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SHALL SLANDER OR RIGHT PREVAIL?

"Good name in man or woman, dear my lord, Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

We would like to impress that thought on the minds of all our readers. At this moment, when many good men are losing their balance, saying things that hurt, and admitting they can not prove what they have repeated, it becomes all to stand for a moment and take thought. There is danger lest everybody be caught in the swirling tides of gossip, rumor and slander and civilization itself be set on the path of destruction.

Fortunate, indeed, we are that at the White House sits a man who can keep calm, whose mind is balanced, whose temper is judicial, and whose purpose it is to get at the truth. Not that Calvin Coolidge is superhuman in any of his attributes. We believe him to be sincere in his quest for facts, and we believe he will be stern in his administration of justice. He has taken the most solemn obligation put upon mortal man, that of president of the United States. Before God and the world he has sworn to "faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

No right-minded man thinks that Calvin Coolidge will be recreant to that vow. No right-minded man thinks that Warren G. Harding failed in it in any sense. The assertion that it was inevitable that Mr. Harding's name would be dragged into the mess, accompanied by the innuendo that his good name has been spared solely because men hesitate "to look under the edge of a shroud," is contemptible. Born in the lowest, most miserable depths of partisan politics, it creeps out at a time when all parties should be united in the one great effort to clear away the rotten mess that afflicts our sense of public decency. Such shameless attempts to besmirch the good name of any man deserve the sternest of rebuke at any time, but when applied to the honored dead, the become unspeakable despicable.

Bear in mind that President Coolidge anticipated the action of the senate, in his announced determination to prosecute all who are in any way connected with this scandal that has developed. He has not in anything faltered. Just now he is waiting for the senate of the United States to give him authority to proceed, to provide the funds needed and to approve his selection of men to carry on the prosecution in the name of the government. He is not moved by the hysteria that surrounds him, by "the stark shrill cry of a soul aroused and alarmed," whatever that is.

The senators, however, are not so eager to assist the president. They demand that he proceed without authority to carry out their will. To condemn without hearing and to execute without trial. The Constitution of the United States provides and guarantees to every man accused of a crime a fair trial before a jury of his peers. That is all the president asks, and in asking that he is preserving the Constitution, as he has sworn to do.

Every rumor should be investigated, every tale, no matter how idle, should be examined in all its details. Only in this way may the truth be made known. The facts be brought out. The guilty reached. And the guilty in this case are not only those who by corrupt methods and criminal means sought and did debase high office and defraud the government, but also those who have for any reason whatsoever set floating libelous rumors and unfounded scandal to the defamation and detriment of good men, living or dead. Rumors, gossip, idle tales should be inquired into as they are inquired into by a grand jury, under the protection of confidence, until they have been proven to be true.

ONE OLD, FAMILIAR ACT.

Again the appropriation for the air mail service has been cut out of the postoffice supply bill by the house. The point of order, made this time by a representative from Michigan, has been sustained. The bill will go over to the senate without the item. In the senate it will be restored, and in conference it will be sustained.

This little farce has been re-enacted each year since the air mail was established. No very good reason for it has ever been discovered. Once it was thought Stearnson of Minnesota was peevish just a little because of the route of the service. Then the objection came from Tinch of Kansas, and the same reason was ascribed. Crampton of Michigan now comes forward with the same old point of order, and the act so familiar to the country is under way once more.

what they regard as economy. That it is a minor saving at great public expense does not occur to them.

The air mail will not fail. Some time congress will recognize the need of encouraging aviation as a means of communication other than by mail. The danger is, though, that this will not come until the United States has dropped so far behind that it will cost a great deal more to catch up than it would to keep up.

WOAW AND THE SMALL SET.

The petition now being circulated among owners of radio receiving sets in Omaha covers more than the question of "hogging air."

The owners of crystal sets and other small-powered receivers are interested in getting a splendid near-by program. This this WOAW station supplies them. If the wonderful station on the Woodmen of the World building is to be curtailed in its sending these smaller set users will feel it. They make up the large majority of radio fans. New inventions are available to those who own large sets, by which they can tune out if they wish.

