

The Alliance Herald
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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GEORGE L. BURR, Jr., Editor
EDWIN M. BURR, Business Mgr.

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THE MEDICS SPEAK.

The Journal of the American Medical Association is doing its best to settle a question that at one time was rather vexatious and still of importance, with a light wine and beer fight impending in congress. This question is the attitude of physicians toward beer and whisky. During the wet and dry fight, most of us will remember, there was a great deal of stress laid on the words of physicians. The dries would discover a noted physician in thirty-four years of practice had never found it necessary to prescribe an alcoholic stimulant, and who was satisfied that he could go to the end of the chapter without ever employing one in any case which he might treat. The wet forces would counter with a statement from another noted physician, who, it appeared, hardly ever prescribed anything else, and who mourned the prospective disappearance of alcohol as a great loss to the pharmacopoeia. After a while, when all the famous physicians had had their way, the wets and dries began calling on the smaller fry, the ordinary pill dispensers, and it was noteworthy that it was almost always possible to find some physician who would take either side.

The right of physicians to disagree has always been granted. In fact, it has come to be expected. But it so happened that the dry physicians made the greatest noise, or else the physicians who honestly believed in the efficiency of whisky and beer were a trifle ashamed to be caught in company with the brewers and distillers, for toward the latter stages of the prohibition campaign, it was generally believed that any physician who spoke out in meeting in favor of the so-called intoxicants was an unworthy man, and there was always a hint that he might have been bought, or that something else was rotten in Denmark.

But here it is, a year or two since the moonshiners took their turn at bat, and what do we find? The Journal's questionnaire on the wine, beer and whisky question was mailed to 870 physicians in Nebraska. Over half of them, or fully 65 per cent, sent in replies. And the vote, which will be found tabulated in another column, shows a surprising thing. The physicians still disagree on the liquor question, but it will be seen that the vote is not all one-sided. In fact, it's a pretty close race.

Presumably these physicians knew that their personal opinions would not be quoted, and therefore there was no reason why they should not stand by their convictions. Over the entire state, 272 physicians stated that it was their belief that whisky is a necessary therapeutic agent, and 291, a bare majority of nineteen, stated that in their opinion it wasn't. It is noticeable that Omaha, which has always been regarded as the headquarters for the wet forces of the state, voted strongly for whisky, 79 to 41. Lincoln, similarly recognized as the home of the dries, voted against whisky in medicine to the tune of 29 to 6. There will be those who will say that this vote simply shows the old lineup in Omaha. But wait: This above vote applied to whisky. In answer to the question whether beer was considered a necessary therapeutic agent, 46 Omaha physicians said yes, and 72 cast a vote in the negative. Apparently these physicians are giving their honest opinion in the matter.

Some of the comments made by the physicians are interesting. Most of them, having in mind the high ethics of their profession, object to making a physician into a barkeep, but there is a strong sentiment in favor of letting the government dispense whisky and beer, just as the sale of narcotics is supervised.

The daily newspapers over the state are, for the most part, hailing the slim majority given to the dry side as a great victory, but the figures do not bear out this assertion. The facts are that a strong element among the physicians favor the use of so-called intoxicants for medical purposes. This is perhaps as influential an element as there is in the state. The questionnaire shows that all over the country there is dissatisfaction over the administration of the prohibitory law. This newspaper holds no brief for the wets, but as an opponent of the old time saloon, would suggest that it's time

some of these protests were considered.

Something, too, must be done to end the moonshine menace. All over the country, in almost any town, large or small, this filthy stuff is for sale, openly or under very little cover. New Year's eve the state and federal forces made a big drive to stop the usual convivial celebration on that occasion. There were hundreds of special deputies, at enormous expense, and every place suspected was watched. There weren't so many arrests as last year, and the law enforcement officials are claiming that victory is in sight. Anyone in touch with actual conditions knows that little, if any progress, has been made in fighting illicit booze. It's time we ceased fooling ourselves and get down to brass tacks. The traffic has got to be ended, but mouth victories aren't worth much more than the breath it takes to claim them.

