraging for the future. Its various conclusions are not classified and will not be readily grasped, as a policy, by the average reader; but they are evidently based on the conviction that the present state system of dealing with criminals is faulty and that the vital and urgent demand of the whole situation is to reform the system. They are looking forward to better facilities and methods and the question of past blame and its penalty is of secondary interest to them and is readily resigned to the hands of the attorney-general.

Gathering up the scattered recommendations which the committee have introduced at judicious intervals in the gentle course of their review of past difficulties, we find them all excellent—outlining a plan which the next legislature should take into earnest consideration.

They recommend better pay for the right kind of management and assistance; a school, especially for young prisoners; a suitable hospital; more light and fresh air and proper sewerage; arrangement of rooms for the separation of men and women in the prison life; a law to allow the employment of "trustworthy" prisoners outside the prison; more humane treatment of refractory prisoners and corporal punishment only in extreme cases; a plain gray garb to replace the repulsive black and red now used; a common dining room and the privilege of conversation during meals; arrangements for private bathing and enlargement of quarters to relieve overcrowding.

The committee evidently believe these provisions will cover the needs of the prison since they offer no others; and we agree that proper quarters and care, work and instruction, wholesome food and regulations preserving and promoting self-respect are necessary adjuncts to prison discipline. But why has the Windsor prison lacked them in the past? Has there been no official power to fill these needs? Some of them would have required small outlay of money.

The truth is that the suggestions of the committee overlook the one great requisite to prison reform which their observations failed to note as lacking in the past—right supervision. No official report, however smooth and tolerant its phrases, can disguise the fact that with the right kind of supervision no extreme conditions of uncleanness, immorality, or abuse can long exist; and that without it, the best system must fail.

There is no scheme of prison management known that will work itself. There must be strong humanity, energy, executive ability and sterling character back of it, in the persons of superintendents and directors of the institution.

"Graft in Offices."

The Burlington Clipper is much concerned over the number of federal and state offices held by Windham county men. The argument about the geo-

graphical location of office-holders is a worn-out one, but the parallel column can be effectively employed in answer to our Burlington contemporary. Chittenden county also has some office-holders. Here is a partial list:

Hon. David J. Foster, Burlington, member of congress.

Hon. Seneca Hazeltin, Burlington, judge of supreme court.

Hon. George E. Johnson, Burlington, clerk of United States court.

Hon. J. E. Cushman, Burlington, commissioner state taxes.

Hon. U. A. Woodbury, Burlington, member board of visitors, West Point Military academy.

Hon. Thos. Reeves, Burlington, United States deputy marshal.

Deputy Collectors of Customs Alexander, Burleson and Smalley, Burlington.

Hon. George E. Johnson, Burlington, United States commissioner.

Hon. H. C. Gleason, Burlington, United States deputy internal revenue collector.

Col. C. W. Scarff, Burlington, member of governor's staff.

Hon. M. H. Buckham, Burlington, ex-officio member state board of agriculture.

Hon. Cassius Peck, Burlington, trustee state agricultural college.

Dr. P. A. Rich, Burlington, state cattle commissioner.

Prof. George H. Perkins, Burlington, state geologist.

Mrs. M. H. Buckham, Burlington, state library commissioner.

Hon. Henry Ballard, Burlington, member tuberculosis commission.

Hon. J. H. Jackson, Burlington, member state board dental commissioners.

J. G. Bellrose, Burlington, member state board of pharmacy.

Dr. Samuel Sparhawk, Burlington, member state board of medical registration.

Dr. W. S. Nay, Underhill, secretary state board medical registration.

Dr. Guy E. London, Burlington, member state board osteopathy examiners.

Hon. E. W. Ravlin, Colchester, door-keeper of senate.

Dr. B. H. Stone, Burlington, medical director of state laboratory.

Prof. H. L. White, Burlington, medico-legal chemist, state laboratory.

And, as the auction bids say, "many others, too numerous to mention."

We find no fault with any of these office-holders. They are good citizens, faithful public servants, every one; but our Burlington friends should remember and heed the warning to "people who live in glass houses."

The question of the relation of the franchise privilege to good citizenship was touched upon very dramatically during the recent celebration of Tuskegee's silver jubilee. President Cyrus Northrop of the university of Minnesota, in speaking of education as the solution for the race problem, expressed the opinion that the enfranchisement of the mass of the negro race at the close of the civil war was a colossal blunder. William Lloyd Garrison took sharp issue to this statement, contending that the way "to teach a man to vote is to put the ballot into his hand." By results attained, we can most fairly reckon the value of measures employed; and the number of good citizens which the negro race is furnishing the country even in the few short years of freedom and citizenship which have been given it proves that its enfranchisement in ignorance and degradation was far from being the "colossal blunder" the first few years of chaos indicated. The emancipation of the negroes from slavery to citizenship was a great step which, while in the right direction, was unavoidably accompanied by danger. Mr. Garrison is right. The only way to teach a young bird to fly is to turn him out of the nest and, at the risk of falls and failures, make him try to use his wings.