Further, the WOAW station is one of the outstanding institutions in Omaha. It is one of the truly great sending stations in the country. Its voice speaks for Omaha six nights in the week. There are those who contend its activities should be extended instead of curtailed. Suppose that each night some particularly important civic development in Omaha was added to the present programs—would it not be a worth while outcome of the "Know Omaha" sentiment?

Other cities have powerful sending stations. To mention a few of them—there are five in Chicago, three in Kansas City, four in Detroit, six in Pittsburgh, and nearly a score in New York. From the day of its installation WOAW has been a decided addition to the city's contact with the world, and of the world with the city.

The Omaha Bee feels that it would be a mistake to curtail this powerful voice that speaks for Omaha. We believe, too, the great majority of radio fans feel likewise.

BOSSIE AND THE OLD HOME TOWN.

Mr. Claude Bossie, about to enter on the last leg of his round trip from Omaha to Paris and back, waives preliminary hearing at New York on a charge of violating the Mann act. On his own behalf, and that of his companion, he insists they are legally married.

Against this assertion stands that of the Omaha judge from whom Bossie says he secured a divorce. The judge says he granted no such divorce. Issue so joined will be settled by the record and by the courts.

In the meantime, the approach of Mr. Bossie to his old home town revives some interest in the political aspects of the incident. The late city clerk and former milk inspector did not secure his public prominence solely on account of his good looks. He was a capable and hard working lieutenant for the leaders of the democratic party in this vicinity, and his jobs were the reward for effective service.

The local demand for Mr. Bossie comes first from the woman he deserted here. Second, from city officials, who would like to have his assistance in a check of books that are reported to be all right in every regard. Third, from the public, which just wants to know.

Taking Mr. Bossie at his word, that he wanted to get back to Omaha with the least possible delay, we trust the federal authorities, in whose custody he is just now, will not long thwart his desire. He may not be received at the depot with a brass band and other signs of tumultuous joy, but he will get attention from a reception committee when he comes.

Mr. McAdoo is probably correct in his surmise that if he had not been "mentioned in connection with high office," he would not have been dragged into the oil scandal. It was that mention that made him worth looking into.

We feel sure that Prince Viggo will never pull anything about royal blood when his fiancée is around, for anyone who comes from Culpeper Court House, Culpeper county, Virginia, knows all about long descent.

Sven Hedin thinks America is a wonderful country, and that Henry Ford is a wonderful man. And Sven has seen about all there is to see.

Hudson Maxim announces that he is going to bring about prohibition of tea and coffee. What Mr. Hudson needs is a silence.

Dudley Malone is having a lot of fun with McAdoo, but wait till Mac finds time to go after Dudley.

The house, having received the revenue bill reports, has something to play with as well as the senate.

Old Bossy Cow is one of the best little mortgage lifters known, if you just give her half a chance.

The approach of auto show week should not be the signal for the speeders to get busy again.

It is pretty well established that if a girl wants her hair bobbed, it will be bobbed.

The world knows what the South Carolina legislature said to the Missouri senator.

Pennsylvania's penitentiaries seem to call for some sort of inquiry.

Wonder if King Tut noted the changes around the old place.

Efforts to plug the Mellon continue without interruption.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

WHAT CONSTITUTES A KING?
You'd rule the world to your desire if you were only king,
And I, of course, would govern it to my own reasoning,
And your success to me would seem a failure through and through,
And what I did would simply be deplorable to you,
You'd solve the problems which so often test the strength of mine—
If they were yours, you'd master them with prudence swift and fine,
And I, likewise, would do with ease the tasks that you forsake,
And prove my worth and rectify your miserable mistake.

From lofty thrones to hovels low the selfsame words are said—
The man alive does not compare with predecessor dead,
The Is and Yous can not agree upon the major flaws,
And there is something sadly wrong about the current laws.
Complexity its subtle webs of puzzling coma throw
Across the realms of right and wrong until we can not know
Which proffers which, and will at length our needs
And we are left to ask in vain, what constitutes a king.

