

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., July 16, 1920.

GAMBLING AND GAMBLERS.

The "Watchman's" Pleasant Gap correspondent contributes the following lucid dissertation on gambling and gamblers:

There seems to be a fascination about gambling that is perfectly irresistible to a great many. It becomes their ruling passion and usually ends in ruin. Drunkenness, rowdiness and general wickedness are associated with gambling, especially when cards, dice and similar devices are used. This is true in a measure, but does not apply to all phases of gambling, because professional gamblers, as a rule, are gentlemanly in appearance, strictly sober, the soul of honor in personal matters, and unselfish in character. This may seem like giving very good characters to very bad men. If it does, it is the fault of the facts, for it is well known that the big men in the profession do not drink to excess and their words as a rule are as good as their notes. These men make money by their business, and do not want to be held responsible for the conduct of their patrons. They claim that they only take a man's money with his consent, after giving him a chance to take theirs.

It is simply a game of chance, and if the people want to play it, professional gamblers offer them the opportunity. They argue, and with a good deal of force, too, that their business is no less respectable than that of the saloon keeper, or the day-gone-by. His patrons were, if in any degree different, worse than the gambler's. He took their money and gave them in return that which was worse than nothing, and gave them no opportunity to get even; yet the saloon keeper occupied a higher plane in social life than the gambler. It is probable that the saloon keeper got some of his respectability from the manufacturers and wholesale dealers in liquor, who were generally wealthy, and influential in church and State. The gambler has no background of that kind to soften his odious features.

Were all those who play in games of chance grouped under the general head, "gamblers," as all who handle intoxicating drinks were called "liquor dealers," there would be some show for the despised portion of the profession. A man of passable appearance could get along almost anywhere as a "liquor dealer," but the lines of an elegant-looking, amiable, and even cultured man are narrowed almost to the minimum if he is known to be a gambler. This is another evidence that there is something in a name, and it also shows that the masses do not care to look into the merits of things before condemning or endorsing them. One sin is winked at, another endorsed or tabooed, just as they happen to strike the public eye. It has been ever thus, and ever thus it probably always will be. It is not the intention of the writer to defend the gambler against the charge of being a nuisance and a curse to any community, but merely to call attention to the fact that he is no worse than others who enjoy the reputation of being more respectable and more trustworthy.

It is true that he feeds and thrives upon the hard-earned or ill-gotten gains of the dissipated, reckless and immoral, but in that he does no worse than many others. It is wrong, very wrong, for him to do so, but in point of fact no worse than for any other person to take something without giving a fair equivalent. That which encourages idleness, tends to deprave the mind and impair the usefulness of men is bad, and ought to be fought down as though it were pestilent. Pestilent it is, in fact. What can be more ruinous to a community than a disposition on the part of the young to be idle? What greater calamity could befall the morals of a community than wide-spread depravity, and what could strike the State with more paralyzing effect than a general decadence in manliness?

There seems to be an inborn desire in man to get something for nothing. That this is wrong in principle is clearly shown in nature, as all of its laws, great or small, are based on the principle that there must be causes for all effects. Industry is the prime condition upon which life itself depends. This applies to all phases of life from the microbe to the elephant. Man is not an exception, as some would like to believe. Man alone, of all the animals, hopes to be able to exist without work. He is continually on the alert of a chance to profit by the labor of some one else. Why should he be so disposed? There seems to be no other reason but that it is one of the depraved tastes. These were given him that he might have something upon which he might exercise his will and show his ability as a free agent.

This concludes my views on the gambling proposition as I understand it. But if space is available I should like to, coming nearer home, disclose a few facts which are familiar only to a few of our older citizens. Almost a half a century ago a group of Bellefonte business men, with the addition of a few gentlemen of leisure, conceived the idea that a little quiet poker game in the town of Pennsylvania Governors would be the proper thing to engage in. Hence the project was established and the game went merrily on. A few business men of Lock Haven and Tyrone joined the aggregation. The Bellefonte contingent was made up of six, then prosperous business men, one prominent attorney and two hotel men. The game progressed for nearly three years, at which time some of the gang began to drop out of the game and unfortunately, for prudential reasons, went out of active business as well. An ex-member of the Pennsylvania Legislature from Tyrone, was about the only one who emerged from the game and came out a financial winner; his experience at Harrisburg no doubt materially aiding him to come out first best. It would be unkind to give the names of the unfortunate victims since nearly every participant has cashed in his chips and gone beyond.

