

# Some interesting Individualities at the National Prison Conference



DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS WHICH RECENTLY MET AT LINCOLN.

JOHN DAVIS, SECRETARY OF THE NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

A. D. BEEMER, WARDEN OF THE NEBRASKA STATE PENITENTIARY.

THE meeting of the National Prison association, which has just been held at Lincoln, brought to Nebraska men of national and even international reputations, and so wide is the scope of the association that every part of the country was represented, there being delegates in attendance from New York and Washington and from Canada and Florida and intermediate states. Whether from personal acquaintance with some of the local prison workers or for other reasons, the impression prevailed generally in the capital city that the meeting would bring together men and women of a sentimental turn, devoid of practical ideas and whose object was to tear open prison doors and break down the bars whatever the result to society would be. An acquaintance with the personnel of the delegates shortly dispelled this belief and upon the adjournment of the meeting all Lincoln united in saying that not a more dignified, conscientious, thoughtful, practicable, conservative delegation of men and women ever assembled in that city of conventions.

Authors of books, diggers into science, heads of great institutions, university professors, physicians, heads of great industrial enterprises, theologians, men and women who have studied the prisons of every country on the globe—these were the people who composed the National Prison association. Tears and flowers as the salvation of criminals and the prevention of crime had no place in this convention. Instead, the questions were studied from a scientific and economic standpoint and men with wide experience and of deep learning read the papers and made the arguments.

While every possible phase of prison work was discussed and many recommendations were made, the one point upon which all seemed to agree was for an indeterminate sentence law, a juvenile court law and a parole system. The speakers of the association seemed to be to devise a way to save the children, and thus prevent the increase of the criminal through future generations. And the statement made by Dr. Katherine Bennett Davis, a Chicago university professor, in connection with the women's reformatory of Bedford, N.Y., that "all life had an economic origin," seemed to strike a responsive chord.

**Dr. Barrows and Bertillon.**  
One of the best known men in the convention was Dr. Samuel J. Barrows of New York, a Unitarian minister, who is almost as well known across the water as he is in New York. Dr. Barrows is the author of several publications and has had enough experience in his busy life to fill a volume. Though he speaks German, French, Hungarian and Greek with the same ease that he speaks the English language, he found himself too busy to talk for publication here. He will remember his visit to this convention, however, because it was upon this occasion that he was partially measured by the Bertillon system.

The incident came out when Judge Wilbur F. Bryant, who is quite a familiar in some ways, asked the doctor for his autograph. "I will tell you what I will do," he replied. "I will be as good to you as I was to Major McClaughry of the Leavenworth prison. I went down there yesterday with him to visit his institution and I gave him the impression of my thumb under the rules of the Bertillon system. After he took the impression I concluded he might want to identify me with it so I made him give it back to me and I sent it to my daughter. So instead of bothering about writing my name I will just dab my thumb in the ink and smear it over a piece of paper."

**Dr. Barrows was formerly a congressman from Massachusetts, having been elected in 1896. That same year he represented the United States at the international prison congress, held at Paris. In speaking of Dr. Barrows a delegate said: "Dr. Barrows stood out as a stenographer and is today one of the best in the country. He was private secretary to William M. Seward when he was secretary of state and was later private secretary to Hamilton Fish. He was the same**

Barrows who was private secretary to Bishop Newman, who formerly lived in Omaha, and he reported the famous Newman-Fratt Mormon debate at Salt Lake. He is a graduate of Harvard.

Mrs. Barrows was the official stenographer of the congress and, though equally prominent with her husband as an author, she was brought out from New York by the congress to make an official report of the proceedings because of her ability as an editor and stenographer.

**Mulligan and the Secretaryship.**  
The delegate who went straight home to the hearts of those he met and who ruled the convention with an iron hand, bawling president and delegates without discrimination, was the secretary, Dr. J. L. Milligan. He has just returned to 37 years as chaplain of the Western penitentiary at Allegheny, Pa., and the seventeenth year as secretary of the National Prison association. He is as soft and pliable and as approachable and as sociable as a man can be, and he is just the reverse when he wants to be.

