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FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1926

CONCERNING MR. GRAY

Sheriff John Gray has always been a staunch friend of the University of Illinois, and the work he is engaged in in Prohibition enforcement these days is doing the University more good, and this under greater difficulties, than most members of the academic community see.

The obstacles to dry law work in Illinois are well nigh insuperable, and have been piled top on top by state supreme court decisions in a dizzying fashion sufficient to overwhelm anyone without the good of the community and of the state at heart.

At Homecoming time The Illini took occasion to describe some of the drunkenness to be found on and around the campus. This procedure was looked on as most startling, and pleased and perturbed with equal violence.

The Illini's chief quarrel on that occasion was with the sloppy campus opinion which tolerates drunkenness, and not with the organizations for law enforcement in the Twin Cities, but the comment in itself reflected by implication on these agencies, and particularly on the work of Sheriff Gray, in whose hands lies most of the Prohibition work.

The Illini did not say then what it believed to be true—that it is comparatively easy to buy liquor in the Twin Cities. But the Illini thought that it might be an excellent idea to do what might be done to dry out a few notorious corners, and so sent picked discreet men out with good coin of the realm and instructed them to buy liquor, have it analyzed at the chem lab, and given to the Sheriff.

The Illini secured from a reliable source the names of a dozen or so local merchants alleged to be bootlegging. Most of these men had been raided and liquor found on the premises. Students were known to have purchased liquor in the past there. The Illini's men visited the bootleggers. They broached the subject delicately, of procuring liquor. The occasion was a big football game in the fall, when it was supposed that liquor would be available. The bootleggers, so described at least—not only refused to sell these students any liquor, but were positively indignant that such a notion had ever entered the students heads.

Now of course students buy liquor in the Twin Cities. We know three men that do, and one that used to until he went into the football managing business. And these men have and still do buy their liquor at the same places which burst into hymns when The Illini men went in the door. The Illini does not say that because it couldn't buy liquor nobody can, and doesn't tell this story to bring any credit on itself, but to illustrate one of the many difficulties which Sheriff Gray must meet.

In the first place, the Sheriff cannot raid a place without a warrant signed by someone who bought liquor in the bootlegger's, and who is willing to stand up in court and testify that he did. Now the customers of a bootlegger are not persons who delight in informing the police of such matters. In the first place, they as a rule have no great use for the police, in the second place they fear the wrath of the bootleggers, and in the third place they want the bootleggers' goods.

Now therefore Sheriff Gray must get the testimony of some two reliable witnesses who have consummated or seen the purchase. These witnesses must be men known to and trusted by the bootlegger.

Figure that out. The Illini's attempt proved only one thing, that persons unknown to the bootleggers would have difficulty buying liquor. In other words, the Sheriff has frightened the purveyors of shellac so effectively that they will sell only to persons they know. This has cut down the greater part of bootlegging to students. The battle Sheriff Gray is fighting now is against the law breakers who still hang on and sell to students they do know. In this battle he is supported by an indifferent public opinion, an inadequate enforcement machinery, and an insufficient financial backing.

The Illini takes off its hat to Sheriff Gray. The University owes more to Sheriff Gray than the University realizes.

THE COURT

All the student religious foundations will discuss the World Court Sunday night, we learn from the news columns. The value of these meetings may be infinite or invisible, and will probably tend to the latter. But the discussions can be redeemed from utter futility if the students who belong to the religious orders and intend to go to the meetings Sunday will learn something about the Court before Sunday, and go prepared to contribute to or extract from the meetings some worthwhile information. It might help, too, if those who are to conduct the meetings know a little about the court.

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE MOUSE

The students complained of inadequate cheer leading. The municipal and academic news sheets inveighed against inadequate cheer leading. The student council got rid of the responsibility to the athletic board, which took over the inadequate cheer leading. The athletic board appointed a committee to remedy the inadequate cheer leading. The committee drew up an elaborate system for effecting improvement in the inadequate cheer leading. The committee picked a cheer leader to improve the inadequate cheer leading. The committee called for five candidates to be cheerleaders. These men were to be leaders of student noise, not say thought.