The general impression of the wiser ones is that gambling is a dangerous profession and precious few come out of the game financially benefitted.

(A few men are still living in Bellefonte who at least know of the game the writer refers to as having been carried on in Bellefonte a half century ago, but that was only a link in the chain of this fascinating form of sport that has been carried on more or less for a hundred years. The only difference was in the principals who gathered around the baize cloth and the limit which has run anywhere from penny-ante to the blue sky. But gambling is really too wide a subject to take up for discussion. Its forms are so varied and devious and its paths so labyrinthian in character that it is almost impossible for two men to agree as to just what constitutes gambling. Leaders in church and society lift up their hands in holy horror at a crowd of men playing poker for money yet invite the public at large to card parties for various benefits at which the stakes are prizes.—Editor).

Real Estate Transfers.

Commissioners of Centre county to A. D. Lucas, tract in Curtin township; \$1.

Amos Garbrick to American Lime and Stone Co., tract in Spring township; \$1.

Nocoland E. Zane, et ux, to Irl D. Wilson, tract in State College; \$6400.

Adam H. Krumrine, et ux, to Maclean M. Babcock, et ux, tract in State College; \$400.

Calvin B. Struble, et ux, to A. F. Markle, tract in State College; \$3000.

Harry E. Bilger, et ux, to Charles T. Bilger, tract in Spring township; \$1.

B. A. Noll to McNitt-Huyett Lumber Co., tract in Spring township; \$500.

Harry A. Kunes, Adm., to J. Albert Bitner, tract in Union township; \$275.

David Gussallus' heirs to Walter Gussallus, tract in Liberty township; \$150.

Mary Davis, et bar, to Steve Novolovsky, tract in Rush township; \$1000.

Phillipsburg Realty Co., to Gertrude C. Humphreys, tract in Phillipsburg; \$3250.

J. L. McMonigal, et ux, to Alfred Graham, tract in Rush township; \$8000.

Malissa Crawford, et bar, to Alfred Justice, tract in Spring township; \$800.

H. E. Schreckengast, et ux, to Ella Ream, tract in Gregg township; \$20.

William Guisevite's Exrs., to F. P. Guisevite, tract in Haines township; \$1600.

Charles C. Grebe, et al, to Regina Grebe, tract in Phillipsburg; \$1.

Edna R. Grove, et bar, to Edith G. Owens, tract in Phillipsburg; \$3500.

John M. Robb, et ux, to Harvey S. Young, tract in Curtin township; \$1500.

Mary C. Gault to William Showers, tract in Bellefonte; \$250.

Walker Grange No. 345, P. of H. to Hubbersburg Club, tract in Walker; \$800.

Central Penna. Silk Co., to Hiawatha Silk Mills, tract in Phillipsburg; \$12,000.

John W. Walter to Paul Kassel, et al, tract in South Phillipsburg; \$750.

Samuel Harter, executor, to William Breon, tract in Gregg; \$100.

Harry B. Gernard, et bar, to John R. Haswey, tract in State College; \$8,500.

SINCE DADDY CAN'T BUY BOOZE

By Susan L. Harlacher.
Since Daddy has stopped drinking We have lots of things to eat. And he don't stay away at night Or stagger down the street. And Ma don't go out washing For the swell folks any more. But has time to do our sewing. And buy things at the store. And we wear shoes and stockings And have got the nicest clothes! And Daddy says he's proud of us No matter where he goes. We're glad for prohibition And we hope it's come to stay. It's brought the best things to our home We've known for many a day.

LINCOLN WAY TO BE PERMANENTLY MARKED THIS SUMMER.