What of America?

Institutions containing in substance all that ages had done for human government were organized in a forest.—Daniel Webster.

THE colonists who came to America in the 17th century came, as they believed and asserted, "with all the first great privilege of Englishmen on their backs." They brought with them the English common law; they brought Magna Charta and the representative principle. They set up on these shores, not one, but a group of little England, and in every one of them the contest between people and prerogative, as it had been going on in the mother England, was continued.

But the Englishmen in America were bolder in these contests than were Englishmen at home, for the colonists were not within immediate reach of the king's arm. They were at a safe distance from the throne and the Tower of London, and those who governed them for the crown were little more than hostages in the hands of the governed. The colonists had a pretty good idea of themselves, too.

"God gifted a whole nation," said Governor Stoughton, "that he might send choice grain over into this wilderness." The choice grain produced an early harvest of representative assemblies and self-governing institutions that would have astonished the Stuart kings had they witnessed the same phenomena at home. While James I. was talking his kingly nonsense about his divine authority and warning his parent fear either of the mysteries of state or of a just parliament of Virginians at Jamestown was passing laws without the slightest apparent fear either of the mysteries of state or of the authority of kings. Sir George Yeardley's house of burgesses was functioning as early as 1619, and from a strictly constitutional point of view probably was usurping the functions of the English parliament.

In the Massachusetts Bay colony, too, the settlers speedily took charge of their own affairs. It was nothing to them that Winthrop and his council were the legal government. The outsiders demanded of the government a threat of going elsewhere and setting up a colony of their own. They were let in, exactly as the ancient kings of England had been compelled to let the same thing happen in the case of the Massachusetts Bay colony. The same contest was going on that had gone on then, only in the colonies the resistance of authority was less and the contest was more quick.

Increase Mather spoke the truth. "There never was," he said, "a generation that did so perfectly shake hands with their own liberties, ecclesiastical and civil, as that did the first generation. . . . that came into this land."

"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Resents Reflection on Chiropractors.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It is said that confidence in present day newspapers is nil because of propaganda diffused through the columns of the "World-Herald" regarding the death of a young girl in Chicago and vilifying chiropractic in general. It is a criticism, it is small wonder people keep large boxes of salt handy when reading newspapers. The article states that chiropractors "claim to be able to cure anything from a snake bite to smallpox." The whole article gives the impression that chiropractors in general make this claim.

The statement is a damnable lie. The intent back of the story is obvious, sinister, vicious and opposed to the welfare of the public. Chiropractic is a blessing to humanity. I am not a chiropractor; I have no relatives who are. I am writing from the standpoint of any one who has been ill and found quick, permanent relief in chiropractic. The public is entitled to a clear, open mind when seeking health; a mind free from remembrance of any and every kind of some particular curative profession by jealous or ignorant competitors desiring its downfall.

Abe Martin

Big Ear Tag Sale
60 Yards of
NINE

What gets us is why a feller that's married an' a set, an' got ever' thing wanted, an' apend to mich, one tryin' t' hide a bald spot. A woman may fertig, but it don't take her no time t' remember if you git her ruffled.

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

Noting that Senator Howell shows an inclination to be "progressive but moderate," the Kearney Hub declares this to be the course that will win in the long run.

Bob Rice of the Central City Republican rejoices because Mr. Doherty mentioned the name of George Creel. "It has given us all a chance to enjoy another literary gem from the pen of that master of the fine art of public," chortles Bob.

The York Democrat says that to Doherty spilled the beans, but to others it looks very much like he upset the oil can.

"There was a time when it was quite a distinction to be done in oil," says the York Democrat, "sagely observes the Hastings Tribune."

Frank Kimmel of the McCook Tribune has discovered why some people never mind their own business. "They either lack business or mind."

The Fremont Tribune notes that the fundamentalists are modern enough in their ways to appreciate the value of publicity.

