

RANDOM SHOTS

From dear old Boston comes a conundrum that is so good that we'll have to break over our rule and pass it along: "Why is an after-dinner speech like a woman's skirt?" The answer: "Because it should be long enough to cover the bare facts, yet short enough to be interesting."

A friend of ours, who happens to be spending his third week in quarantine, telephones that it's a hard life for a busy man. "I've even got tired of holding my wife's hand," he complains.

If John Ladd is having as hard a job as we are to line up a feminine partner for the printers' party, there'll be a couple of unattached men absent and not accounted for. Heaven protects the poor working girl!

There's a regular crime wave at Bennet, which is in this state somewhere. Vandals are doing such devilish tricks as untying horses, carrying away signs, and one assassin tore down the town's only thermometer and "completely smashed it." The Sun calls it "guerrilla warfare" and is as much worked up about it as Rufus Jones is over the Minutare frebugs.

Five years ago when a man talked about passing a law to enforce his private opinions no one paid any attention. But times have changed. It pays to listen to anybody who mentions a new law nowadays, because the first thing you know he may go and get it passed, says the revered Saturday Evening Post.

A painter got a serious fall while decorating the interior of the Sun office at Aurora. That's nothing—most of the customers will have heart failure the first time they get a look at the place after it is dolled up. Those are the penalties a printer must expect to pay when he puts on style.

If the "bluenose" element ever puts through their list of Sunday restrictions, we may see the day when it will be illegal to sell gasoline on Sunday, except to a doctor. Think of slapping a stiff fine on a gasoline bootlegger.

Suggestion for the historical museum of the chamber of commerce: A copy of President Plumber's three-hour speech to the stockholders of the Alliance Packing company, which ended half an hour before the organization breathed its last.

It's a terrible death to be talked to death—it's a horrible death to die.

We were getting our shoes shined the other evening—we do that once in a while, despite the general impression to the contrary—and in blew a breezy high school youth. He chatted away quite merrily about how easy it is to put things over on the faculty. "Why," he said, "time and again I've smoked cigarettes right outside the main entrance. And I've chewed to-

acco in the assembly room, too." His companion, who was openly admiring the nerve of the intrepid youth, who didn't give a hang for the regulations asked: "But where do you spit?" The Fearless One told him, without a moment's hesitation, "In the inkwell," he said.

The following poem shows the fearful trend of the times:

YOU KNOW IT.
Sam's girl is tall and slender,
My girl is fat and low,
Sam's girl wears silks and satins,
My girl wears calico.
Sam's girl is fast and speedy,
My girl is pure and good,
Do you think I swap my girl for Sam's?
You know darned well I would!

We suppose this story will be grounds for some reformers to rise up and demand that chewing tobacco be abolished, or that front doors be done away with; or that teachers be removed; or shoe shining parlors regulated. It's the chance of a lifetime and we aren't charging a cent for the tip on a first class crusade.

The high school youth spoke with evident sincerity, but there was one point that troubled us. Once in a while, in our unregenerate youth, we took a chew, and we have never yet seen an inkwell large enough to last us over five minutes.

We'll gamble, however, that someone looks over the inkwells, just to make sure.

It may interest some people to know that the Pennsylvania state movie censors held up "The Miracle Man" for some time, and finally insisted on chopping out a scene or two. See if you can figure out which ones.

In the scrimmage the little man had been knocked down and trampled on. "Stand back, there!" shouted the benevolent stranger. "Give him air, and hurry up with the brandy." "Never mind about the air," murmured the patient in a faint voice.

Heretofore the only way to get fifty-seven people out to the same prayer meeting has been to serve ice cream and cake.

Never again will we say that a woman can't take a joke. The Boss of the Palm Room, in conjunction with the Incomparable Waitress, put one over on us in connection with reindeer sausage that will keep us properly subdued for the best part of a month.

You see, we rather wittily commented on the fact that we might eat reindeer sausage, and that very night the I. W. informed us that no matter what we ordered, we'd get reindeer sausage. Now, reindeer, according to our ideas, is like a mixture of mutton and dog, and you can figure how our appetite faded away between the time we reluctantly put in our order for reindeer sausage and the time we got our veal chops.

