

AS IT REALLY IS.

An Ex-Penitentiary Foreman Expresses Himself On the Subject of Convict Labor.

The System in Its Nature and Its Results—Oppressive on the Working Classes.

A Bee reporter last evening had an interesting talk with Mr. M. W. Brubacher, now in this city and formerly connected with the state's prison at Joliet, Ill., and Jefferson, Mo. This special bearing of the conversation was upon the subject of convict labor, with all phases of which Mr. Brubacher is perfectly familiar, having taken advantage of his circumstances to make a careful and analytical study thereof.

"In saying anything about this matter of convict labor," said Mr. B. in response to the reporter's invitation to unobscure himself on the subject, "I hardly know where to begin. However, before saying anything about my impressions on the subject, I'll tell you something about what the convict goes through, as preliminaries. It may assist an intelligent conception of the subject."

"The convict, after sentence, is first taken to the barber shop, where he is closely shaved, and then taken to the clothing department, where he is fitted out with the striped regalia. He is then escorted to the warden's office, where he is 'entered up,' that is, a full description of him is taken, his name, etc., is recorded, and he is assigned to a cell. He is then introduced to the foreman of the department in which he is to work, under the contract system. Of course, it makes no difference whether the convict has ever been employed at any trade or not before his entrance into the prison; he is assigned, provided his physical condition will permit, to a certain class of work, and he has to do it. Now, right here, permit me to say that there are two systems of convict labor, with reference to the regulations under which the convict performs his work. In the Missouri state prison, with which I was for a long time connected, there is in vogue the task system. That is, the convict is given so much work to perform a day, and he has to reach that standard.

This regulation, however, does not apply until the convict has been at the particular branch of work six weeks after that time which he is allotted to him. What would he do if he does not accomplish the task? He is generally taken into what is known as the blind cell, barred and flogged with the 'cat-o-nine tails' until his mind is duly impressed with the enormity of his dereliction. This cruelty is sometimes carried to an extreme. I have frequently seen convicts rise in the morning with their backs raw and bleeding from the effects of these floggings. I have often seen men who were physically unable to work, driven in like brutes and compelled to work out their task, conscious that if they failed to come up to the standard a beating awaited them.

In the Joliet penitentiary the system of convict labor is different, somewhat similar to the system in the Lincoln penitentiary. Instead of being compelled to do a certain amount of work, the convict is obliged to work so many hours a day, after which he drops his tools. This system is manifestly the more humane. I might go on and tell you of evils which I noticed which are a direct result of the contract system, some evil nameless and horrible, had I the time.

Careful study of the whole question has led me to see the truth of one or two propositions. In the first place, the prison contractor can always rely upon the exact fulfillment of his contracts. He knows that his men will always do the work, and that they will always be on hand, and that his contracts will always be completed at a certain time. He can also have the work done at a comparatively trifling cost. In these two respects he has manifest advantages over the outside contractors and manufacturers, who, in demanding a legitimate price for their work, have to seek higher prices. And so in this direct conflict between prison-made work and the product of outside labor, the working classes are damaged to almost an unlimited extent. In analyzing the cause of the present financial depression, I believe that the convict labor system ought to be held responsible in a very large share. Why take the one item of local business in the harness trade. Now there is Jacob Strauss of St. Louis, contractor of the Jefferson prison. He sends his men to various parts of the state, and left the local business firms. So do the Chicago men who are contractors for the Joliet penitentiary. So that you see the loss to business in this, as well as other directions, is almost beyond computation. And the workmen, in a greater degree than the jobbers and retailers, feel the oppressive burdens which the system entails.

HEAVY DAMAGES.

Thomas Riley, a Well-Known Traveling Man, Sues the Union Pacific for \$100,000.

ductor refused to receive it without a permit accompanying, and demanded the fare. Mr. Riley refused to pay it, whereupon the conductor stopped the train between stations, and the complaint alleges, with the aid of the brakemen forcibly put the plaintiff off. The plaintiff claims to have received internal injuries from the force used by the conductor and brakemen.

The magnitude of the damages asked by the plaintiff makes the action quite noticeable, and causes some delicate questions to arise to the construction of the orders which are issued to freight conductors concerning the carrying of passengers. One of the conditions in the thousand-mile ticket book relates to freight trains, and states that any traveler on such a train assumes risk to person or property from accident, and the company is not responsible.

THE GLEE CLUB CONCERT.

The concert to be given by the Glee Club—Programme in Full.

The grand concert of the Omaha Glee Club, to be given on Tuesday evening, will undoubtedly be the finest ever given by the club—which is saying a great deal.

Below is the programme: PROGRAMME. PART I. 1. Chorus of Men (St. Cecilia Day). Van Ereen.

PERSONAL. Attorney N. J. Burnham went to Lincoln last night.

Part of the "Siberia" are quartered at the Metropolitan.

Several members of the "Siberia" company are staying at the Goss hotel.

Miss Adele Belgrand and Miss Frankie McClellan, of the "Siberia" company are registered at the Millard.

Mr. Frank C. Delane, a popular newspaper man of St. Louis, and formerly connected with the local force of the Times of that city, passed through the city last night.

Mr. Thomas Swobe and Mr. J. M. Eddy, of the Palace Hotel company, returned this morning from an extended trip over the Union Pacific lines.