It appears that, in spite of numerous gasoline fatalities and public and private explanation of them, the gasoline oil is still used by people utterly ignorant of its real nature. A Burlington woman was seriously burned Saturday while cleaning dress goods in a bowl of gasoline beside a gas stove over which the household was preparing dinner. The news item relating the accident says that "suddenly, with no apparent explosion, the gasoline burst into flames," enveloping the woman. Using gasoline in a room where there is any open flame is extremely dangerous and evidence of gross ignorance. In the Burlington case the liquid in the bowl continued to throw off its vapor—as it always does when exposed to the air—until the vapor spread far enough to touch the flame of the gas stove. The instant this connection occurred the vapor ignited and carried the flame to the gasoline in the bowl. The woman, surrounded by the vapor, was, within an instant, in a mass of flame. Yet people will go on fooling fatuously with this useful industrial agent, which is dangerous only under certain plain conditions. A few simple but emphatic directions to go to purchasers of the stuff might possibly save a few lives.

The opinion seems to be growing throughout the state that John H. Merrifield of Newfane is to be the next lieutenant-governor of Vermont. The Fair Haven Era says: "There is no question now about John H. Merrifield," he himself having said last week that he is in the fight for the position; and the Bennington Banner adds: "Colonel Leland and Colonel Prouty are both candidates, but that is about as far as either of them will get this year for, unless all signs fail, John Merrifield will be the next lieutenant-governor of the state." "All signs fail in a dry time," is an old saying; but, in this instance, although it is an exceedingly dry year in Vermont, the Banner's signs will undoubtedly hold true. Mr. Merrifield's claims for recognition are substantial and unquestionable.

Chicago, April 5.—Major Moses W. Jenks of Evanston, 86 years old, died yesterday as the result of efforts to go to the polls Tuesday. His boast was that he had not failed to vote in 20 years.

Here was a type of citizenship into which the problem of carriages for voters does not enter and in connection with which the question of the purity of the ballot does not figure. To men who, at 86, risk life to go to the polls, the franchise is more than a means of money or influence. It is an expression of active fidelity to unselfish principles.

If the desire to beat Proctor is strong enough to induce many democrats to vote in republican caucuses for the election of delegates to the state convention, as it is rumored that they are registering to do, the status of "Anything to beat Proctor?" as a campaign argument will be materially changed. Anything to beat Proctor that legitimately succeeds will—beat him. What more could be expected of campaign arguments capable of analysis?

The state investigating committee find the doors and locks at the state prison responsible for the Mary-and-Vernon-Rogers scandal and recommend their removal. The penetrative justice of this finding is apparent. Now we have the blame for that disgraceful episode placed where it belongs and the penalty fixed.

One way to help keep the streets tidy is to teach the children at home not to throw any refuse into them or on the sidewalks.—St. Albans Messenger.

The home is the place where all reforms should begin or, rather, where the need of them should be checked in its inception. That so many public reforms are needed in this country today is a reproach to the American home.

There appears, at the present time, to be little, if any, objection in the Republican party of the state to the selection of Fletcher D. Proctor as its candidate for governor this year.—Lyndon Union-Journal.

Almost as little objection to him, apparently, as there is demand for him.

A New Vermont with the same old political machine in charge! Whew! what a stretch of imagination!—Bristol Herald.

When Vermont's renewal is complete, this contemplated mental effort may not be required.

How many Vermont ladies would like to be the ice-cream woman, along with the Brattleboro member of the Vermont Ice Dealers' association?—Burke Times.

Lots of them, if they had the ability to run the business as successfully as Mrs. Hamilton does.

Governor Bell "Smoked Out."

The article in the St. Johnsbury Caledonian last week in advocacy of Congressman Haskins' re-nomination has had its probably intended effect in "smoking out" Governor Bell's candidacy, says the local correspondent of the Springfield Republican under date of April 7. At any rate it is promptly followed by the governor's formal announcement that he wants the nomination—which those on the inside have known for nearly a year past. The republican press of the district is rapidly lining up, with the majority outside of this district apparently on Bell's side, or at least against Haskins, and ready to support, if not Bell, Plimley of Northfield, of whom Col. Haskins was chiefly instrumental in securing for him. Mr. Plimley has had ambitions in this direction for a dozen years past, and support has appeared in several conventions, not only in that district but in the Vermont senate, against him and Judge C. Stafford, but in earlier days, when successively the late Col. Hooker, Judge L. M. Read, J. L. Martin or Gov. Dale were trying to wrest the prize from Gen. Grant.

