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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday.

Darrow And Dead Things

Clarence Darrow, celebrated American savior of criminals and super-criminals, does not believe in the immortality of the soul. He recently stated "I am satisfied that as I had a beginning, I shall have an end, and the end is death."

Gratitude For Your Church

In a recent issue of Pictorial Review, John Clower Monma gives an interesting glimpse of the meagre salaries paid to preachers in the United States. As we see it, the amount of money which the average church-goer pays to his church is far less than should be in compliance with ordinary decency.

The Press And The Senate

People who are inclined to bluster about the blustering that is sometimes heard in the United States Senate will find opposition to their notions in an article by Silas Bent, published in a recent issue of The Outlook magazine. Mr. Bent, a newspaperman and author of long and varied experience in state and national legislative bodies, believes that the United States Senate is in need of a thorough investigation of the Teapot Dome oil leases, thus restoring to the government property valued at two hundred thirty millions of dollars, and for work done in other realms, more than justifies its expensive existence as an American institution.

Mr. Bent also goes on to say that the Senate, through its various investigating committees, fills a void in American politics that ought to be filled by the great and wealthy newspapers of the country.

Which goes to show that, though the modern metropolitan press may be silenced on occasion, its power prevails in creating the functions of such a body as the Senate removes some of the stigma; and the United States is benefited in the process for, with the Senate as silent as some of the press now is on matters of secret governmental operations, the press would bridge the gap and an outraged public opinion would come to the rescue.

A Substitute For Killing

Within this world of men and women, boys and girls, society has set up a multitude of human agencies, each supposed to do its share toward the creation and maintenance of methods and systems that will make for a world-wide brotherhood.

People who go through life in a neighborly fashion, though they may at times find it necessary to use the civil branch of the courts to settle some of their problems, never find it necessary to set up from the criminal branch of our law dispensing agency. For such people criminal laws are unnecessary.

But other people, whose intelligence often vibrates in that state of consciousness where materialism and the lusts of the flesh hold sway, get into trouble; they rebel against neighborliness and the rights of others, and for them society has set up a code of ethics that demands retribution.

All laws relating to the criminal activities of society are negative qualities of goodness, we believe; and, for all laws that are necessary to set up the activities of people are man-made, and far from the unwritten laws of Divine Providence.

But we are wandering afield—what we started out to do was something about the last of the legal profession and the judiciary in the fulfilling of their mission in this world.

The other day we listened to a Birmingham citizen, a man well read in many of the fields of human endeavor, on his views regarding capital punishment. He was the firm conviction that Michigan should have the death penalty upon its statute books.

Although our local friend would not admit it, his reference to the fear of White Chapel criminals for the English courts is the real answer to the problem of increasing killing in America.

Members of the legal profession and those who sit upon the benches of American courts are, on the whole, fine men and women; they stand for the better things of life—they must society look for relief from the killer. It is up to the American bar to bring back to America a respect on the part of all people for law and order.

The progress of the American nation is largely wrapped up in the progress of the legal profession, and much of the freedom and general prosperity which the United States enjoys is the result of uplifting efforts by lawyers and judges.

The world is entitled to live in peace and harmony. Part of society's consciousness is strengthened and governed by agencies that expound the practice of the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule, as represented by the churches of the world; but laws for its guidance ought to be made to see that man-made punishment is swift and just—swift in that it has the intelligence and the conscience to perceive quickly an act of wrong, and just in that it metes out punishment in such a fashion that the date of an individual's death is not determined by the calendar upon the desk of any judge.

Capital punishment is an incorrect method of dealing with major crime, we believe; it merely places its stamp of approval upon the system of killings and inadvertently, but forcibly nevertheless, sets an example for individuals to follow.

There is a better substitute for crime deterrent than capital punishment. It is the discipline that comes from a respect for law and order—the kind of law and order that only the legal profession and the judiciary can make possible through the better functioning of their respective activities.

Capital punishment is not applicable to all conditions of society, to individuals or to nations, and even international relations. "Thou shalt not kill" is the basis of the platform of peace; its literal application is applicable to all ages, past, present, and future.

Let's continue to keep Michigan free from the brutality of killing in the name of man-made law. Let's pay more attention to the rights of God among men.