ARGUES AGAIN CENSORSHIP AND SUNDAY CLOSING

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The truth is that the people who are lamoring for censorship are attempting, in the name of protecting the children, to impose on you their ideas of what is right and wrong. There is no assurance that their ideas are right ones, any more than the ideas of the fanatics who burned innocent girls to death as witches were right, but if they succeed in getting his bill passed, it will make no difference. Physicians are positive that the average man and woman eat a good many things that are harmful and detrimental to health, but they have not as yet had the sublime nerve to attempt to get the legislature to regulate your diet.

The Child Standard for Adults.

We believe that you'll resent this attempt on the part of a handful of "moral reformers" to say what kind of moving pictures you may see. We believe that you will object to any attempt, however well meaning, to make the standard of amusement for ten-year-old children your standard, just as you would object to being forced to wear knickerbockers, eat healthy oatmeal for your breakfast, or braid your hair, if you have hair to braid.

If you will go over the answers to the movie questions given by Alliance pupils, you will realize that if this is the best case the censorship advocates can make, it is pretty weak. You will find that the great majority of the pupils go to the movies but once or twice a week, which is certainly not often enough to interfere with their studies or their health. You will find that a large proportion of them like the wholesome western plays, or the good dramas, which is a fair indication that the minds and the morals of ninety-nine out of a hundred have not been damaged. You'll find, of course, that the children do not like all the pictures they see. The younger students say they cannot understand some of them. A few of the older girls say they think parts of a few films are embarrassing, but in all the time we have conducted a motion picture show at Alliance, we have never heard a high school girl or a parent complain that a picture was indecent, nor have we ever seen one get up and leave a performance for that reason.

A Youthful Entertainer.

Two children are reported to have declared that they spend as much as \$5 a week at the picture show. That sounds like a whole lot of money—it is a whole lot of money—and we are prepared to say there isn't a child in Alliance who has spent that amount in any one week, let alone maintaining that high an average. Figure it out for yourself: Children's admissions are 20 cents. To spend \$5 in a week, a child would have to attend twenty-five times. We have but seven shows a week. To spend that much, a boy would have to bring three friends with him and attend every night. It's simply out of the question, if this had actually been done, however, we can assure you that in no other way would he have been able to entertain his friends for so little money.

This sort of statement is characteristic of the so-called evidence that will be presented to the legislature. Do you not object to being "made the goat" on such flimsy testimony?

We do our utmost to conduct a clean, high grade show. We use every care in selecting the films to be presented. Without casting any bouquets at ourselves, we believe the Imperial runs as high grade a performance as any in the state. Sometimes we are disappointed in the films we receive, but we never make the same kind of a mistake twice. The chief fault that we have to find with the few films we disapprove is not that they are indecent, but that they are dull and uninteresting.

Censorship in the Home.

No person in Alliance is obliged to attend the picture show. Every attraction we run is advertised in four or more ways. We use newspaper space in both papers; we use the Imperial News, our own publication; we distribute handbills and plaster the billboards. Anyone who can see or read can tell in advance whether any particular show will appeal to them. If parents think a play may be unfit for their children to see—and we will never bring one of that kind to Alliance if we can help it—they should exercise their own authority of censorship and stay away, or keep their children at home. They have no right to say that another, whose judgment may not coincide with theirs, shall not see the play. Neither should this authority be granted to any three people in the state. There are no three people fit to exercise it.

State censorship, however, is not the only problem that is up for discussion. In Alliance, within the past few days, a petition has been circulated on the quiet, the object of which is to close the Alliance theater on Sunday. This petition has not been made public—in fact, there is evidence for believing that the people behind this move do not want publicity. They are making a house-to-house canvass, and presenting it only after they are satisfied that the person with whom they are talking is in favor of Sunday closing. Those who think otherwise are not let in on the secret if it can be avoided.

People Favor Sunday Shows.

The Sunday closing question has been fought out in Alliance before, and the last time the public voted upon it, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of allowing Alliance people the right to spend their Sundays as they wanted to spend them—not as a minority thought the day should be observed. We are safe in calling it a minority, for the last election showed 70 per cent of the people in favor of Sunday theaters.

