

TRIALS OF A POLICE CHIEF

Influences that War Against an Honest Police Administration.

GOOD AND BAD ALIKE URGE EXTREMES

The Safe Road Lies Between the Two—Political and Other Pulls—Points Made by Chief O'Neill of Chicago.

Chief of Police O'Neill of Chicago delivered the principal address at the recent convention of police chiefs in St. Louis. His subject was, "The Police Chief, His Duties and His Difficulties," a topic that deeply concerns every city in the country.

"The official life of a chief of police of a large city is mainly an unrelenting effort to say 'No' and to say it with the least possible offense to those whose requests and demands are denied.

"That alert, stubborn and aggressive resistance to pressure and 'pull' which forms the spring against which the executive of the police department must keep his shoulders steadily and firmly set, is the successful chief of police must continue in his course evenly and steadily and during every moment of his official existence.

"When the police force is not under strict civil service laws the woes of the chief are indescribable. If the policemen's clubs were made out of gold instead of hickory, competition for them could scarcely be more strenuous.

"On another occasion this tireless and typical alderman came to me (being then Chief Brennan's private secretary), with a troubled face and worried manner. Drooping dejectedly into a chair he made known his mission—'I am slowly but surely being driven to insanity,' he said.

Woman's Name Is to love children, and home can be completely happy without them, yet the ordeal through which the expectant mother must pass usually is so full of suffering, danger and fear that she looks forward to the critical hour with apprehension and dread.

reason, and now I am ready to resort to other methods. Is there not some ordinance or rule of the department which says that officers who annoy the department chief with delegations in their behalf shall be subject to discipline?"

"This turn of affairs was an awful shock to the patrolman, who nearly drove him into a spasm of fear. His irrepressible ambition to wear the uniform of a sergeant suddenly left him, and all his thoughts became centered on saving himself from disgrace and in retaining his position.

"This far I have told only how the time, the energy and the hopes of the head of the police department are consumed by place hunters. When there is no civil service such things are inevitable, but under civil service law rigidly enforced, as it is in Chicago under the present administration, these drawbacks are reduced to a minimum.

"There is a wide difference of opinion as to what constitutes a good police administration. A certain element will not be satisfied with anything short of the absolute ideal in morals. But the reasonable portion of the community realizes that this is an impossibility.

"The suppression of vice to a point where it cannot directly affect those who do not of their own unaided choice, seek their own ruin, is the best that can be expected in the line of approximating the ideal, with human nature as it is constituted.

"On the way I visited a dozen or more of hospitals and took many pictures. Here is one now—a snapshot of a poor fellow—one of the regulars—lying on an improvised cot. He was shot through the thigh. But look at the smile on his face. Just as I snapped he caught sight of me. He was so glad that he could not raise himself or scarcely speak, but his face beamed when he saw me.

ROMANCE SPRINGS FROM WAR

Former Omaha Woman the Central Figure in a Clever Story.

HERO AND HEROINE HONEYMOONING

Experience of Elsie Reasoner as a War Correspondent Touches the Tender Chord of a Hero Similarly Engaged.

"She is a slip of a girl, only five feet tall—just like a china doll—and she seemed altogether out of place on the battlefield. But as she shells shrieked and the Mauser bullets sang, she walked cheerfully around, watching the wounded men fall, and then after she had looked at the dead, she asked questions about it. Now and again she paused to take snapshot photographs.

"With these heart-searching words the Philadelphia North American opens an illumination and illuminating story of a heroine well known to many Omaha people. As a heroine she was Elsie Reasoner, but romance interposed and made her the bride of Lester Ralph, son of the noted war correspondent.

"I was determined to go to that war," she says, "and I wrote to my father and told him so. He advised me to go by all means if I felt that way about it. So I hurried to New York and tried to get an appointment as correspondent from some of the magazines there, but none of them would send me. They said it was no sort of work for a woman and I couldn't possibly do it.

"After all the others, I went to McClure's. A whole lot of correspondents were held up at Key West at that time waiting for a chance to go to Cuba. The outlook was not promising for my getting there, I must confess, but I was bound to try. When I saw Mr. McClure and made my proposition to him he refused point blank to send me.

"I was well supplied with letters of introduction from influential public men. I had one to General Miles, one to General Shafter, and several to officers of the fleet.

"The battle of San Juan Hill had just been fought when I reached Siboney, and wounded men were being brought back to the hospital from the front. I did what I could to help the Red Cross nurses by cooking gruel and carrying ice, but the first chance I got I pushed on inland on a queer little Cuban horse.

"I saw funny things, too. I saw a Cuban sell a horse for half of a pineapple and a piece of tobacco. I saw six-footers of the Michigan volunteers who had fought Spangards almost hand to hand, run like deer from underneath the land crabs; and I saw General Shafter—three hundred and seventy odd pounds—riding a diminutive Cuban horse.

son, went with him. It was a curious turn of fate. Lester Ralph was educated in Paris as an artist, and the war in the Transvaal was by no means his first campaign. He was present, with his father, at the battle between Greece and Turkey, and the little action he witnessed there only whetted his appetite for more.

"One day a small British expedition was sent out from Bloemfontein to post proclamations, and young Ralph, looking for pictures, went along. In this way he witnessed the first sanguinary battle of the war—the ambulance at Sanna's Post—when the Boers caught Colonel Broadwood's little column in a grouch and killed or captured half of it.

"Following the ambulance at Sanna's Post, young Ralph was stricken with the fever, and among the friends who assisted in nursing him back to health was Rudyard Kipling.

"When Methuen fought his disastrous battles along the Modder river, Ralph was there, drawing pictures of them; he witnessed the capture of Kruger, and he was with Roberts when Pretoria fell. And all the while his sketches, published in America and in England, were telling the story of the great campaign as graphically as were his father's written words.

"The little war correspondent was able to appreciate the sentiment in that sketch. Doctor—Now, my little boy, describe your symptoms. Tommy—I ain't got no symptoms. I've got a headache in my stomach.

"Teacher—Anything is called transparent that can be seen through. Now, Willie, can you give me an example of a transparent?" Willie—Yes, ma'am. A hole in the fence around the ball park.

"The Diet of Prussia has recently adopted a resolution which, in my opinion, is a rule made either by the state church or Roman Catholic, the teachers and pupils in either case to be of the same creed. Religious minorities if of practicable size may claim the establishment of a school of their confession. This will, as a rule, shut out the Jews and old Lutherans altogether.

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