

**Comment--and
Discomment**

This sickly sentimentality over criminals is beginning to get our royal goat. There is no man so brutal and bestial that, once he gets thrown in prison, cannot manage to squeeze out a few tears and sob a story of the reformation that came too late. Immediately thereafter can be found hundreds of good but misguided women and an equal number of men who plead with the authorities to have the law set aside and another chance given the offender. It's an old, old game—as old as the shell game—and fully as effective.

We are referring, as you may have guessed, to the attempt to save the worthless hides of Cole and Grammer. These two men were sentenced to pay the supreme penalty, and richly deserved all they got. You may argue all you please about the evidence—it was sufficient to convince the trial judge, who is not a blood-thirsty man, and the jury, who were all men with homes and who realized that the taxes they paid entitled them to protection.

Stop and figure it up, and see just how long it has been since these men received their death sentence, and how the purpose of existing law has been defeated. Reprieve after reprieve has been granted, sometimes illegally. At the last minute, when the executioner is on the ground, and the electric chair ready, our spineless little governor comes forward with another stay of execution. Close upon the heels of this every newspaper in the state receives a bulletin from the Organization for the Suppression of Capital Punishment in Nebraska. It makes one wonder whether the governor knew this was coming.

It's a pathetic picture that the society draws in its bulletin. Listen to this: "If you want to show mercy as you would expect to receive it, then in this hour of dire need of these condemned boys (now but 20 and 21, and they have been in prison two years and a half) do them a little act of mercy by writing on a postal card an appeal to the governor to grant a stay of execution until the people of the state have voted upon the question of capital punishment, which they have never had an opportunity to do."

No one that we know can say where or when the Society for the Suppression of Capital Punishment in Nebraska was organized, or who constitutes its members. Frankly, folks, this appeal sounds like the work of a clever lawyer who is attempting to carry his case to the people and win, not on a basis of the facts presented to the jury, but by an appeal to the sentimentality of people who have a horror of blood.

The evidence in this case indicated that one man hired another to kill a woman, and that the work was done according to specifications; no extenuating circumstances; no sudden blow in anger; no head muddled with wine—simply a murder of a defenseless woman in cold blood—a

murder planned to the smallest detail and carried out for money—money for the murderer and money for the man who hired him.

Oh, this appeal to the people is cleverly worded. It carefully avoids discussing the crime or mentioning any circumstance surrounding it, but addresses itself to "humane citizens" and declares: "your silence is giving your consent to the execution of two boys. Your share of personal responsibility will be established beyond recall if you make no effort in their behalf when an opportunity requiring so little effort as this appeal asks is offered you." The appeal will cost but a penny, it is urged "and may be the sole means of saving their lives. If it was your son or brother or husband (they are all of these to someone) would you not want this done? Do ye unto others as ye would others should do unto you," Christ said."

It is inevitable that so clever a piece of work should not have some effect. A few editors have fallen for it. Lee Richmond, who patches together each issue of his Minden Courier, comes out in an editorial headed, "An Act of Mercy," and pleads for "two fellow mortals in this dark hour of their dire need." Lee admits that he knows nothing whatever about the case, but because he doesn't favor capital punishment, he is glad to further the cause "whatever" he can. He has sent his protest to the governor, and hopes that all the readers of his paper will act on his lack of knowledge and imitate his humane example. It is probable that he knows no more about capital punishment than he does about Cole and Grammer. But it flatters him to be called a "humane citizen."

It is just this lack of knowledge that makes the situation serious. In these days, when there is an organized force to do away with all government, the reins should be drawn more tightly, not allowed to fall on the dashboard. When, on every side, there is a campaign against law and order, the surest way to help that campaign is lax enforcement of existing legislation. Justice should be tempered with mercy, of course, but sentimentality is not mercy, and it certainly isn't justice.

No one holds that every murderer should pay the death penalty. There are many cases where it is justifiable, if not desirable. But the death penalty ought to be there, and ought to be enforced in the worst cases, as a deterrent to crime. The man or woman who kills in anger, or to avenge a wrong, will probably never do it again. The man who kills when he is drunk will probably never get that drunk again. The one who murders when his mind is affected is not responsible, but he should be placed and kept where he will never have another opportunity to cause others to lose their lives when he loses his head.

But just as the negro who lets his lust control him deserves to be lynched, so does the man who calmly plans to take another's life, or hires someone to do it for him, deserve the death penalty. It ought to be administered without delay. Every day these men cheat the gallows someone else grows more confident that he will also escape. The newly organized society pleads for

the substitution of life imprisonment without pardon for all first degree murder, and, "demands the rigid enforcement of all laws"—that is, all laws but the ones they do not wish observed.

