#### FEBRUARY, 1917

#### TOMORROW

He was going to be all that a mortal should be

Tomorrow.

No one should be kinder or braver than he

Tomorrow.

- A friend who was troubled and weary he knew,
- Who'd be glad of a lift and who needed it, too;
- On him he would call and see what he could do Tomorrow.

Each morning he, stacked up the letters he'd "rite Tomorrow.

And thought of the folks he'd fill played and lost." with delight

Tomorrow.

It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today,

And hadn't a minute to stop on his way;

More time he would have to give others, he'd say. Tomorrow.

The greatest of workers this man would have been Tomorrow.

had he ever seen Tomorrow.

from view.

And all that he left here when living was through

tended to do Tomorrow.

-Edgar Guest in Kansas City Star.

END OF THE CROOKED ROAD

Charles E. Ackron, once the "king" of New York's "tenderloin district," and said to have been the

**IDLE FUNDS** WITHOUT EARNING POWER

## The Commoner

most influential man in New York attacked, that grows stronger as the outside of the chief of Tammany stress increases. The man-or wohall, has been sentenced to spend man-who flings character aside in the remainder of his life in Sing the mad contest for anything else is Sing prison, because he was an habit- foredoomed to failure and disgrace. ual criminal. The law in New York makes the fourth conviction for fel- able thing, that any young man can ony punishable with life imprison- do in these days is to get something ment on the ground of habitual to do in the way of honorable work, criminality. In sentencing the con- regardless of the immediate wages. victed man, the judge said:

"Ackron, when the foreman of the jury said: 'Guilty, as charged,' and convicted you as a fourth offender, that closed a career that even you must admit has been notorious. \* \* You belong to a brotherhood that calculates the chances. You have

Broken in health, penniless, almost 60 years old, the man who had once ruled New York's underworld, bribed New York's police system and defied the state's courts of justice, while he piled up wealth off of the honor of men and the virtue of women, goes to a felon's cell to drag out the rest of his wrecked career.

He "played and lost." They all do. The paths of crooked living lead to but one destination - exposure, The world would have known him disgrace, ruin. Nothing has been written to state that burning, eternal truth more clearly since it was But the fact is he died and he faded penned, "Be sure your sins will find you out."

Charles Ackron is not the only example. Only a short time ago Was a mountain of things he in- "Barney" Bertsche, counted Chicago's most successful criminal and one of the cleverest of international crooks, wrote his autobiography for The Chicago News. He, too, had played and lost. He wrote, out of his own experiences:

> "It (the life of a criminal) is an unequal combat. The individual of the underworld always loses-a bullet by night, a prison cell, a cot in the pauper consumptive ward. The route may be different, but the finish is the same."

"Keep away from bad company" was the message "Whitey" Lewis, one of the New York gunmen quartette convicted of murder, sent to the boys of New York's east side, as he was waiting to be strapped in the death chair. "A fellow who honestly earns \$6 a week is better off than he who gets \$1,000 a week, if he art in our national development—was long a form-ative moral and political force. doesn't get it "traight," said "Lefty Louie," another of the quartette, as he stood on the brink of eternity. These men had traveled the fast pace, and they knew, too late, the wisdom of avoiding the crooked road.

The safest thing, the most profit-Not only is the finish of every man who tries to beat the straight, in-

nine times out of ten the beginning is the same:

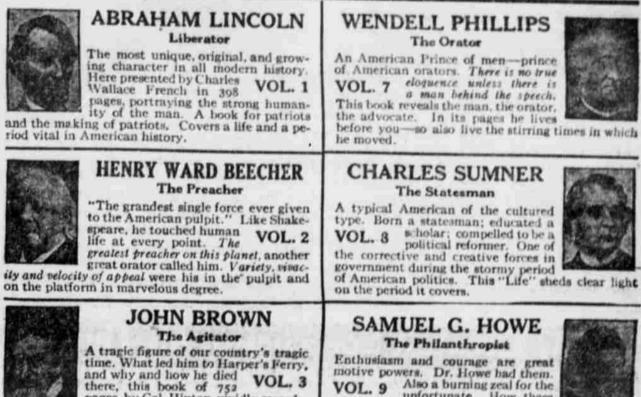
"Half the trouble and half the strife, Half of the ills and sorrows of life; Half the crime and misfortune, too, Can be laid at the door of 'nothing to do.""



No one would complain of a leak in Wall street if it let the water out dustrious game of life the same, but of some of the stocks .--- Life.

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too-inclined to follow the "easy" life of a "sport," should heed such warnings from those who have played the game to the end and found they always lose. The finish is always the same. Down and out, at the best; behind prison bars or on a slab in the morgue, the other alternatives.

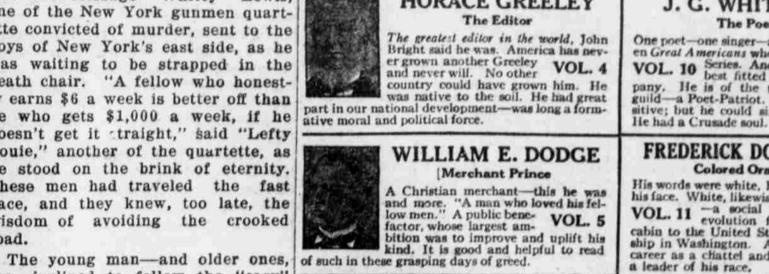
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