A stream of delegates passed through his room one morning, after he had stated he would not again be a candidate for secretary. Each had expressed regret that the doctor would not again be a candidate and nearly all offered to wager that he would be. Finally a lone delegate filed in. "Dr. Milligan, I am awfully glad to see you. I understand they are going to make you secretary again."

"You do, do you; well you understand wrong."

"Well, I guess they will make you take it."

"They won't! They won't! You stop that talk. I won't have it. No, sir, I won't and that settles it," and before the man had gotten out the doctor had told a number of good funny incidents, and proved that he was as good about bluffing as he was about looking after the affairs of the association.

Dr. Milligan, among other stories, told how he stopped smoking. He said: "I had been an inveterate smoker for years and on the occasion I speak of I had just received from Cuba a lot of tobacco and had it come into the cigs in the prison. I was just coming out of the prison gate with a cigar in my hand when a small boy said: "Mister, give me a light."

"I looked at the little fellow a minute and then said to him: 'Young man, don't you know it is wrong to smoke. You should not smoke.'"

"'Gwan,' he said, 'ain't you smoking yourself?'"

"The boy had the best of the argument and I concluded it did look rather bad to go around preaching against smoking with a cigar in my mouth, so I quit. Incidentally Dr. Sharp, a theologian of New York, got half of those cigars and Dean Fair of London got the other half."

**System at Joliet.**  
"No prisoner can escape from Joliet," remarked Warden Murphy of that world-famous institution to a group of delegates who were discussing prisons in general. Now Warden Murphy is one of the delegates that Booth tried to have kidnapped for a center because of his magnificent record. "The prisoners of the group concluded the prisoner could not escape if the warden was at the switch."

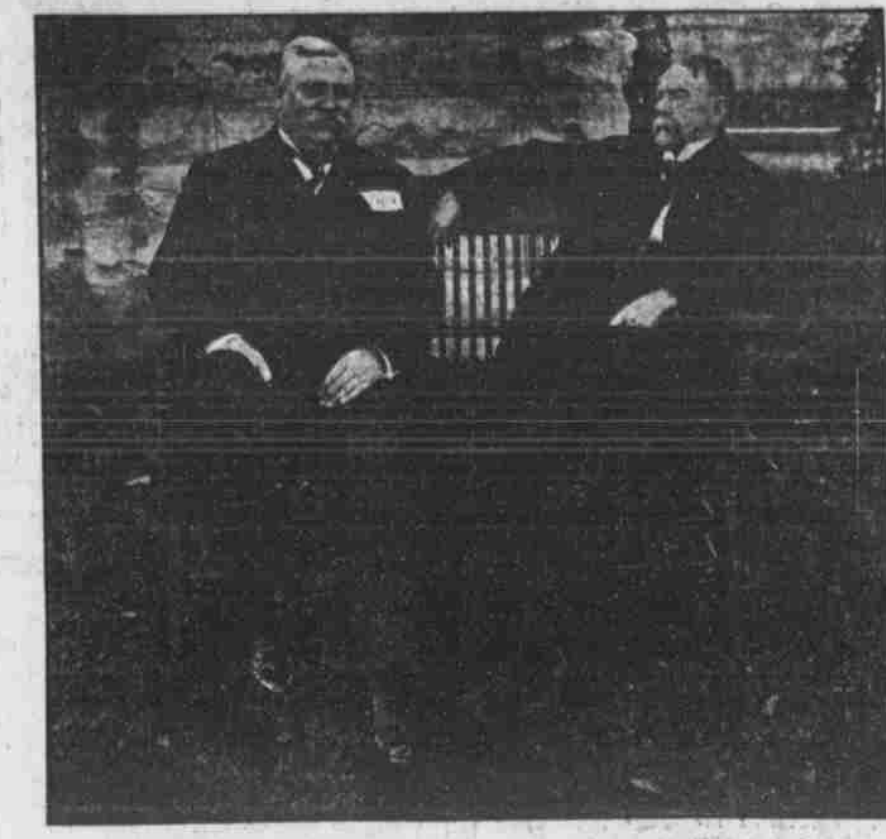
"No prisoner can escape from this reason," continued the warden. "Every employe in my institution knows his business and he

and showed signs of insanity. Acting upon this report, King Edward broke off negotiations for the marriage."