SAVE YOUR BREATH.

About every so often it again becomes necessary to remind the dear public that the mission of a newspaper is to print the news. No editor is always satisfied with the news as he finds it—there are a lot of things that he would rather had not happened—but newspapers do not make the news. They only print it. And a respectable publication will do its best to give its readers all the news. The best way to avoid undesirable publicity is not to get into a position where you're due to get it.

For times have changed since father went to school. In those days, there was a general idea that newspapers couldn't make a living if it weren't for donations of one sort and another. In those days, the average merchant believed that a newspaper was "a good thing for the town," and he put in an advertisement now and then "just to help the paper out." He didn't believe that advertising paid him—not then, he didn't. In those days, with that sort of feeling toward newspapers, the editor very often strived to keep the donations coming his way. If one of his benefactors, either subscriber or advertiser, ever wanted anything printed or omitted, he was glad to oblige. Every time he gave in he lost a part of his self-respect, and the fellow who put it across thought less of him than before.

But times, as we said before, have changed. Today progressive merchants know that advertising in live publications brings results. You can tell this change in attitude by the fact that more advertising space is used, and that advertisements are changed practically every issue. The advertising is now as good news as can be found in any column, and it is read just as carefully. The newspapers have come to be regular businesses, and there are people who do not object to the publisher making the same sort of a profit as other men in business. This change of attitude is reflected in the news columns, which are no longer colored to suit the tastes of any man who happens to spend from two to ten dollars a year.

It's better all the way around. Neither subscribers or advertisers can have any faith in a newspaper that isn't independent. The editor who is soft-hearted—or soft-headed—has no influence in a community, and a newspaper must reflect the personality of the men who conduct it, just as it reflects the ideals of the city where it is published. The man who edits a newspaper to please his friends, or punish his enemies, or simply to make money, isn't doing his duty to the community where he lives.

Publicity is a tremendous force, for good or evil. There is nothing that has so great an effect on public morality. It serves as a deterrent to law breaking of all kinds. For many men do not particularly mind breaking laws, or even getting caught and paying the penalty for their fun, if only the people whom they like and want to respect them do not know about it. Newspapers do not publish all the unpleasant news they know. They publish only details that come out in the courts. If a man can keep out of court, he can, for the most part, keep out of the newspapers. Unless conditions grow too rotten, he's safe so long as he eludes the police. But if he goes through the courts, he might as well make up his mind to take his medicine.

In the past ten days alone, Alliance newspapers have been approached not less than six times with an appeal to keep the court records from becoming public. In each instance they were unsuccessful. The man who says, "Spare my wife and children," lays all the blame for his misdeeds upon the newspaper. Why should the newspaper take more thought of his family than he does? Responsibility to family cannot be delegated to the first man who comes along.

Newspapers, however, occasionally temper publicity with mercy. In the case of juvenile offenders, or of men who make the first slip, where the offense is trifling, or under other circumstances, newspapers may decide that publicity can be overlooked. But this

isn't the rule. Court news is privileged and the rule is to print all of it that is important. The newspaper makes its own decision as to what should be published, and the wise editor does it without assistance or suggestion.

If you are unfortunate enough to be caught in any mischief that brings a fine from the judge, don't think that all you have to do is to slip the newspaper man a kind word, a cigar, or a threat to stop the paper. Don't waste your time and his. Save your breath to explain to the wife, rather than by trying to persuade someone else to protect her if you don't. The open season for lawbreakers is still on. If half the people of the city have observed you on the street, tanked to the gills, remember that the newspaper, to preserve its standing and reputation, can't omit mention of something of which three-fourths the people in the city are aware. The best way to keep out of print is to keep out of trouble. A word to the wise should be sufficient, but if it isn't straight in your head, we keep a gimlet.

THE SPECIAL SESSION.