Five candidates reported. Monsieur Voltaire we believe it was, who once wrote a story about the mountain that moved and brought forth a mouse.

Our Contemporaries

IMPEDIMENTA Time was when the full complement of woman's dress bulked as large and as complicated as a railway baggage room. That was when hoopskirts, stock collars, bustles, high shoes, bonnets, not to mention a half dozen assorted skirts and petticoats were the ultimate whisper of Worth. And all the George Bryan Brummels of that period were content with their silk knickerbockers and snuff boxes. They were unimpeded.

But three score of years have turned the proverbial tables. The woman of today is as free as a katydid. Clothes are a large part of her worries and an infinitely smaller part of her weight. Stockings in quantity of two, a step-in, then a frock, and milady model V-63 has girded on her armour. But the New Man, not the New Woman, is the baggage carrier of the human race today.

When the average college man empties his pockets an evening the outpourings from sort of a hybrid neck-neck counter and notions department. The a.c.m. packs somewhere between his outer coat pocket and his left rear trouser pocket the following: Pocket comb, Small change, Nail file, Silk handkerchief, Match box, Dance tickets, Knife, Frat pins, Pocketbook, Watch chain, Letters, Watch, Mints (pkg.), Honor key, Cigarets (pkg.), Handkerchief, Pencils, Nail clip, Fountain pens, Lapel button, Keyring.

Now add to this the clothing accessories which this time of year make essential: flannel muffler, two pairs of gloves, galoshes, and a pocket handkerchief and the Tom Brown of 1925 is ready to go out-of-doors. Small wonder that he moves with an obese-like ponderousness.

The college man without these trumperies is at a social loss if his Kappa Delt friend should want an orange mint or a match. He is a nincompoop from nowhere unless he has all these haberdasher's accessories. The linen-duster model motorist of 1909 who used to be satisfied with a pair of guttering oil lamps now complains when his four headlights, spotlights, and fender lights illuminate the highway for only 200 yards. So was it with the bowler-model college man; but today a good Phi Delt wouldn't be seen after dark without a wide belt and all the rest of the notion counter we have enumerated.

It was said 2,000 years ago—The times change and we change with them.—Daily Iowan.

JURGEN THE EIGHTEENTH

Critics and Ladies' Aid societies in general will stretch their respective eyes to read "Eighteenth large printing" on the copyright page of James Branch Cabell's much abused "Jurgen." As an edition is ordinarily 5,000 copies, it is plain that 90,000 have bought the book since its tempestuous introduction in 1920. How many millions have read "Jurgen" is unknown.

Mr. Cabell subtitled his "Jurgen" a "Comedy of Justice" and the Foreword: "Which Asserts Nothing asserts that the volume is presented simply as a story to be read for pastime." The author's apology in another paragraph says, "this tale of old years is one which, by rare fortune, can be given to English readers almost unabridged; in view of the singular delicacy and pure-mindedness of the Jurgen myths."

in all, not more than a half-dozen deletions have seemed expedient in order to remove such sparse and unimportant outcroppings of medieval frankness as might conceivably offend the squeamish.

The epistle dedicatory did not interest everyone as much as the contents, and in the winter months of 1919 Walter J. Kingsley, literary editor of a New York newspaper, touched off the fireworks with his review, which said: "It is curious how the non-reading public discovered Jurgen. A few days after it appeared on the newsstands a male vampire of the films who once bought Steven-son's 'Underwoods' in the belief that it was a book of verses hymning a typewriter, began saying up and down Broadway: 'Say kid, get a book called "Jurgen." It gets away with murder.'"

"This sold the first edition quickly. How do they discover these things?"

