

# OMAHA TAKING MEASURES TO COMBAT THE FLU

## Merchants Act and Street Car Company Will Not Permit Overcrowding of Cars by Patrons.

Everything is being done short of a resumption of the absolute closing order to curb the influenza epidemic. All public meetings except church services have been called off. Public dances have been ordered closed until further notice. Crowds in pool rooms are restricted.

Ninety-three deaths in Omaha from Spanish influenza were reported to the city health commissioner's office in the last five days.

The street railway company has agreed to comply with the health commissioner's order to keep all ventilators open and one window in each car, regardless of the weather.

### "Full Car" Signs.

Efforts to restrict the passengers to the number for which there are seats on each car didn't work out very well during the rush hours. The company is now having cards printed, reading "Full Car." These will be displayed at the motorman's window when he gets a signal from the conductor that the car is full. The car will then proceed without stopping for more passengers until some get out. The company will put on more cars to accommodate the people.

"Two great things are apparent that everybody can do to curb the disease," said Dr. Manning. "One is to avoid crowds everywhere and always. Let them walk instead of riding wherever possible. If they must go where there is a crowd let them remain there just as brief a time as possible. Get plenty of fresh air, breathe deeply.

### Care of Patients.

"The other thing that will lower the death rate immensely concerns care of the patient who already has the disease. The majority of the doctors agree that he must not get up until at least four days after the temperature has become normal. Observance of this rule will cut down the death rate 50 per cent. And, another thing, as long as the cough persists, the patient must be extremely careful, especially while any discharge is being brought up by the cough.

"Physicians know deplorably little about the disease, as was shown by the recent convention upon the epidemic in Chicago. But the above things we do know, and any person who disregards these rules is a menace to the public health and a poor citizen."

Hundreds of "flu" signs have been tacked on houses throughout the city. Dr. Manning urges people who patronize restaurants to eat when the crowd is small. Let them go to lunch at 11:30 instead of 12 o'clock, he says. Or else let them wait until the noon rush is over.

## Admits in Court He is of No Use to Anybody or No Good to Himself

Pop-eyed, saddle colored Harry Turner, afflicted with a hare-lip and impediment in his speech, faced Judge Britt in police court Friday, the 13th. He was charged with vagrancy. Despite the fateful combination of date, he was untried and told the court cheerfully that the charge against him was as true as could be.

"Yes, sah, I'm a snow bird," said he, when asked if he used coke. "Ah snuffs snow when ah can get it, but the trouble is, judge, it don't snow often enough to suit me."

"I his de hop-pipe, and I uses de needle, drink rot-gut whiskey and I reckon I've got every bad habit dere is. No sah, judge, ah ain't any earthly use to nobody."

His candid confession of utter depravity astounded the court, and especially as he asked no clemency. Judge Britt discharged him.

## Special Train Service is Discontinued After Strike

With the re-establishment of regular street car service on all lines, the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific shuttle trains, operating between Omaha and South Omaha, have been discontinued. They made their last trips Thursday afternoon and were taken off as soon as the street railway strike ended.

The Union Pacific trains were run for the accommodation of packing house employees and did a good business. The Missouri Pacific trains were in operation but two days. The first day that they run business was light, but Thursday the cars were pretty well loaded on all trips.

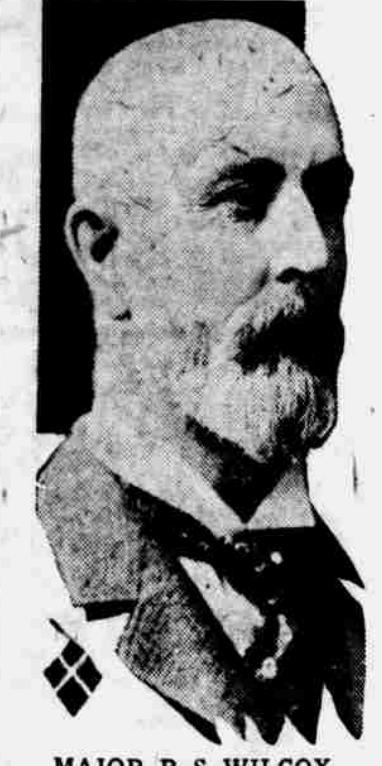
## New Brand of Bootleg Gets Same Treatment in Court

A new brand of whiskey was on exhibit in police court Wednesday, when "Belle of the Underworld" took its place beside "Keweenaw Club," "Blue Stone," "Big Hollow" and the other well known brands distributed by the bootleggers. Four quarts of the liquor with the new label were found in a suit case taken from William Johnson, a Benson carpenter. He said he bought it in St. Joseph, where he went on the advice of his physician to get some "flu" preventive. He was fined \$100 and costs.