Governor McKelvie's plan for calling a special session of the Nebraska legislature to consider a tax on gasoline and two or three other items has been set for later in the month, although the call has not been actually issued. The proposal for the session has not been met with an outburst of applause, although the governor undoubtedly believed that the farmers among the voters, as well as others upon whom the tax burden has laid heavily, would welcome an opportunity to pass some small portion of this burden on to the tourists from other states and pay the rest themselves. The prospect has failed to impress the farmers, particularly, although from other sources may be heard derisive howls.

The farmers take it the hardest. They see, first of all, an expenditure of about \$15,000 for a day's special session of the legislature, and they immediately lose interest. They have no particular faith in this legislature, anyhow, and no so very much in Governor McKelvie. A pretty fair index of how the public feels may be found by a straw vote on the subject, taken by a Lincoln newspaper, which asked its readers to send in their sentiments. About a thousand responded, and after the first batch of the returns were counted, it was plain that it was a case of thumbs down. The vote stood 650 against to only 82 for, and this is a pretty fair average for the whole state.

Governor McKelvie might have been able to stir up some interest in the special session and the gasoline tax, had it not been for his ideas concerning a salary cut for state officials. This was the last straw. The suggestion that these gentlemen, who at the last session of the legislature, a year ago, were given salary boosts ranging from 50 to 65 per cent, voluntarily give back all of 5 per cent was a little too much like humor. The taxpayers are sometimes slow to catch the point but in this case it was a little too obvious to be overlooked. The exquisite humor of the suggestion that this 5 per cent be given up voluntarily—and that it apply only to all salary money in excess of \$1,000 drew a smile even from the farmers, wage earners and business men who count themselves fortunate if their net profits for the year will reach \$1,000. This kind of a proposal is regarded, if not as an insult, at least as ill timed humor by the men who have watched corn and wheat and other farm produce drop in price. The governor, who was astute enough to decide to retire from politics (temporarily, of course) rather than face almost certain defeat in the senatorial race next year, is by no means a political chump, even though he is youthful and has made one or two foolish moves. Realizing how absurd and inadequate the 5 per cent salary cut was, he now proposes a graduated income tax for state officials, in addition to the 5 per cent, which is illegal and a matter for the individual conscience to decide, inasmuch as an official's salary may not be reduced, in some cases, during his term of office. The governor doesn't know whether this income tax plan could be worked out, but he'll look up the legal phases of the question thoroughly.

In the meantime, were suggestions in order, it might be well to pass the word along that the easiest way out of the present mess is by the same door wherein he entered. It was the love of the people which prompted him to propose a special session. The voice of these same people will give adequate excuse to drop it. The next time a legislature is elected in Nebraska, it will be composed of men in whom the voters have confidence and from whom they have received pledges. And it should be safe to predict that there will be mighty few little reductions which are as low as 5 per cent.

Paris doctors say use of cocktails and cigarettes give women beards. Well, they can shave if they can smoke and drink, can't they?

LITTLE JOHNNY'S CURIOSITY

Little Johnny, though he had been to the poultry show the night before with his father and his uncle, insisted that he be taken again on the night that his mother and aunt decided to go. After pleadings didn't serve to daunt the little fellow's determination, it was decided to take him along.

While at the show the lad enjoyed himself immensely, but on the way out of the building he seemed rather reluctant to leave, and continually looked back inquiringly. Finally he said to his mother, "Ma let's wait until they let the animals loose."

"Why, Johnny," said the mother,

"they don't let the animals loose."
"Oh, yes, they do," said Johnny.
"Last night Pa said to Uncle Henry, 'let's stick around awhile. We might get a chance to pick up a couple of chickens.'"