Don't Do It

Growing old and stooped shouldered carrying dollars is not very pleasant to contemplate. And yet there are people who are so anxious to accumulate vast riches that they grow old before their time. Wealth that is gained at the sacrifice of health and stalwart manhood is bought at a mighty high price.

THE ONE MAN DOG



MAN'S JUDGMENT OF DEATH

(Attorney G. E. McArthur, of Eaton Rapids, a close student of the subject, prepared a resume of a recent book by Warden Lewis E. Laws, warden of Sing Sing prison, dealing with capital punishment and its effect on crime. He mailed a copy of his review to Judge R. R. McPeak and we asked permission of Senator McArthur to publish the same in the Republican.)

Whether a man will commit crime depends upon the power of resisting evil as compared with the strength of temptation he is called upon to resist. Page 12.

Consider how closely prisoners must be watched lest they cheat the law and take their own lives. Page 10.

English history tells us that crime is not prevented because of the fear of the gallows, but because of the fear of the loss of their trade through the crowds at public hangings. P. 13.

The public execution of French Guiana, a man by the name of "The Executioner" guillotine and made many executions. It would seem that if there were any logic in executing and deterring effect would be so in a case of a public execution. Yet Hespeler, himself, committed murder and was tried and convicted. P. 15.

What is feeling to consider that not only the legal profession but the state will prevent illegal murder by the individual. P. 16.

States inflicting capital punishment have the greatest number of lynchings. P. 34.

My own conviction against capital punishment is based upon personal experience of 20 years. My own conviction against capital punishment is based upon personal experience of 20 years. My own conviction against capital punishment is based upon personal experience of 20 years.

and with whom I have talked in very solemn moments upon close observation of what I choose to call "legal execution." I have seen many men die in the electric chair under our laws the court sentences the murderer to die "during the week beginning ..."

Statistics show the average rate per thousand for Michigan and Minnesota, abolition states, compared with Ohio and Indiana, capital punishment states, and similar in general character and geographical location, for a period of eleven years shows the capital punishment states to be approximately twice that of the number of non-capital punishment states in a similar comparison.

My investigation indicates a greater facility in obtaining conviction in homicide cases in those states which have abolished the death penalty and in those states which permit a choice between the death penalty and life imprisonment than in the ones which cling to the absolute imposition of death.

The average of five years in the United States shows that one person dies every thirty-four hours by hanging or electrocuted. P. 35.

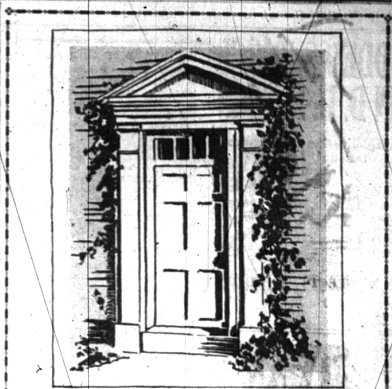
The population of England and Wales for 1921 was just under thirty-eight million. In the twelve American States, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Utah and California, with one-half their population were sentenced to death and three and one-half times as many executed.

In the United States seventy-two per cent of death sentences were carried into execution. In England and Wales fifty-four per cent of those sentences were subsequently executed.

In New York state with a population of ten and a half million during the years 1912 and 1921 there were 4,626 homicides, 193 sentenced to death and 117 executions. In England and Wales during the same period there were 2,668 homicides, 223 sentenced to death and 125 executions.

The idea that when a couple decide they cannot live together, they may go to the city magistrate and register their intention to divorce is a good arrangement. It is a shameful procedure, and register their intention to divorce is a good arrangement.

There is no dragging of one's character through slings and arrows as seems to be necessary here. To get a divorce here one of the parties must be painted black, and if the party is not black in character, then the charges must be trumped up at the office of the magistrate and needs correcting. Our divorce courts are the hanging out place for the most rotten stories brought to the surface, and which at all times should never come to utterance in any open forum.



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Grand Ledge (Mich.) Independent in fact so big that for these 1900 and more it starts no business man has even found a satisfactory imitation, and the Golden Rule was no doubt the first slogan ever adopted by any business, and it still one that should survive through the ages.—Rushville, (Ind.) Daily Republican.

Among the many inquiries being made by the Federal Trade Commission is an investigation of trade practices of soap manufacturers, who have been called upon to explain how they conduct their business. Won't it be grand when we can be assured that there is no soap trust?

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