

**THE DAILY FREE PRESS**

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TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 19, 1916

That Montana county which has just elected without opposition a prohibition sheriff will have to be good.

And then the liquorites of Missoula, Montana, can't put up that threadbare cry that "public sentiment is for liquor."

If the Bremen doesn't hurry and put in an appearance Captain Koenig and the Deutschland may be reported for a return engagement.

If the "fullbloods" at the Chicago dog show fail to make the affair a "howling" success, the introduction of a few curs will insure such.

Speaking of high cost of living: Beef is quoted at \$4.00 a pound in Vienna, and the great staple diet, rice, is going at \$2. Very glad we are not Viennese.

Berlin is now preparing the German public for the first "strategic retreat" that the Teutons have been forced to make, we believe, since the onset of hostilities.

All bugs, insects, etc., held under suspicion by scientists as possible carriers of the dreaded infantile paralysis have been exonerated, say reports from New York, except the rat flea. Although the medical men have not succeeded in making out a case against the little pest, it is said that pretty good ground for his detention on the charge is had. His conviction will mean a nation-wide crusade for his extermination, and whether or no his guilt is established his riddance will not be objectionable.

To some inquirer, who asked Judge Dynd if he did not think the man in the Pullman car case "had gotten off light," the Judge replied, "Sir, have you ever served a year on the roads?" To be sure, a road sentence of any length is not to be considered lightly, but when weighed in the balance with the crime, a year for a dastardly offense, such as this fellow was charged with, and five years for a highwayman, who threatens to take human life unless his demand for money is complied with, is certainly not to be considered as severe punishment.

**LENOIR MUST DO ITS PART.**

The call goes forth again to Ye Hosts of Democracy in the Old North State for funds wherewith to defray the expenses incident to the re-election of Messrs. Wilson and Marshall. As we have before exclaimed, the Democratic National Committee has no Perkins nor Wall Street attachment caring for its pay roll. The "necessary" must be forthcoming in small amounts from the great rank and file of the party. That very fact, more than any other single one, insures a campaign of honesty, unfettered by "obligations" to the money powers that be. The Free Press will be glad to receive contributions from loyal Democrats of this section and transmit them to the proper headquarters to go into the fund. Lenoir must do its part in insuring four years more of wise, intelligent, able leadership.

**THE PUBLIC DRINKING CUP.**

Virginia has put the stamp of official disapproval on the public drinking cup. A statute enacted by the last Legislature requiring that all drinking utensils, used for the public generally, must either be of the paper "one-time usable variety" or when the ordinary glasses are used, must be sterilized between each use, has just become effective. A most righteous act. One that should be enforced to the letter. The "slop tanks," found in the average cold drink emporium into which the glasses are casually dipped and the spoons and other utensils have an occasional bath, should be outlawed in North Carolina, as well as everywhere else.

In commenting on this matter The Greensboro News very pointedly remarks that it is not a question for local or community public sentiment to govern, but one for statewide legislation. The machinery for the operation of such legislation is properly entrusted to the State Health Department. By so doing the always present danger of lack of enforcement because of local favoritism is avoided.

The public drinking cup menace to health is a relic of that age when medical science had made little progress in the matter of prevention of disease, and when its attention was given more largely to curative measures. Its relegation is a matter of imperative need, that wholesale communication of disease conveying germs be stopped.

**BREAKING UP BLACKMAILERS.**

The crusade of the U. S. Department of Justice against an alleged gang of blackmailers, who are said to have operated in all the large cities, and fleeced men of means, through attractive women accomplices, out of large sums of money, is but another evidence that the Government agents are alert and "on the job" to all sorts of trickery and rascality by which smooth scoundrels dupe the public.

Hinton G. Clabaugh, agent of the Department of Justice, who is working on the cases against the gang, has been instrumental in bringing more than one set of outlaws to justice. Clabaugh first came into prominence several years ago when in the wholesale grocery business he "went up against" the alleged trust, the Southern Wholesale Grocers' Association. His activities in fighting that combine brought him to the attention of the Government and he was employed.

It is reported that the names of the wealthy victims of the blackmailing schemes will be made public only as a last resort. That may be best. These fellows were but human and yielded to temptation, which few can withstand. But nevertheless they are not entirely blameless. And if they escape without being exposed, they should consider themselves most fortunate. The time for new resolutions to be made and kept by the "innocent" victims of the "frames" is at hand. At least those, who are wise among them, will so conclude.

**WHAT OTHERS SAY**

**AS SOME VIEW THE MATTER.**

New Bern Sun-Journal: "Not a day goes by but one hears something in regard to the high cost of living. Seldom does one read of the cost of high living, yet, that is the problem which is confronting us today and the man who really wants to cut down the cost of living can do so."

"A writer in the Saturday Evening Post tells of a certain shop in New York where the prices are thirty per cent. higher than at the other places and, regardless of the fact that only two doors away the same article can be secured at a much lower cost, the shop with the high price gets the majority of the business."

"Stowed away in the majority of us is that touch of human vanity which urges us to have the best, to let the public know that we are not in a class with the cheaper fellows and to put forth every effort to gratify our desires along this line, no matter who pays for it."

In these days when the price of some foods and other commodities is high, we should stow away our pride and vanity and let the other fellow trade at the costly shop up the road. This can be done with little effort and if universally adopted there would be no such thing as the high cost of living nor the cost of high living."

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