The burglar is in favor of rigidly enforcing all laws but those which punish burglars. The bootlegger favors prompt action in all cases save those which concern his trade; the forger may have a horror of the low-down bootlegger. The fact is that we have set up courts of justice and have laid down rules for them to observe. No jury is compelled to recommend the death penalty—and no jury will make such a recommendation unless they believe it the right punishment.

It is unthinkable to refer all court decisions to a vote of the people. That would make of our courts a bigger joke than the board of pardons is making of them. It's time to stop coddling criminals. It may be true, as they are saying, that criminal tendencies are the manifestation of a disease, and that the forger, or the burglar, or the cut-throat are all subjects for the surgeon rather than the electric chair. The time may come when criminals will be operated on and their criminality removed, just as the surgeons remove appendices now. But until remove appendices now. But until have a purpose.

The purpose of prisons is three-fold. Primarily the object is to protect the public. A safe burglar is one who is in jail. A safe murderer is a dead murderer. The second object is to warn others that the law has a long arm, and that the reward of violation is instant punishment. The third is to reform the criminal, if possible. But it's hard to reform and punish at the same time. What child ever felt contrite while he was being spanked, even though his parents assured him at the time that they were "doing it for his good." Prisons were not built to take the place of Sunday schools, but as a last resort when churches and Sunday schools fail.

If the society really means what it says—that life imprisonment without pardon or reprieve should take the place of capital punishment—then it is advocating a worse penalty than the law imposes. Death is preferable to life imprisonment; without hope of release. But the society doesn't really mean that at all. It knows that once the sentimentalists gain the upper hand, capital punishment will go, and later life imprisonment will follow. Already the pardon board releases prisoners who have barely entered the penitentiary, and who have not reformed or paid any penalty. As Box Butte's county attorney expresses it, "the prisoner often beats the sheriff home" when the latter goes down to escort him to the penitentiary.

Here's another picture of the Cole-Grammer case: The wife of one of the condemned men visits the penitentiary. The electric chair is set up, the executioner says it is ready. The wife seats herself in the chair in which her husband is slated to die. When she arises, she declaims: "My husband will never sit in this chair." And the chief reason for the statement is that she has faith in the power of sentimentality when stirred to the proper pitch.

We hold no brief against those who have considered the matter and are against capital punishment. But when you are weeping over the wives and mothers of the condemned men, spare a tear or two for the family of the victims. When, if ever, this question is voted on, consider what it would mean to you to have your husband, or brother, or wife, murdered. The chief advantage of the death penalty lies in its effectiveness. Call it barbarous if you will, say that it is a relic of the dark ages, but remember that a would-be murderer who knows he faces sure death if discovered is more likely to stay his hand.

GOOD-BYE, SUFFRAGISTS!

The Woman Suffrage association expects to go out of business as soon as the suffrage amendment has been ratified by thirty-six states. So Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt says, and she expects the organization to dissolve at its last convention next February in Chicago.

Perhaps it will provide for itself a sort of reincarnation by merging into the national league of women voters, but it is not disorderly to hope it will not, but that its members will go into the existing political organizations of men and punch them to do better.

If the suffrage association quits, the anti association will doubtless quit also, leaving the world to fall back to its great primary division of people into males and females. That will be nice and remind us all pleasantly of old times except that both kinds of people will vote.

When Mrs. Catt, reviewing the exploits of the great suffrage leaders, spoke of Susan Anthony as "that indomitable soul who has long been laid to rest," she spoke inaccurately. It is only the body of Susan Anthony that is laid to rest. All advices, especially the most recent favor belief that her soul is working overtime, probabl yon jobs of organization.

Souls like hers are not at all likely to quit work.—Life.

HEMINGFORD

The pastor of the Methodist church reports that the congregations on a recent Sunday were encouragingly large. He administered the sacrament of the Lord's supper to about sixty communicants. Every service was well attended and there was lots of good music. There was special music including a solo and chorus, Mr. Mattison and choir; a solo by Miss English, accompanied by Mrs. Muirhead, and at the morning service Gladys Caha and Fay

Muirhead rendered a beautiful duet. Adrian Clarke on the Saxophone and Loer Osborn with the violin rendered pleasing music.

The ladies' aid society was to meet last Wednesday with Mrs. George W. Wiltsey, but on account of her illness they met at the church. There was a good attendance and a lot of work was accomplished.

Dr. O. S. Baker, district superintendent, preached at the church last Sunday at 7:30 p. m. Those present were treated to an excellent discourse.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Johnson, on Sunday, January 18, a fine boy (a carpenter), all doing well.