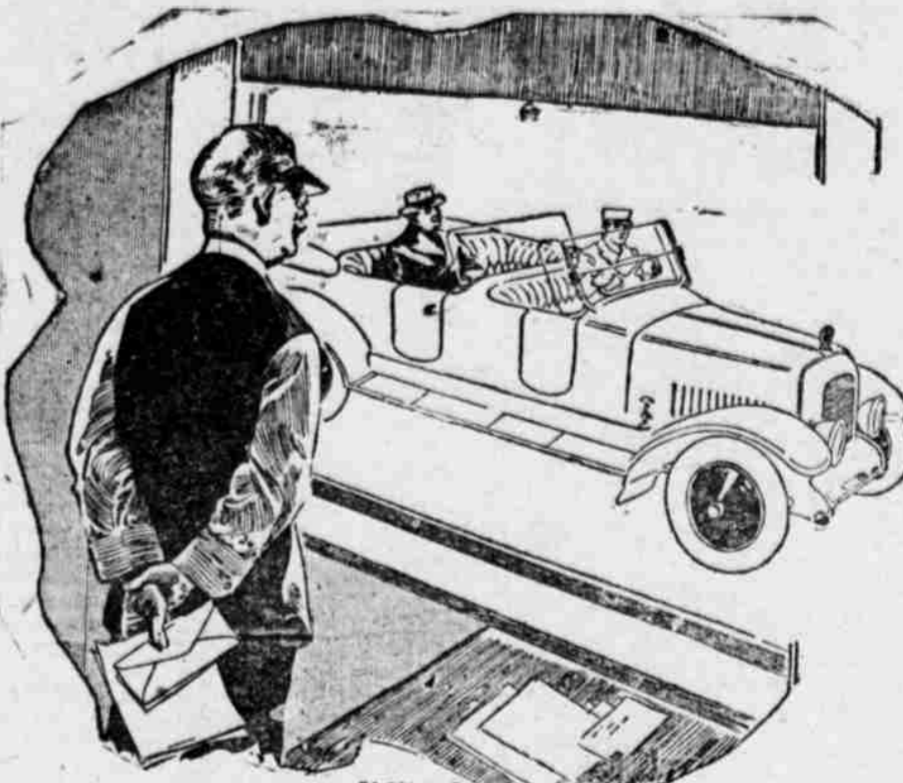
APPRECIATION

Thomas Corwin, Ohio's famous orator and renowned statesman, was noted for his more than abundant supply of native wit. He was a wonder in using it effectively in oratorical contests with political shoals and antagonists. Toward the latter part of his career Corwin had reached the conclusion that his caustic wit had

seriously damaged his prospects for further advancement. He cautioned both John Sherman and Den Platt not to interlard their speeches with jokes. "Don't do it, my boys," protested Corwin. "Don't do it. The earth is dotted over with monuments erected above the remains of solemn asses."—Indianapolis Star.

No man who manages to keep an automobile going can be regarded as a person out of employment.

An English scientist says blondes make the best fighters. At any rate, they are willing to dye for their country.



Look At Him Today

He was no better off than you at one time—See what he is today—Rich, successful, influential—a man of the world.

Don't envy him—emulate him—follow his example. Appreciation of the value of saving started him on the road to success. Judicious investments assisted him in achieve his goal. It will do the same for you.

Profit by his experience. Start the New Year with determination to succeed. Get the saving habit—It will start you on the right road.

**YOU WORKED FOR YOUR MONEY
—MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU.**

The First State Bank
Deposits Guaranteed by Nebraska State Guaranty Fund.

**Coal Is Down
50c on a ton**

Due to a reduction in our costs of coal—war tax and delivery charges—we are able to retail coal to Alliance patrons at a lower price.

NEW PRICES—SCREENED AND DELIVERED

- COLORADO LUMP, Ton \$15.00
- COLORADO NUT, Ton \$14.00
- OWL CREEK LUMP, Ton \$12.50
- OWL CREEK EGG, Ton \$12.00
- OWL CREEK PEA, Ton \$ 8.50

You can save 75c a ton if you buy your coal at the bins. Get your order in NOW. We can supply with any of the above sizes and grades—at the lower prices.

Dierks Lbr. & Coal Co.

F. W. HARGARTEN, Manager.