**Democracy of Pope Pius.**  
Stories multiply of Pope Pius's democracy. Visitors are received with great simplicity. As soon as one enters he causes him to be seated in an armchair by his side, chairs, laughs and relates anecdotes and stories. The other day the pope while receiving some women remarked they had trains to their skirts. "This is not hygienic," said he, "one rather than in the streets a quantity of microbes and other things. As to myself, when they compel me to add a train to my cassock it bothers me much, although there are four prelates up hold it." "But, holy father," said one of the women, "we hold up our trains when going in the streets."

"That must be very inconvenient," replied Pius X. and passing from word to word the pope made several tours in the room holding up his robes.

**Suspicious Procession.**  
Senator Proctor of Vermont, accompanied by Mrs. Proctor and a party of some fourteen persons, was making a tour of the west. A stop was made at Salt Lake City and the party started out for a walk about the city. Senator Proctor and his wife headed the procession, and the ladies of the party brought up the rear, going in pairs. That very same day another party of easterners was making the rounds of Salt Lake City, and when they encountered the Proctor party in the main street they stood aside to let them pass. "Well, well!" exclaimed one of them that old Mormon and his wives. Out for a constitutional. I suppose I wonder," he added, "if he has any more."



ALFRED GARVIN, PRESIDENT, AND J. L. MILLIGAN, SECRETARY, OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH MET AT LINCOLN.

knows that if a prisoner escapes it is the fault of some guard or employe.

"It would do no good for a prisoner to get out of Joliet anyhow, because if he did we would get him. We would go to the uttermost part of the earth for him and bring him back. The state would spend \$200 in railroad fare to get him. It is our system and it works."

This handsome warden, who attracted attention both for his good looks and his pleasant manner, as well as for his wise counsel and wonderful experience with the criminal class, was formerly a congressman.

but even that did not detract from his popularity.

"We are great believers in the parole system," he said, "but we are very careful who gets the prisoner. The man who stands sponsor must be responsible and must agree to pay the convict a stipulated salary every month. We will not parole a prisoner to the keeper of a livery stable for we believe that is the worst place on earth for a convict; to a saloon keeper or to any place where he has to handle liquor or is brought in contact with it."

Warden Murphy has been at the head of

Joliet for the last seven years and is recognized as a student of criminology.

**Attractives at Fort Madison.**  
N. N. Jones, who has been at the head of Fort Madison, Ia., penitentiary for the last dozen years and who was elected president of the warden's department, was one of the very popular men at the meeting, as was shown by the honor conferred upon him. Warden Jones recently had an experience with a young man prisoner that doesn't happen every day and which had to do with a Lincoln citizen.

"Some time ago we paroled a young man to a citizen of Lincoln," said Mr. Jones. "Just before I came to the convention the boy reappeared at my office."

"I've come back," he said. "Let me in."

"What did you come back for?" asked the warden.

"Well, the man gave me some money and told me to come back, that he didn't need me any more."

"Well, I have no authority to 'take you out,'" replied the warden, "you are out on parole."

"What must I do," inquired the boy, "I don't know what to do."

"Neither do I," said the warden. "What would you suggest?"

"I guess I will call up the governor and see what he says," finally decided the boy and he did and he got his old place back in the cell.

Other wardens who heard the story were mean enough to say that Warden Jones told the story to illustrate that he had such a fine institution that the children cried for it.

**Authority on Juvenile Court.**  
Charles Richmond Henderson, professor of sociology at the Chicago university and who also preaches the scriptures according to the creed of the Baptist church, was one of the very interesting delegates who took an active part in the proceedings. Dr. Henderson is authority on juvenile courts and is the author of a publication along these lines. He believes in saving the children and in doing that there will be no bad men. He was a delegate to the international prison conference held at

Budapest some time ago and was accompanied there by Dr. Barrows.