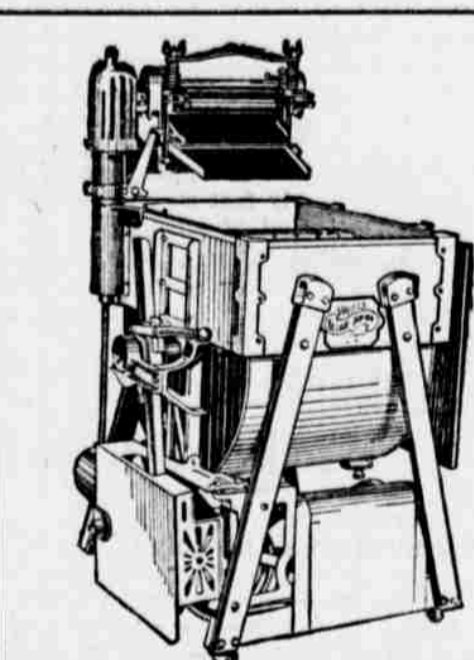
The Lockwood store building is nearing completion. On the second floor there will be a large clothing room, Mr. Lockwood's own private room, a public rest room, two fine office rooms, each with a waiting room, halls, lavatory, etc. In connection with this the big, two-story Farmers' State bank is going up with brick work completed. The two business concerns expect to be located in their new quarters within about a month.

Alexander Berkman and Emma Goldman want to stay in America to tell us what a bad place it is.—Arkansas Gazette.

Let the
WHITE DeLuxe
Do your washing while you eat breakfast

YOU have never thought it possible to do two things at once—surely you never thought of doing your washing and getting breakfast at the same time.

You Can Do It With a White's DeLuxe



Wash and Wring at the Same Time

Electric Washing Machine. Just put the clothes and the soap and water into it and press the button. It does the work with no further attention until you want to stop it. That gives the opportunity to prepare your meal without a thought of the washing. You get twice as much work done in an hour as you could if you did the washing yourself—and without the drudgery.

Price \$125.00
Terms if You Desire

The Swinging Wringer allows you to set it in any position while the machine is washing the clothes, the wringer can be at work also.

You simply run the clothes from the cylinder through the wringer into the rinse water—put a new lot of clothes into the cylinder while these are being washed, you are wringing the first batch dry.

It is almost like play—it is so simple. The average washing can be completed in one-fifth the time it takes the ordinary way. And when the clothes are on the line the housewife is just as fresh as when she started, for the White's DeLuxe relieves her of every bit of the work of washing and wringing.

Let us send one up for you to try before you do your next washing. The White's DeLuxe Swinging Wringer, or White's DeLuxe Revolving Bench Washer.

Newberry's Hardware Co.

You Can Begin

to make preparations for the next Christmas right now. How much would it have helped to have received a check for one hundred or more dollars last holiday time? You could have purchased all the gifts you wished and have money left over, perhaps.

We have organized the simplest, most convenient method of raising this extra hundred for you. Just place \$2 each week to your credit for a period of fifty weeks. Next Christmas, in plenty of time, just when you are most in need of extra money (think of your expenses which fall due about the first of the year) you'll have it.

If \$2 a week is more than you can handle, select a smaller one. Any sum you determine upon can be deposited. Figure up your holiday expenses, divide them by fifty and START TODAY by Saving. In addition to your principal you will receive

There are two classes of Savings Clubs which we have organized to help you form the habit of thrift. Both continue for fifty weeks. If you commence with a given amount and each week increase the deposit by an amount equal to that with which you commenced the account. Thus, in the 2c Club: First week, deposit 2c; second week, 4c; third week, 6c; etc. The other club includes those members who deposit a certain sum weekly for fifty weeks, with no increase in the amount deposited. The various clubs and the amounts follow:

50 Weeks With Deposits in Multiples		50 Weeks With Straight Deposits	
1c Club amounts to	\$ 12.75	25c Club amounts to	\$ 12.50
2c Club amounts to	25.50	50c Club amounts to	25.00
5c Club amounts to	63.75	\$1.00 Club amounts to	50.00
10c Club amounts to	127.75	\$5.00 Club amounts to	250.00

X-Club includes those making any amount regularly, the same each week.

First State Bank

ONLY BANK IN ALLIANCE THAT GUARANTEES ITS DEPOSITORS PROTECTION



LOOK AT THE FUTURE

Ancient methods and cure-alls put but little check on abnormal conditions. Times have changed and science is progressing.

CHIROPRACTIC

is Nature's way of restoring normal conditions and relieving impinged nerves.

Visit us and let us tell you about CHIROPRACTIC ADJUSTMENTS

Annie G. Jeffrey

CHIROPRACTOR

Graduate Palmer School
Wilson Block Alliance, Nebr.