This year thus far, however, Mr. Plimley has preserved the sphinx attitude, and presumably aims to hold the balance of power between the two sides, so as to either dictate terms for the future of combining with the one that proves weakest, though there are some indications that he designs an aggressive fight for Plimley and Plimley this year. The general idea about the district has hitherto been that he only sought heirship to Haskins. Just how far Bell's strength with the farmers will prove available in a congressional fight is an interesting subject of speculation. It was sufficient for him to carry off the governorship easily, with the machine apparently, and "at first certainly, against him, and he has made a pretty good governor in a little more than a routine way, but without any very decided impress on affairs, which, indeed, under the Vermont system, is impossible except from the very strong indications that he designs an aggressive fight for Plimley and Plimley this year. The general idea about the district has hitherto been that he only sought heirship to Haskins. Just how far Bell's strength with the farmers will prove available in a congressional fight is an interesting subject of speculation.

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Looks Like Whiteash.

The Vermont legislative commission's report on the condition of affairs at the state prison at Windsor bears a strong resemblance to whiteash. The prison officials do not come off entirely free from criticism. That would hardly have been possible after the disclosures made during the hearing. But the findings of the commission are far less damaging to the feelings or reputations of the officials than was the testimony of the witnesses at the hearing.

The Ohio legislature has passed a law raising the saloon tax from \$350 to \$1,000 which is expected to drive 6,000 saloons out of the state out of business and 20,000 men out of work. There are now 13,000 saloons in Ohio. The gain in public revenues as a result of the increased tax is expected to be \$3,450,000. Under the law three-tenths of the liquor revenues go to the state, five-tenths to municipalities and two-tenths to the poor fund.

The director of the census announced at Washington March 23 statistics of manufacturing industries of Vermont for 1904. Forty per cent of the census of manufactures of 1905. The census is confined to manufacturing establishments with a product of \$500 or over, thus excluding the neighborhood industries, building trades, drapery, clothing and blacksmithing. There were reported at the 12th census 4071 establishments, with 29,455 wage-earners and products valued at \$57,923,815. The statistics indicate a marked increase in the manufactures of the state. The principal industries are dairying, lumber, marble and stone works and woolen goods. The total capital invested in the state in 1905 was \$92,658,741, apportioned as follows: Dairy interests, \$12,129,237; lumber, \$7,505,476; stone, \$14,467,335; woolen goods, \$5,659,649. The total value of products for the year is \$63,082,611, divided as follows: Dairy, \$6,786,022; lumber, \$8,968,578; stone, \$9,570,436; woolen goods, \$4,698,405. The number of establishments decreased 12.3 per cent, since 1900. Capital invested increased 47.4 per cent; salaries, 30.6 per cent; wages, 33.2 per cent, and value of products 22.5 per cent.

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THE WEEK IN THE WORLD.

Great Events and Movements Which Are Making History.

The Hungarian parliamentary crisis is over, as peace has been concluded between the crown and the Hungarians. Owing to the resignation of Premier Petyofvary, Alexander Wokier has been appointed premier, and is commencing by the endeavoring to form a conciliatory cabinet for Hungary. Both sides express satisfaction with the settlement, which on the one hand is declared to be a complete victory for the crown, but appears to be really in the nature of a compromise.

It causes rejoicing in both halves of the monarchy, as the long struggle has had a disastrous effect on the financial and economic situation in Hungary. The coalition was much weakened by a period of anarchy, which would have been inevitable if the elections were not held before April 9, as prescribed by the constitution. Under the terms of the agreement the emperor-king agrees to the formation of a new cabinet by the coalition to carry out the elections under the old limited election law this month, and to hold a session of the parliament in May. The government guarantees to pass a bill of amnesty also the recruiting, military, and investment bills and international commercial treaties, and to maintain the status quo between Austria and Hungary. The new parliament will be asked to pass a bill dissolving universal suffrage, and will then be dissolved, allowing the election of a new parliament under the universal suffrage system to deal with the military demands and rights of the crown under the constitution.

The government, after the universal suffrage election, will be formed in conformity with the desires of the majority of the parliament. Dr. Wokier, the new premier, was born in 1844; entered the department of finance in 1879; was assistant and then minister of finance, and from 1892 to 1894, was president of the council of ministers.