## Children's Morals Code to Be Taught Pupils Here

Copies of the "Code of Morals for Children," by William J. Hutchins, for which he was awarded a prize of \$5,000, have been distributed to public school teachers of the city. The code sets forth 10 laws—the laws of health, self-control, self-reliance, reliability, clean play, duty, good workmanship, team work, kindness and loyalty, with applications of each law. Teachers will teach the laws to pupils.

## ELECTED CHAIRMAN RED CROSS FOR NEXT YEAR.



MAJOR R. S. WILCOX.

Major R. S. Wilcox was elected chairman of the Omaha chapter, American Red Cross, at a meeting of the executive committee Friday noon. He takes the place of Robert Cowell, who resigned.

## Millionaire Farmer, Guilty of Sedition, is Fined \$2000 and Costs

Federal Judge Woodruff Friday morning sentenced Thomas Kerl, found guilty of sedition on three counts, to pay a fine of \$2,000 and costs.

Kerl was convicted of saying that the American soldiers were a blood-thirsty bunch and ought to be working in the South Omaha packing plants. He also admitted circulating German propaganda.

Kerl owns 10 farms near Oakland, Neb., and extensive property in Idaho. R. E. McFarland, lawyer from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where Kerl owns extensive interests, and Senator Norris Brown and Irving F. Baxter of Omaha, represented the defendant in the trial. United States District Attorney Allen and his assistant, Howard Saxton, conducted the trial for the government.

## Woman Gets Reward From Realtors Because of Capturing Thieves

Mrs. W. H. Capps, 2952 Harney street, was today paid the customary \$50 reward offered by the Real Estate board for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any one found guilty of stealing plumbing from a house on which realtors have their signs posted. Mrs. Capps, noticing suspicious actions on the part of two men in the house at 2960 Harney street, called the police, who caught the thieves with the plumbing material all piled up in the middle of the floor.

## Castelar School Teacher Dies Victim of Influenza

Myrtle E. Busk, 29 years of age, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Busk, 3412 Hawthorne avenue, of influenza Thursday morning. She was employed as a teacher in the eighth grade of the Castelar school.

Miss Busk is a graduate of the Omaha high school, University of Nebraska and Wellesley college. Funeral services will be held at the home Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

## Aid Garden Work.

Two cents per capita was all it cost to conduct the garden work last season in seven Indiana cities in which assistant county agents were placed. This amount paid for the supervision and office work connected with the gardening campaign and for the plowing, etc. In the seven cities there were 129,000 gardens that produced products valued at \$1,580,000, the total cost being \$11,933. Although the increase in total number of gardens in the state over the previous year amounted to 28 per cent, the estimated increase in the seven cities was about 60 per cent, which it is believed, demonstrates the value of proper supervision.

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# The Abandoned Room

By Wadsworth Camp

**CHAPTER XXIV**

For long periods the district attorney and the detective were closeted in the library. Now and then they passed upstairs, but no one, save Graham, seemed to care. Already the officers had had every opportunity to search the house. The old room no longer held an inhabitant to set its fatal machinery in motion. Yet Bobby realized in a dull way that at any moment the two men might come down to him, saying:

"We have found something. You are guilty."

The heavy atmosphere of the house crushed such forecasts, made them seem a little trivial. Bobby fancied it gathering density to cradle new mysteries. The long minutes loitered to go.

"Why should I stay?" he grumbled. "What is there to keep me?" Yet he sat back in his chair again and appeared to have forgotten his intention.

Graham wandered off. Bobby thought he had joined Rawlins and Robinson in the library.

The only daylight entered the hall through narrow slits of windows on either side of the front door. Bobby, watching these, was, even with the problems night brought him now, glad when they grew paler.

Paredes, who had been smoking a cigar after cigar, arose and brought his card table. Drawing it close to him, he arranged the cards in neat piles. The uncertain light made it barely possible to identify their numbers. Doctor Groom gestured his disgust. Katherine stooped forward, placing her hands on the table.