In a few weeks the nation was crying Amen to Mr. Kingsley, and youngsters and reviewers were engaged in discovering the "key" to Jurgen. The upshot was the case of the People of the State of New York vs. Robert M. McBride and Company. The publishers plead not guilty May 17, 1920, and crime wave cases crowded the docket, and the book awaited trial until October 16, 1922. Meantime innumerable libraries catalogued Jurgen in their "Index Expurgatorius." The publishers attempted to make Mr. Cabell a second John Peter Zenger and, after a trial invoking things literary from Job to Jurgen, Judge Charles C. Nott in the Court of General Sessions returned his opinion directing an acquittal.

Jurgen was immediately repudiated and the presses began to hum. "In three years there have been eighteen press runs, which out-editions a Hardy novel and equals Hugh Walpole's "The Cathedral" which held first on the best seller list for eighteen months.

There are two truths in the Jurgen polemics. The first is that the nation is becoming more tolerant to letters. Think of the tempest in a teapot over George Moore's "Esther Waters" hardly two score years ago. The book, rejected by three American publishers and uniformly blacklisted for its discussion of "tabooed subjects of fiction," is now taught at Iowa as literature. So has it been with letters from "The Golden Ass of Lucius Apuleius" to Ben Hecht's "Erik Dorn."

The second and obvious truth is the insatiable appetite of the public for lascivious literature which gives Cabell and Carl Van Vechten a hearing before Conrad or Galsworthy. The defense is "Honi soit," and as long as the Bible has its Chronicles so long will literary indecency be a matter of relativity.

The American aesthetic passion is so jaded by the Menckens and Masefelds that the simple apple-orchard stories are unconsumed literary timber today. Our modern writers must cater to the lamp's flash and the trumpet's peal or the cash-register will not tinkle. There are few Edwin Arlington Robinsons who have made no compromise with the public.

Mr. Cabell has had a Richardsonian vogue but, despite the eighteen amendments of his publishers, Jurgen will probably find company with the "Divine Clarissas" and "Grandisons" in the dust of the years.—Daily Iowan.

FLUMMERY

What is the greatest newspaper in the U. S.? The New York Times, say critics. What is the most important page of that newspaper? Its editorial page, say readers. Who should take the most care to read this editorial page? The men on the copy desk and the telegraph desk, the reporters and all the paper's employes, say the editors. Do they read it? No, they do not, says the public, enlightened by a painful piece of flummery which occurred last week.

One of the able editorial writers on the New York Times began it when he composed a venomous little essay comparing Yale, Harvard and Princeton. He called it "Three Sons to College," and wrote as follows: "True child of Massachusetts, Harvard is individualistic, skeptical, intellectually venturesome, and inclined to be lax in morale. Yale was founded to counteract its free thinking, to assert the voice of authority, and so we have the ground-gaining Eli. Princeton, largely recruited as of old from the South, avoids extremes in both morality and intellect, inclining to the picturesque."

In due course of time, the editorial arrived at the desk of the chairman of the Yale Daily News, undergraduate daily. It seemed an obvious thing to quote; so he marked it for quotation on the editorial page of his own publication. Next day, sure enough, students read in the News:

"True child of Massachusetts, Harvard is individualistic, skeptical, intellectually venturesome, etc., etc."

Now the printer who set up that bit of copy had made no reference to the New York Times believing that it had sprung from the forehead of the News editor. The New Haven correspondent of the New York Times seized upon it and wired it to Manhattan. Thus it reached the individuals who function on the telegraph desk of the Times. They were interested. A very well-written little article. So that was what Yale, thought of Harvard, of Princeton, of itself, eh? In the morning, readers of the Times came upon the following item on the front page:

"The Yale Daily News today compared Harvard, Princeton and Yale as follows in an editorial:

"True child of Massachusetts, Harvard, etc." It is needless to say that readers of the Times were shocked. They saw that the august newspaper whose pontifications determine their views had been duped into reprinting as a quotation from a college journal an editorial which had been written in its own offices. The more choleric among them sat down to compose heated letters. "Let the right hand of the Times," they suggested, "find out what its left is doing."—Time.

Insanity is more prevalent, but you don't notice it except on the highway.

The time has almost arrived when it will be a mark of distinction to be a member of the small minority and not own a car.

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