

# North Shore News-Letter.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT HIGHLAND PARK ILLINOIS.

H. P. DAVIDSON, Prop.

PHONE 92

Entered at the Post Office Highland Park 2nd Class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 A YEAR, 5C PER COPY.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24 1910

Checks received for subscription are at once credited, and the date changed on the printed label within a week or two.

## EDITORIALS

### WESTERN TRIP OF COL. ROOSEVELT.

"The trip was memorable for its plain spoken utterances upon the political and social questions which stir the people, the moral significance of which he so fervidly emphasized. Even more courageous and eloquent were his support of the men now fighting the battles of better citizenship and the sharp blows he dealt those whom he holds culpable for civic corruption and the exploitation of the people by special interests. The most spectacular episode of this sort was his refusal to attend the banquet of the Hamilton Club in Chicago, arranged in his honor, until assured that the invitation to Senator Lorimer had been withdrawn and that the senator would not be present.

Quite as heartening, however, to those in the heat of the struggle for the people's rule was his wholesome vindication of Judge Lindsey in Denver. Those who hate Judge Lindsey because he has laid bare the trial of the Beast, had contrived to ignore him completely in the plans for Roosevelt's reception. Could anything have been calculated to rouse more quickly the militant spirit of a civic reformer but recently returned from African game trials? When insistent inquiries for Judge Lindsey brought only evasive replies, Colonel Roosevelt took the keenest delight in hailing him at the entrance to the auditorium and leading him to the most prominent seat on the platform, to the very evident discomfiture of the schemers, whose betrayal of the people's rights has been so vigorously exposed and assailed by Judge Lindsey."

We have rarely heard of anything more gratifying and inspiring to the highminded patriotic American citizen than Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt's attitude towards Judge Ben Lindsey, in Denver and Senator W. Lorimer in Chicago. We take great pleasure in quoting the above from The Survey of last week. We may add incidentally that the Survey is published in New York and also at 35 Dearborn street Chicago. The philanthropist who is anxious to know what is being done in various lines to uplift the human race will hardly find any one publication more helpful than Survey.

### REACHES A RIPE AGE

Secretary Wilson Has Passed His 75th Birthday.

Holds The-Long-Distance Record in Point of Service in a Presidential Cabinet—Came From Scotland in 1852

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, the long-distance record holder in point of service in a Presidential cabinet, and the oldest cabinet officer of the present administration, recently celebrated the

75th anniversary of his birth on his farm at Traer, Iowa. The officials of the Agricultural Department joined in sending a telegram of congratulations to their head.

Secretary Wilson was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, August 16, 1835, and came to the United States in 1852. He began life as a farmer in 1861, and shortly thereafter entered politics. He was elected to the legislature for several terms and served three terms in congress.

He was Regent of the State University from 1870 to 1874, and was Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and Professor of Agriculture at the Iowa Agriculture Collge. He was appointed Secretary of Agriculture by President McKinley in 1897, and was reappointed to that office by President Roosevelt and President Taft.

The Secretary announces that he has taken personal charge of the Forestry Service, and declares it his intention to open up for settlement all lands now within government forest reserves which are suitable for agriculture and do not run over 4,000 feet of timber to the acre.

"We are not trying to set men up in the timber business," said Mr. Wilson, "but where the soil of any tract is good and does not carry more than 4,000 feet of timber to the acre, we are willing to let the settler have it under the act of June 11, 1908.

"The forest reserve withdrawals were hastily made, and there is much land within their boundaries, as they at present exist, more valuable for agricultural purposes than for timber. Five or six million acres of this class of land will be eliminated this summer as fast as maps can be prepared and proclamations prepared for the signature of the President.

### WHY JURIES REFUSE TO CONVICT.

We have too much crime in this country. The daily press contains much criminal news, although little is printed unless it is of a sensational nature. Most crimes are now so common as to be deemed unworthy of notice by the papers. Statistics show that crime is increasing much faster than our population, and this would indicate that there is something radically wrong with our method of treating the criminal. This is usually assumed to be in our failure to punish him speedily and severely. It is true that it is difficult now-a-days to convict persons charged with crime. About three out of four persons held to the criminal court by the Municipal Court Judges in Chicago are freed by the juries before which they are tried. It is apparent that the reason for this is the sympathy of jurors—not with crime, as is sometimes charged—but with men convicted of crime and with their families.