If this matter ever gets as far as a vote, think the matter over seriously before you mark your ballot either for or against. Remember, among other things, that the moving picture keeps no man or woman away from church. No one is forced to at-

tend Sunday shows. If Sunday closing is adopted, however, there will be no place but the church to go. If anyone neglects his church, why blame the moving picture show? Why not place the blame where it rightly belongs, on either the man himself or the church he neglects?

When the last election on this question was held, the writer made no fight for or against the proposal. He was absent from the city, in Montreal, where his mother was seriously ill, during the entire campaign. The fight was carried on by those who were not financially interested, yet the decision of Alliance was overwhelming. We believe that the decision today would be just as emphatic as it was in 1913.

Self-Righteous Reformers.

The move to close the theatres on Sunday is closely allied with the move for state censorship. In both cases, the agitation is started by a few who are not content that others shall form their own judgments, but instead desire to impose their opinions on the rest of the city or the state. If you believe that these self-righteous people should be rebuked; if you believe that you have a right to choose your own amusements on week days, and spend Sunday, your only day of rest, as you see fit, have the courage of your convictions and take a stand openly.

If the matter were ever put to a referendum vote, it is probable that the result would be the same as in Nelson, where a secret ballot taken showed that 75 per cent of the people were opposed to censorship. The legislature will not allow you to have any vote as regards censorship, but you do have the right to write your senator and representative. A letter to Senator James W. Good, or Representative Dwight P. Griswold, Lincoln, will have an effect. The bill will soon be up for action, and if the letter is to be written, it should be done at once. Fortunately, you can settle the Sunday closing agitation by your own vote.

Let me repeat that at all times, it

will be the endeavor of the Imperial theater to exhibit only the highest grade shows, in the future, as in the past. Any censoring that is to be done should be done by yourself, not by a board of fanatics whom you have no power to either appoint or remove.
H. A. DUBUQUE.

GOOD PIANO FOR RENT IN ALLIANCE

with privilege of buying at special prices and having all rent paid apply on purchase price. Must be willing to rent at least six months. Give full references in first letter.
THE KNIGHT-CAMPBELL MUSIC COMPANY,
Denver, Colorado. 19-28

The American Legion in Nebraska has refused to endorse a bill introduced in the state legislature to pay service men a cash bonus but have taken the stand that substantial aid in establishing the veterans with farms and homes will prove of greater benefit to the men and to the state. In Missouri, however, the legion is back of a bill which will provide a \$10 cash bonus for every month of service of Missouri veterans. Both state organizations are asking that November 11 be made a legal holiday, that service men shall be given preference in public appointments and that the sport of boxing be legalized.

Stock hogs wanted by the Nebraska Land Company. 103-1f

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SANITARY MARKET wishes to assure the public that the beef bought for public consumption of Wayne Wilson, was thought by a few to be diseased and therefore unfit to be sold, has been inspected by United States Veterinary Inspector J. M. Simpson, and pronounced unquestionably O. K. The herd is tested every six months by State or Federal Veterinarians and has passed two consecutive tests without evidence of tuberculosis. This meat is now being sold over the counter at our market.

The Sanitary Market is careful at all times to handle only those meats that are beyond question, and takes this means to assure the buying public of this fact.

Sanitary Market

F. E. MELVIN, Prop.

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That Recommend Themselves Especially to the Conservative Buyer
We Find Ourselves Overstocked on Several Items After Inventory and Will Sell Them Now for Less Money Than Replacement Costs Will Permit.

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HIGH SHOES, PUMPS AND OXFORDS

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Our entire stock of Ladies' High Shoes, Pumps and Oxfords; also Misses' and Children's Shoes at a Discount of 20 PER CENT.



Horace Bogue Store

Boys and Girls

Ask Yourself These Questions
And Then Answer Them

What are you going to do when you grow up?
Are you going to be your own boss or work for someone else?

Will you be independent and have your own home, or will you be one of the many who just scrape and manage to make both ends meet?

It all depends on you.

Nearly all of the great men of this country began to prepare for success when they were young like you.

The first step is to save what you earn and are given. The folks at home will be glad to help you.

Then, when the time comes for you to go to college, or start out for yourself, you will be equipped for the fight.

Every penny you save now puts you that much ahead of the boy or girl who does not save.

Children's accounts are always welcome at this bank, no matter how small they may be.

First National Bank

ALLIANCE — — — — — NEBRASKA