One of the picturesque figures at the convention, a veteran of the late war, in which he won his stars, the head of a bank and the planter of flowers and trees, and the lover of children, and an all around agreeable gentleman, was General Roosevelt Brinkerhoff of Mansfield, O. General Brinkerhoff has long since passed into the afternoon of life, but he is as young as the youngest. Flowers and children are the general's special hobby and the school children of Mansfield each year compete in the raising of flowers for a prize offered by the general. The prize giving has been made perpetual by him. General Brinkerhoff has visited nearly every prison in America and many in Europe and he is authority on affairs relating to criminals and prisons. He took a prominent part in the deliberations of the congress.

Incidentally, General Brinkerhoff witnessed the assassination of President Lincoln and described the affair in his "Recollections of a Life Time." He was an intimate friend of Edward M. Stanton and is a democrat.

**Saunders of South Carolina.**  
Another democrat who was present as a delegate was Arthur K. Saunders of South Carolina, and it may be of interest to know that an enthusiastic politician took an inventory of the delegates from a political standpoint and discovered only six democrats in the whole convention. The two that have been named and Wilbur F. Bryant, J. E. Hildebrand of Nebraska, and L. C. Blitch of Florida. Of course, the convention did not know this and probably did not care, so it fell to the lot of an enthusiastic politician of Lincoln to find it out.

Mr. Saunders comes from a state where the state dispensary law is in operation and he is opposed to it. Not because the state fails to make money of it, but from principle and because he says it opens up a wide field for graft on the part of those who administer the law. He is also an anti-Tillman democrat, but he admires Tillman in his private life.

"Senator Tillman swears and rants in his

speeches," he said, "but his domestic life is ideal. He is a Christian gentleman and not one word has ever been said against his private life."

"Tillman," he said, broke the rule of the "First Families" after six years spent in organizing the middle classes against them. He was elected to office, he said, over the combined opposition of every large newspaper in the state.

**Little Woman with Big Ideas.**  
Dr. Katherine Bennett Davis of the women's reformatory of Bedford, N. Y., a little, frail looking woman, but one who has ideas as large as brick blocks, simply carried the convention away in her talks on what the reformatory had done for the young women of her state. She believes every ill has an economic origin. She believes in open air work for women and the inmates of her home raise the garden and do everything around the place, stopping only at plowing. They have laid 700 feet of cement walk, having mixed the cement themselves, and they have graded down an embankment which it was estimated would have cost the state \$1,500 and which was done for nothing. She left it for the convention to discover what was to become of the women when they left the institution. Women refuse to associate with them and men refuse to employ them where other women are employed. The convention has yet to solve that problem. Dr. Davis is a graduate of Chicago university, where she won the degree of M. D.

**President Garvin.**  
A big man from every point of view who attended the convention was the president, Albert Garvin of Wethersfield, Conn. His photograph gives a faint idea of his proportions and the manner in which he conducted the session shows his bigness in a mental line. He is warden of the Connecticut penitentiary and has been known for years as one of the best posted men on criminology in the country.

**Nebraska's Big Man.**  
Speaking of big men physically and mentally, Nebraska itself gives a very creditable manner and Governor Mickey's warden—Beemer—came in for more compliments from the visitors than any person in the whole gathering. He was complimented not only for having what many of the delegates said was "the best managed penitentiary in the United States and the cleanest," but because of his genial personality. Warden Beemer is full of stories and experiences and when he gets to talking he never fails to hold the attention of his crowd. Here is one that he told, and the actual story happened to him:

"A number of wardens were discussing the various ways convicts had of smuggling dope into a prison and it came Warden Beemer's time to test the crowd.