Enamel-Steel Signs to Guide Tourists from New York.

The Lincoln Highway has never been permanently marked between the Missouri river and the Atlantic coast. Travelers in the past have been guided by painted markers scattered on the telegraph and telephone poles, but this system of marking, while the cheapest to accomplish, is the most expensive in the long run, as the painted signs are quickly obliterated by the weather and must be constantly renewed if the marking is to be maintained at top efficiency. The Lincoln Highway Association has in the past years, through co-operation with the Automobile club, of Southern California, brought about the permanent marking of the Lincoln Highway from San Francisco to Omaha, as well as the Midland trail main feeder, connecting Los Angeles with the Lincoln Highway at Ely, Nevada. Now the remainder of the route will be permanently sign-boarded with enamel steel signs by the Association itself.

The expense of permanently marking some 1,500 miles of through highway in thorough fashion is very considerable. To properly mark a through route at least two markers to the mile are necessary. After careful figuring the Association determined that \$20,000 should take care of the job it had in view for this summer. The co-operation of the communities along the line has been assured to the extent of \$5,000 and due to the interest of Mr. John N. Willys, a director of the Lincoln Highway Association, the additional \$15,000 has been provided. This money will be largely invested in 3,000 permanent enamel steel signs, 10x21 inches in size, carrying the standard Lincoln Highway marker in three colors of enamel. These signs are half round and are firmly screwed to hard-wood posts, 11 feet long, which will be sunk three feet under ground and placed at every confusing turn and cross road between the Hudson and Missouri.

The Association has also secured the co-operation of the Autocar Co., of Ardmore, Pa., through the interest of its president, Mr. David S. Ludlum, a founder of the Association. The Autocar company will provide two two-ton trucks for carrying the poles and signs and the marking crew. Two young men from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, have been secured by the Association to handle the work, the drivers of the trucks have been provided through the kindness of Mr. Ludlum.

A. F. Bement, vice president of the Lincoln Highway Association, states that he expects to start the crew early in July and that it is proposed to

complete the entire job to Omaha before October first.

In such large cities as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, where it would be difficult to plant poles, special arrangements have been made for clamping the enamel steel signs on the electric lighting fixtures with the permission of city authorities.

With the completion of this highly expensive but most efficient and permanent plan of marking, the Lincoln Highway will be the most thoroughly and clearly marked road on the American continent, and a tourist can follow through from 42nd street and Broadway to Market Street, San Francisco, if he so desires even without the help of a road guide or log and merely by following the marking.

The chestnut posts to be used by the Association for the affixing of the signs are guaranteed to last at least 15 years, while the metal signs carrying a high glaze are practically indestructible by the elements.

Coal Supply for Centuries.

Colonel J. S. Dennis, chief commissioner of Colonization and Development of the Canadian Pacific Railway, gave some interesting figures relative to western Canada's coal resources in an address before the Alberta Industrial Development Association during its convention at Calgary, Alberta.

"The question of fuel available for domestic and industrial use is a vital matter in the development of any new country," said Colonel Dennis, "and is of primary importance in western Canada where such a large part of our agricultural areas consists of open prairies. Fortunately in this matter nature has been exceedingly kind to us. The provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia contain about seventeen per cent of the known coal resources of the globe and these coals cover all the different qualities from lignite to bituminous cooking and anthracite. The Province of Alberta alone contains known coal resources of one thousand and seventy-five billion tons. These facts indicate that without depending upon the fuel obtainable from suitable deposits of timber and natural gas, western Canada has enough coal for domestic and industrial needs to take care of the requirements for many centuries to come."—Ex.

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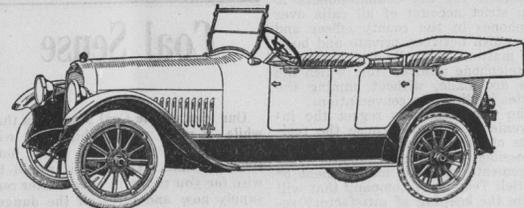
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