"Is it kind," she asked, "so soon after he has left his house?"

"Paredes started," Bobby said softly.

"Puzzled," she glanced at him.

"Stay just as you are," he directed. "There has been so much death in this house—who knows?"

Languidly he placed his fingers on the edge of the table opposite hers.

"What are you doing?" Dr. Groom asked hoarsely.

"Wait!" Paredes said again.

Then Bobby, scarcely aware of what was going on, saw the cards glide softly across the face of the table and flutter to the floor. The table had lifted slowly toward the Panamanian. It stood now on two legs.

"What is it?" Katherine said. "It's moving. I can feel it move beneath my fingers."

Her words recalled to Bobby unavailably his experience in the old room.

"Don't do that!" the doctor cried. Paredes smiled.

"It," he answered, "the source of these crimes is, as you think, spiritual, why not ask the spirits for a solution? You see how quickly the table responds. It is as I thought. There is something in this hall. Haven't you a feeling that the dead are in this dark hall with us? They may wish to speak. See!"

The table settled softly down without any noise. It commenced to rise again. Katherine lifted her hands with a visible effort, as if the table had tried to hold them against her will. She covered her face and sat trembling.

"I won't!"

Paredes shrugged his shoulders, appealing to the doctor. The huge, shaggy head shook determinedly.

"I'm not so sure I don't agree with you. I'm not so sure the dead aren't in this hall. That is why I'll have something to do with such dangerous play. It has shown us, at least, that you are psychic, Mr. Paredes."

"I have a gift," Paredes murmured. "It would be useful to speak with them. They see so much more than we do."

He lifted his hands. He waved them dejectedly. He stooped and commenced picking up the cards.

The doctor arose.

"I shall go now," he sighed. "I don't know why I have stayed."

Bobby got his coat and hat.

"I'll walk to the stable with you."

He was glad to escape from the dismal hall in which the firelight grew more eccentric. The court colder and damper, and even beyond the chill was more penetrating than it had been at the grave that noon. Uneven flakes of snow sifted from the swollen sky, heralds of a white invasion.

"No more sleep-walking?" the doctor asked when he had taken the blanket from his horse and climbed into the buggy.

Bobby leaned against the wall of the stable and told how Graham brought him back the previous night from the stable, to which he had gone with a purpose he didn't dare sound. The doctor shook his head.

"You shouldn't tell me that. You shouldn't tell any one. You place yourself too much in my hands, as you are already in Graham's hands. Maybe that is all right. But the district attorney? You're sure he knows nothing of this habit which seems to have commenced the night of the first murder?"

"No, and I think Paredes alone of those who know about that first night would be likely to tell him."

"See that he doesn't," the doctor said shortly. "I've been watching Robinson. If he doesn't make an arrest pretty soon with something back of it he'll lose his mind. He mightn't stop to ask, as I do, as Howells did, about the locked doors and the nature of the wounds."

"How shall I find the courage to sleep tonight?" Bobby asked.

The doctor thought for a moment.

"Suppose I come back?" he said. "I've only one or two important cases to look after. I ought to return before dinner. I'll take Graham's place for tonight. It's time your reactions were better diagnosed. I'll share your room, and you can go to sleep, assured that you'll come to no harm, that harm will come to no one through you. I'll bring some books on the subject."

I'll read them while you sleep. Perhaps I can learn the impulse that makes your body active while your mind's a blank.

The idea of the influence of Paredes, which Graham had put into words, slipped back to Bobby. He was, nevertheless, strengthened by the doctor's promise. To an extent the dread of the night fell from him like a smothering garment. This old man, who had always filled him with discomfort, had become a capable support in his difficult hour. He saw him drive away. He studied his watch, computing the time that must elapse before he could return. He wanted him at the Cedars even though the doctor believed more thoroughly than anyone else in the spiritual survival of old passions and the power of the dead to project a physical evil.

He didn't care to go back to the hall. It would do him good to walk, to force as far as he could from his mind the memory of the ordeal at the grave, the grim, impending atmosphere of the house. And suppose he should accomplish something useful? Suppose he should succeed where Graham had failed?

So he walked toward the stagnant lake. The flakes of snow fell thicker. Already they had gathered in white patches on the floor of the forest. If this weather continued the woods would cease to be habitable for that dark feminine figure through which they had accounted for the mournful crying after Howells' death, which Graham had tried to identify with the dancer, Maria.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

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