

FREE SCHOOLS OF CRIME

The results of a special investigation prosecuted for six months past by a committee of which Professor Charles R. Henderson, of the university of Chicago, is chairman are before the public. Its largest generalization sums up the prison practice that it finds followed throughout the country in these words: "Force a man into idleness and give him thieves and degenerates for companions." Well does the report characterize this as a "satanic recipe for manufacturing crime;" but it goes on to demonstrate that this is the policy literally and systematically followed in this country. Especially are the county jails in the United States "a national shame." "The very structure of the typical jail is wrong," says the report. "From ocean to ocean one uniform plan has been slavishly copied from bad models—a cell or cave of cells surrounded by a corridor." In most cases this corridor is the only spot where the prisoners are permitted to walk or take exercise, and this must be necessarily in an atmosphere full of taint both physical and moral. As the report points out, "No man builds a pig pen or a hen coop on such a plan; much less a residence; the modern barn or chicken house has an outside court for daily exercise."—Boston Transcript.

STATE AND FEDERAL RATE CONTROL

The state railway commissioners, in their national convention in Washington last week, got upon firm ground in their protest that "the best interests of the people would not be served to place the entire responsibility for rate control in the federal government."

Though, as the commissioners say, no general reduction of rates has followed action by the federal authorities, it will not be denied that in the equalizing of rates, the efforts to suppress rebating and in other ways federal action has accomplished no little good in interstate commerce.

But the commissioners are right, and President Roosevelt is wrong, with respect to traffic which moves wholly within a single state. Conditions vary too widely in different states for the interstate commerce commission or any other federal body to deal intelligently with them. Each state possesses the power to name the conditions under which a corporation shall do business within it, and the state is best capable of knowing what those conditions should be.

In behalf of its citizens, and of its own authority, there is every inducement for the state to ascertain the conditions rightly. Destructive legislation, if there were no remedy for it, would be as harmful to the people of the state as to the transportation companies. But there is no desire on the part of the people to injure these companies; and if, by mistake, such legislation is enacted, both the state courts and the federal courts are required by the constitution to declare it void.

The more our dual form of government is studied in the light of the president's new theories, the more perfect is its adjustment seen to be and the more apparent the necessity for state and federal co-operation, each retaining and exercising its full powers.—St. Louis Republic.

DUPES OF THE BOSS

The strongest and most unscrupulous man can not carry on his game unaided, says a writer in Collier's. In his ruck lie men who have served his purpose for a day and been thrown aside. Eye-filling as the big sinners are, these by-products claim attention for a moment when the crisis comes that reveals them as guilty tools. Quay died in 1904, a member of the United States senate from Pennsylvania, cynically defiant of his critics, contemptuous of the men who had tried to convict him as a criminal. Since his death, the roll of tragedies traceable to his regime has increased to nine. The last man to commit suicide, just the other day, as the result of such connection was George W. Delamater of Pittsburg. Wealthy, a bank president at Meadville, a state senator, and ambitious politically, Delamater was given the republican nomination for governor by Quay in 1890. Quay forced his name on the convention, then took no further interest in the campaign; Delamater wrecked his bank trying to buy victory. Criminal proceedings were brought against him; then Quay abandoned him, and for years he led a hand-to-mouth existence in an alien community. Four Pennsylvania state treasurers have died in disgrace, an auditor general died of worry, a cashier in the treasury committed suicide, the cashier of the wrecked People's Bank of Philadelphia committed suicide, the cashier of the International National Bank of Allegheny sought in a self-made grave refuge from shame. All of these men were, in some way, Quay's tools. They served him in his purpose to control the finances of the state, and through that channel, the politics of the state. They lacked the supreme nerve of their leader. Threatened disgrace did not stimulate them to fight back; Politics was a chess game, they said in Pennsylvania, and Quay was a fine player. Perhaps. But how reckless of the pawns. There are men of promise whose ambitions quicken at the flattery of notice from the local boss. In Pennsylvania history lies a lesson for them.—Cincinnati Citizens Bulletin.

HERE'S A BOTHERSOME PUZZLE

Here is a new puzzle, and some people are "going crazy" over it:

Table with 3 columns of numbers: 1, 2, 3; 4, 5, 6; 7, 8, 9; 10, 11, 12; 13, 14, 15

Fifteen girl members of a walking club start out to walk for seven days. The rule of the club is that they shall walk three abreast each day and on no two days shall any three or two walk together in the same row. The problem is to show how they were arranged each day of the seven and how they arranged on the seventh day.—Ex.

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