President Gompers of the American federation of labor is directing the movement, announced two weeks ago, to elect labor candidates to congress. As the result of his energetic efforts, a bill, known as the "labor law," is coming to Washington from western and northern states that labor candidates are to be placed in the field this fall. Members of congress are hearing reports of their own members' conduct, and are much disgusted. There is talk of nominating independent candidates on the labor ticket unless the sitting member should come out in favor of the legislative program advocated by President Gompers. The extent to which this measure will be carried depends upon the replies made by present members to the questions which the federation will soon put to them drafted for the purpose of putting on record the members of congress who are in the attitude toward the anti-inflation bill, the conspiracy bill, and other measures in which organized labor is interested. These questions will be submitted to both democratic and republican candidates for congress, and the men making the most satisfactory replies will receive the support of labor, irrespective of party. When both candidates in a district show antipathy toward the labor bill, the Gompers committee will recommend the candidate who is least hostile to the labor bill. The Tammany congressman, made a very strong speech in the house on Thursday of this week. He incorporated in it President Gompers' complaint of the labor bill, and severely reprimanded the administration and the republican house for their failure to give favorable consideration to the complaint.

Finland's new election law, which virtually is a new constitution, has been completed. It is liberal, and it is believed will be entirely satisfactory to the Finns. The law provides for a united list of 200 deputies elected for three years by the various districts. Suffrage is granted to all adults 24 years old, regardless of sex, only public charges and criminals being excluded. There will be annual sessions of the diet, lasting 90 days, beginning Feb. 1, 1907. The diet will elect its own president and vice-presidents. The sessions will be opened by the president of the diet, or his deputy, who will submit the imperial program for legislation. Bills which pass their third reading become laws without the approval of the executive or the emperor. The sessions will be public and the Finnish and Swedish languages may be used during the debate.

The Moroccan convention was signed at Algiers, Spain, Saturday and the conference adjourned sine die. The text of the convention for Moroccan reforms is a formidable document of 16 columns, seven chapters and 222 articles. The most interesting chapter relates to the Moroccan police. It consists of 12 articles, and provides for natives as rank and file, and as commanders, French and Spanish instructors, and a Swiss inspector-general. The force will consist of 3,500 officers and men distributed at eight posts. The other chapters refer to contraband, the state bank, the customs and public utilities and essentials.

"Medical Offices" Refused Use of Mails.

Orders have been issued by Postmaster-General Cortelyou instructing the postmasters at New York and Brooklyn to refuse to deliver mail to the "medical offices" located in those cities, and also to refuse to deliver mail matter received addressed to the fictitious and assumed names under which parties conducting these offices hide their identity. This industry is in line with efforts made in other cities. The post office department statement issued in connection with the order says that the condition of affairs which has developed under the "medical offices" investigations in all of these cities has been appalling. It was found that in a large number of instances those engaged in conducting these offices have criminal records and are "dope" fiends. In Boston one of the doctors excluded by the department from the mails was supposed to have been the office at which was performed the fatal operation upon the young woman, Susan Geary—the suit-case murder. One of the "doctors" who the department found identified with several of these "offices" in Boston was also connected with the Susan Geary case. The number of deaths that have been caused in these offices can never be known. The volume of business done by these offices was large. It was said that as high as 20 criminal operations a day were performed in some of these offices, and that the income sometimes ranged as high as \$2,000 a week.

Manufacturing Industries of Vermont.

The director of the census announced at Washington March 23 statistics of manufacturing industries of Vermont for 1904. Forty per cent of the census of manufactures of 1905. The census is confined to manufacturing establishments with a product of \$500 or over, thus excluding the neighborhood industries, building trades, drapery, clothing and blacksmithing. There were reported at the 12th census 4071 establishments, with 29,455 wage-earners and products valued at \$57,923,815. The statistics indicate a marked increase in the manufactures of the state. The principal industries are dairying, lumber, marble and stone works and woolen goods. The total capital invested in the state in 1905 was \$92,658,741, apportioned as follows: Dairy interests, \$12,129,237; lumber, \$7,505,476; stone, \$14,467,335; woolen goods, \$5,659,649. The total value of products for the year is \$63,082,611, divided as follows: Dairy, \$6,786,022; lumber, \$8,968,578; stone, \$9,570,436; woolen goods, \$4,698,405. The number of establishments decreased 12.3 per cent, since 1900. Capital invested increased 47.4 per cent; salaries, 30.6 per cent; wages, 33.2 per cent, and value of products 22.5 per cent.

The Ohio legislature has passed a law raising the saloon tax from \$350 to \$1,000 which is expected to drive 6,000 saloons out of the state out of business and 20,000 men out of work. There are now 13,000 saloons in Ohio. The gain in public revenues as a result of the increased tax is expected to be \$3,450,000. Under the law three-tenths of the liquor revenues go to the state, five-tenths to municipalities and two-tenths to the poor fund.

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