Supreme Court of Nebraska. Dodge vs. State. Error from Lancaster county. Affirmed. Opinion by Maxwell, Judge.

COURT NEWS.

Opening of the District Court—Grand Jury Business—New Cases Filed.

Next Monday morning the district court reconvenes for its February term. The first two days will be devoted to making preliminary arrangements, motions, swearing in jurors, etc.

The work before the grand jury is most important, as will be seen by a glance at the portion of business represented in the cases transferred from the police court.

Charles Long, charged with the larceny of a seal and other articles from Mrs. Fred Lang.

John Thompson and Lizzie Howard, charged with burning to death Nettie Howard.

John Blake, in which Blake is sued for a sum of money due on liquor bought from the whole firm, was filed in the district court yesterday, on an appeal from the county court.

A VAIN ATTEMPT. Julia Johnson Tries to Leap the Earthly Barriers—Morphine the Stimulus.

"I thought I would be better dead than alive, and so I took the morphine." These were the words of Julia Johnson, a sporting woman living near the southeast corner of Eleventh and Capital avenues, upon returning to consciousness after a vain attempt to commit suicide last night.

Early in the evening Julia had become despondent thinking over the life she was leading, and had made up her mind to pass into the unknown beyond in the most expeditious manner known to her limited imagination.

Smoke Seal of North Carolina Tobacco. Omaha National Bank, U. S. DEPOSITORY.

J. H. MILLARD, WM. WALLACE, President, Cashier. CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$500,000.

Omaha Safe Deposit VAULTS. Fire and Burglar Proof Safes.

D. C. BRYANT, M. D. Oculist & Aurist. 1234 Farnam Street.

NURSERY STOCK. These desirable Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Vines, Shrubs and Plants, will consult their own interest by calling at the real estate office of E. L. Emery, 1306 Farnam St., or 2200 Farnam St.

Dr. Amelia Burroughs. OFFICE AND RESIDENCE 617 Dodge St., - Omaha.

Hardy Nursery Stock. For priced catalogue of the POMONA NURSERY address, H. C. Hayward, Box 290, Omaha, Neb. Nursery grounds situated immediately north of the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb.

ALMA E. KEITH. NEW LINE. Finest Millinery. And Hat Goods the City, 1412 Douglas St., Omaha, Neb.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE. The firm of Steele, Johnson & Co., of Omaha, Neb., is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

LABOR AND LABORERS.

Matters of Interest to Employers and Employed.

The national convention of stove man manufacturers will be held at Chicago on Wednesday. The meeting will be of unusual interest, because of the questions which are to come up for consideration.

Among them are: (1) To what extent are manufacturers controlled by trade-unions; (2) the appliances and what modifications are needed in it; (3) the gathering of statistical information; (4) credit and cash questions; (5) questions of cost of manufacturing. Stove-making is one of the industries which, like the "Star of Empire," is moving further west.

The Workmen's Meeting. At Kasper's hall last night a mass meeting of the workmen was held, at which the subject of labor reform was earnestly discussed.

Edward Walsh was elected to the chair and Dr. F. S. Lewis chosen secretary.

Speeches were made in favor of the eight hour and convict labor movements by Hon. William Tuttle and Winspear, Lewis, Quinn and Kreshmar.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That we, citizens of the state of Nebraska, respectfully demand that the bill introduced by the Hon. Wm. Tuttle, providing for the abolition of the convict labor system now in vogue in this state, shall receive at their hands just and reasonable consideration, to the end that it do pass and become a law; and that any postponing of this important matter by the legislature will be construed by the members of this meeting as showing a willingness to betray the people of this great commonwealth into the hands of wily and unprincipled fortune hunters.

The meeting was then adjourned to the call of the trades assembly.

Foreign pauper labor is breaking out in spots in various parts of the west. These Greeks and Vandals are permitting our industrial society through the efforts of avaricious agents, and some days they may be the occasion of an agitation. The fact may as well be accepted one time as another, however, that the avenues and channels are being created between the overpopulated eastern hemisphere and the sparsely populated western hemisphere by which more or less rapid equalization will be effected.

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GERMAN D. WYATT. LUMBER MERCHANT.

CUMINGS AND 20TH STS. OMAHA, NE.

ORNAIMENTAL GALVANIZED IRON CORNICES.

LAGER BEER. Milwaukee, Wis. GUNTHER & CO., Sole Bottlers.

YOUNG MEN.

Who have tripped away their youthful vigor from torrid drains and losses, who are weak, impotent, and unfit for marriage, or who have their vitality weakened, or who are suffering from the effects of early habits, CAN receive a positive & lasting CURE, no matter of how long standing your case may be, or who has failed to cure you by a few weeks or months use of the celebrated Myrtleam Treatment.

MARRIED MEN, AND MEN ABOUT TO MARRY, REMEMBER, PERFECT SEXUAL STRENGTH MEANS: healthy and vigorous offspring, long life and the love and respect of a faithful wife.

Words of Warning and Comfort. If you are suffering from poor health or languishing on a bed, or if you are simply ailing, or if you feel that your system needs cleansing, toning, stimulating, without intoxicating, or if you are old, or if you are young, or if you are suffering from any of the numerous diseases of the stomach or bowels, it is your own fault if you remain ill.

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