"We have had lots of trouble keeping dope out of the prison," he began, "and we have come in contact with some pretty clever tricks. One day a convict received a letter signed with the numbers 6969. We studied for several days trying to find out what that signature meant, but couldn't, so concluded to give the prisoner the letter and then keep a watch on him. The very next day I happened to look out on the railroad track that comes up in the yard and there was a box car with the same numerals stamped on its side. We went out and searched the car thoroughly and down under the bottom on a part of the brakebeam we found a great big package of gum opium. Of course, we confiscated it and then kept a strict watch upon the prisoner, but he never went near the car, nor did he do any other convict."

"I was just going to say that the only case of opium being smuggled into Joliet," broke in Warden Murphy, "in recent years was when a man and woman with a child in long dresses came to see a convict. While they were talking the woman slipped the opium out from beneath the child's dress. Warden Beemer's story, however, prevented me from telling you this one."

**Davis as a Worker.**  
It was this same Warden Beemer and John Davis, clerk of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, that carried the invitation to Quincy last year for the national congress to most here. It was the same two men that insisted on the delegates accepting the invitation. Speaking of John Davis, William Ruehrwein, superintendent of the city work house of Cincinnati, said:

"That man Davis is the most energetic worker to be connected with a national congress. I was on the committee that selected Lincoln, and I either had to do that or have John Davis on my back constantly. We took five or six ballots before the question was settled and it was Davis that kept us rounded up constantly."

Other delegates to the convention sang the praises of Davis for the great care with which he looked after the details of the meeting. He was never still a minute whether in the convention hall or out of it.

Judge Bryant, another Nebraskan who was instrumental in getting the juvenile court law enacted by the late legislature, went on record favoring making the birthday of John Howard a holiday, giving him credit for founding the National Prison association. He introduced a resolution to that effect, but the convention referred it to a committee to report at the next meeting. As the committee is supposed to be hostile to the move, Judge Bryant believes his resolution will never see the light of day.

A. V. Collins of New York, connected with Sing Sing, the new prisoner, did not attend the meeting. Amos W. Butler, clerk of the State Charities board of Indiana, was elected secretary. Mr. Butler was at the meeting a few days and read an interesting paper. He left Lincoln before his name was even suggested as secretary.

Judge M. B. Reese, president of the State Prison Association, and Dr. George Martin, the secretary, attended every session and were recognized in the association as leading members. Dr. Martin, whose special hobby is to look after released convicts, meets with a dozen or more of them every month in a room at the Lindell hotel, treats them to lunch and listens to their tales of woe. He is one of the best friends a convict ever had.

## Equipment of a Modern Dental Office



THE OPERATING ROOM.



CORNER IN RECEPTION ROOM.

By Kate Tate, the Observer.

WHEN I am a newspaper woman and write interviews and tell of the progressive and up-to-date things in Omaha, I am human; therefore subject to the ills and ailments of the human body. A few weeks ago I found that I must go to the dentist; my teeth were beginning to decay and among them the front ones. The very idea of going down to Dr. X's and being hurt again the way I was last time simply gave me the cold chills. The indifference of dentists generally to the pain they inflict is hard to explain. Either they are not sympathetic and never had their own teeth filled or they're simply careless. And then the idea of having my front teeth stuffed with gold was abhorrent to me. It looks so-well, I don't know just how; but, anyway, you don't feel just right when you laugh and "show your gold."

A week ago Sunday I was walking home from church with Cynthia Green and told her of my troubles.

"Why don't you go to my dentist," said Cynthia, "Dr. Fickes, up in the Bee building. He's very careful not to hurt, having every so many remedies for painless operating. But, best of all, if you don't like gold in your front teeth, he places them with porcelain, and it's impossible to tell that they have been filled. Here's one of his cards. You go to him tomorrow and next Sunday you'll thank me for sending you."

**Omaha Has Good Dentists.**  
There are many good dentists in Omaha and heretofore I had been partial to no one. But, after Cynthia's telling me of one who was an expert on porcelain work, didn't hurt, and who charged a reasonable fee, I concluded to go to Dr. Fickes.