#### LIFE-LONG RUIN.

The consequences of imprisonment are so disastrous that juries hesitate long before visiting them upon their fellowmen and the more highly organized society becomes the more disastrous and far reaching become the effects of a prison

term. An ex-convict can no longer remove to another county or state and begin life over again. Modern inventions like the railroad and the camera and the newspaper have made this impossible, and as a result these men are forced into the ranks of the professional criminal, of whom it is estimated we have more than 100,000 in this country.

#### SOMETHING WRONG

There would seem to be something radically wrong with the system of government which compels a man to commit crime for a living or which permits such a thing as a professional criminal to be at liberty, and yet this is the undoubted result of our present system of punishing offenders. Even granting that men are reformed by punishment, which few believe, nevertheless what benefit is it to society if he is thereby made an outcast and compelled to again violate the law? It follows therefore that the prison should not be the first but last resort in the treatment of the criminal, and the reason for an offender's imprisonment should be—not punishment but protection to society from his acts. This would result not in shortening prison terms, but in lengthening them. We all know that most men who violate the law do so as a result of their environment and not from any desire to commit crime. In the great majority of such cases the wrongdoer can be reformed by removing the cause. I can conceive of no greater wrong to society than to imprison unfortunates just long enough to ruin them and then turn them out to commit crime. This process is now being applied to about five hundred thousand men every year in our country, and yet we wonder why crime is increasing?

#### LET COURTS PREVENT

If the power and intelligence of the courts were applied to ascertain, in each individual case, the cause of the wrongdoer's act and then remove such cause—which is entirely possible in a very large majority of the cases—these men could be saved to their families and to society. If this were to be the results of the trial, juries would convict where now they acquit, and, in fact, many offenders would save the state the cost of such trials by pleading guilty in order to get the help which they need, and most of them want to enable them to become law-abiding citizens. This is probation; an opportunity to reform without imprisonment, thus saving intact the offender's capital, preserving his reputation and self respect, and teaching him that the law is not his enemy to revenge itself upon him, but is his friend to help him to become a good citizen and a useful member of society. It is to secure the passage of laws requiring this that the National Probation League is formed.

#### STATES FALLING INTO LINE

Twenty states have already passed adult probation laws and thirty states have passed juvenile probation laws and when the others follow and the courts are educated to appreciate the importance of this principle in the treatment of delinquents we will experience a marked diminution of crime. There is less crime in Germany than here. This is also true of Great Britain and other European countries, but this is due not so much to their laws (although Parliament has lately adopted a Probation Act) as to their ability to send their habitual criminals to America. A committee of Congress some years ago found this was being systematically done by many European Governments and while our Govern-

ment endeavors to prevent this, it has not yet been successful?

### WHAT IS THE LESSON?

Assistant Chief Mine Inspector Charles Connor, of West Virginia, in his recent report on coal production in that State, makes known the astonishing fact that in the seventeen months ending June 30th of this year one hundred million tons of coal were produced in West Virginia without the loss of a single life by gas or dust explosion. It is a record that has never been equalled in any mining community, and to greater vigilance on the part of the State Mining Department the remarkable record is to be ascribed. It is not due to new laws, for since January, 1909, no new mining laws have been placed on the statute books. In the last year fifty-four new coal mines have been opened and in the year ending June 30th the production of coal has been over sixty million tons, making West Virginia the second coal-producing state in the Union.