The Arnold Sentinel admits that for a 4-year-old prohibition isn't as big a moral issue, but is a whole lot bigger than some folks thought it ever could be.

"It must be terrible to be a professional radical and go to heaven where nobody has a grievance," muses Sutherland of the Tekamah Herald.

"We had long drunk of the cup of as great liberties as any people that we can hear of under the whole heavens."

The colonial assemblies made much shorter work of the royal governors than the English parliament made of the king. No proof from a governor could cause a Virginia burgess to stand silent and abashed in his place or to sit down and burst into tears, as did Sir John Eliot in the English parliament.

When it comes to convincing himself that he ought to have a new car, there is no limit to the ordinary man's power of persuasion," says the York News-Times.

"It would be interesting to hear of a tax reduction plan which was not attacked by the opposition and labeled as a Dirty Political Issue," says John Sweet of the Nebraska City Press, using a tone of voice that reveals considerable disgust.

"When you were paying with your money and the respect of decent people for what you think to be a good time, you describe it with more truth than vulgarly when you say that you are 'having a hell of a time,'" philosophizes Fred Howard in his Clay Center Sun.

It was Sarah, poor, unbelieving Sarah (was Sarah a modernist?) and who so hated the reproaches of being childless that she was willing to rob another woman of her child, decided to take matters out of God's hands and her own.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget that Sunrise never failed us yet
Celia Thaxter

A REAL FELLOW.
Here's to the man with cheerful smile,
Who keeps good-natured all the while;
Who gives a nod and a "howdy-do,"
That brighter makes the world for you.

The man whose smile's a gleam of light
That makes the darkest day grow bright;
Who says "Hello!" in a tone of voice
That makes the faintest heart rejoice.

Here's to the man who bucks the line
And won't sit down to moan and whine;
The man who has his job to do
And toils until he puts it through.

The man who smiles and says "Hello!"
And grabs right on and won't let go
Until he's done his level best
To stand four-square to every test.

Here's to the man so well worth while
Who greets bad luck with pleasant smile,
And says, "All right, I'll try once more,
I bet this time I put it over!"

The man whose handclasp always cheers
When old misfortune's face appears,
Who says, "Hello," or "Howdy-do,"
I hope the old world's good to you!

Here's to the man unknown to fame
Who loves all men and plays the game
Of life four-square, and scorns to make
A profit big from a friend's mistake.

When old misfortune's face appears,
Who says, "Hello," or "Howdy-do,"
And smiles, and gives new strength to you.

All our long and rather uneventful life we've yearned to secure a big contract that would yield us a handsome fortune. Right now it seems that a contract at good prices for laundering the dirty political linen on exhibition at Washington would be it.

Were it not for the fact that the joke was such a costly one, a number of Omaha men would be laughing at their wives for recent investments in "imported Turkish rugs." The rugs were really made in Philadelphia, purchased by Armenian experts in the rug con game, aged by a secret process, and then sold from house to house over the country.

Perhaps the husbands of the victimized women would laugh anyhow, if they didn't remember the commandments those husbands recently purchased.

We hereby serve notice upon the arbiters of male fashions that we simply will not, under any circumstances nor in any place, wear pleated trousers. We have submitted, at considerable personal inconvenience, to wearing 'em creased to a knife's edge, and, although protesting bitterly, we have worn 'em with a cuff, but we'll be overlastingly go-sawzied if we are going to wear 'em pleated around the waist. Right here is where we raise the standard of revolt, to which we urge all men of red blood to rally.

While the Retail Clothiers were meeting at the Fontanelle the Retail Lumbermen were meeting at the Rome. The Retail Clothiers sent word to the effect that they hoped the Retail Lumbermen would spruce up, sartorially speaking. The Retail Lumbermen sent word to the effect that they hoped the Retail Clothiers would E. V. D. in urging the home building campaign—E. V. D. being short for "Be Very Diligent."

WILL M. MAUPIN.

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