The next morning I called up No. 57 and asked the lady who answered the phone if I could have one-half of an hour at 3 o'clock, because that was the only time I could get away. In the afternoon, I went down to the Bee building and consulted the directory board, just inside the Farman street entrance. Yes, there it was, Dr. Fickes, dentist, Suite No. 238. To make sure I asked the elevator man. In his pleasant way he said, "Dr. Fickes, third floor, 238, around to the left, middle of rotunda, east side." I left the elevator and went around the beautifully arched rotunda

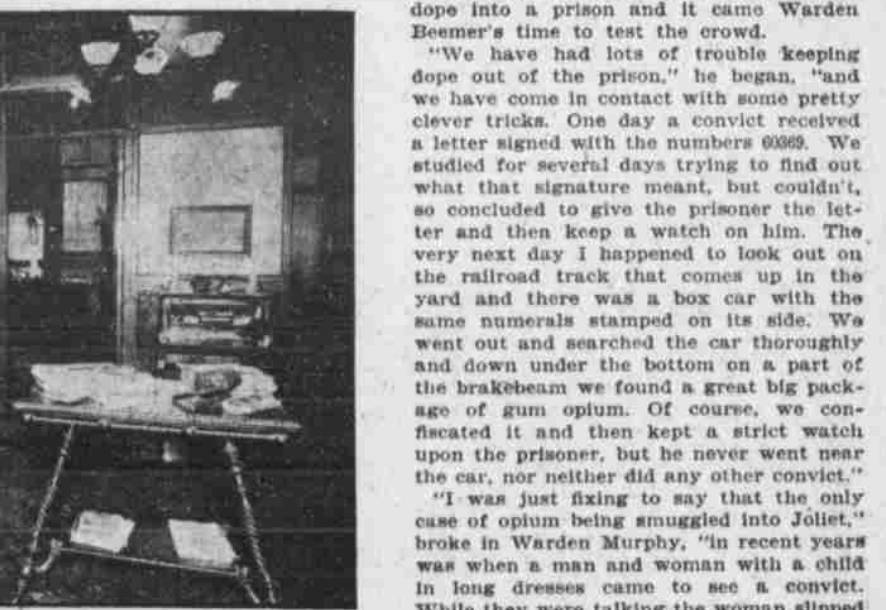
and, as there was no one waiting, I asked him to tell me about a few of the things I saw, and, what was to me very important, his prices for the various kinds of work.

**Modern Equipment.**  
I was shown the electric drill. I've forgotten how many hundred revolutions per minute it makes, but anyhow it cuts so fast that it does not hurt like the old foot drill. The little work room corner seemed to me the ideal of tidiness, with its work bench, electric light, electric heater for sterilizing instruments and numerous little jimcracks, mysterious to me. I then looked over the porcelain inlay outfit. It was shown the electric oven with its white heat of 2,500 degrees Fahrenhaid indicated by the dial at the side. A high heat is needed to bring out the shades in porcelain necessary to match the teeth. What is a fact in eastern cities is rapidly becoming so in the West, viz., that people of refinement will no longer tolerate a display of gold in their front teeth. Hence the demand for nicely glazed and shaded porcelain, inlay so as to defy detection.

Upon my telling him about mother's "false" teeth—that they were too even, like a white picket fence and didn't look a bit like her own—he told me to send her down. His first man made a plate of wax and inserts B, subject to the criticism of the wearer. Then if they don't approve, the teeth can be readily changed and the proper appearance brought about.

He told me the above and much more. I wanted to tell my friends about it and of refinement will no longer tolerate a display of gold in their front teeth. Hence the demand for nicely glazed and shaded porcelain, inlay so as to defy detection.

**Reasonable Prices.**  
He handed me a little booklet which, as I afterward found, fully explains the work and tells of the various fees, the latter being indeed reasonable. He told us that the better class of people in country towns come to Omaha in large numbers to take advantage of the superior work done by Omaha dentists. Most people who have made their own money are pretty healthy,



CORNER IN WORK ROOM.

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