One point that strikes the reader forcibly in the above statement is the absolute freedom from loss of life from gas and dust explosions in the past seventeen months, while one hundred million tons of coal was being produced. A favorite objection that the union coal miner makes against the unorganized labor of some of the other states is that it is "careless, inexperienced, and incompetent," liable to cause great loss of life by sheer ignorance. This West Virginia experience does not justify that claim. There has never been a year in Illinois under the rule of organized labor in the coal fields when no loss of life was occasioned by gas or dust explosions. Laws have been piled upon the Illinois statute books till hardly a court in the State can with certainty decide what is and what is not the law in some cases. These laws have been solely with the view of restricting the operators, and that fact and the steady yielding of one thing after another by the operator to keep down strikes and troubles have brought Illinois into such a condition that the manager of a coal mine has practically no right to run the mine as he knows it should be run. The right to hire and discharge men exists only in the agreement—not in fact. The discharge of a man for the most flagrant offense against the mine rules or even against the state law, is followed by the closing of the mine, and the officers, who hope to be re-elected, as a rule decide that whatever the men at the mine want is right.

In West Virginia there are no union rules to hamper and obstruct the operation of the laws and of the rules made for the safety of the men. If a man violates the law or the plainly established rules made by the operator or his manager he may be discharged, and the discharge is effective. The consequence is that in West Virginia both the operator and the miner are amenable to the mine inspectors and the miner is also responsible to the mine manager. Violation of the rules means discharge, and when this is true the rule is not often willfully violated. The observance of all these things, and the consequent discipline, have enabled West Virginia to make this wonderful record for the past seventeen months. —Fuel

### FARMERS COMING BACK.

It is a most fitting thing that the Illinois Farmers' institute should hold its first mid-summer institute at the college of agriculture in Urbana, where their own efforts a dozen years ago and ever since have brought so much to pass. There will be two sessions each day at which able specialists will speak on topics important to both farmers and town people who are interested in the development of

our agricultural and commercial resources. An inspection tour will be made each day to the extensive soil and crop experiment fields, the fat cattle, and horticultural departments, with guides to explain the valuable work in progress. All this program is free to the public, and every one interested is invited to come.

Summer is the only time to see the plant growth and the great difference which mark the outcome of the tests, which mean so much to farmers throughout the state.

Institute people have a special pride in what they see there for much of the development is due to their efforts.

The legislature in creating the institute "Entrusted to it the development of a greater interest in the cultivating of crops in the breeding and care of domestic animals, in dairy husbandry, in horticulture, in farm drainage, in improved highways and general farm management, through and by means of a liberal discussion of the kindred subjects, and for improving the condition of the farmers by affording better knowledge of successful agriculture." The institute was "to assist and encourage useful education among farmers, and for developing the agricultural resources of the state."

### MAYOR GAYNOR AGAINST GRAFT.

New York's Chief Magistrate Gets Inquisitive About Certain Payments.

Members of the National Municipal League, especially those of New York, are greatly pleased with the action taken by Mayor Gaynor with respect to various cases of alleged overcharges. Recently, with the bureau of municipal research at work and with one or two reformers like George McAneny in office, New York has shown signs of advancement in line with the suggestions of the League for better government.

One instance of Mayor Gaynor's activity is in the case of his commissioner of corrections, who was directed to dismiss two men summarily from office unless the commissioner could take to the mayor "some good reason" why they should have approved an order for one dozen inch and a half iron valve wheels at \$1.50 each, a total of \$18. Mayor Gaynor remarked that these wheels could be purchased in the open market at six cents apiece. Said he in his letter:

"The thing seems to be very scandalous, and I am not able to perceive the slightest excuse for it. Any one looking at the little iron wheel would know that it could not cost \$1.50. I shall expect you to look over your entire department and see if such things are not occurring everywhere. Such miserable thievery has to be got rid of in some way."

### Exposing Tweedlike Practices in Harvard's Home.

The finances of Middlesex County, Mass., in which Cambridge is situated, are having a much needed overhauling. The investigation so far has developed some interesting facts. Here are several: \$243 for an ordinary cow, \$147.10 for a range (a salesman of the Cambridge Gas Company, when asked what sort of range could be had for that amount, asked if it was to be gold plated), \$23.73 for hanging pictures in the jail, \$614.32 for a private bathroom for a woman prisoner, \$2,073 for unspecified extras.

Archibald M. Howe, Arthur Brooks, Richard H. Dana, Louis D. Brandeis and other well known members of the National Municipal League are among the prosecutors of those responsible for these Tweedlike proceedings. The attorney-general of the state has taken steps to bring the accused officials into court.