

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

I visited the Capitol this week. The beautiful city was set in the azure frame of bluebonnets. Hill and dale was covered in bountiful profusion with this magnificent floral carpet. I wonder why southeast Texas does not cultivate this flower more extensively, inasmuch as it thrives so well in our mild climate. Here is a worth-while project for one of our city clubs, that does not involve a large expenditure of money and, yet, would result in a distinct service to our city. Let one of these organizations plant bluebonnet seeds in the Fall on the roadsides leading to our city, and let our wideawake and energetic park commissioner complement the project by lending our city parks the bluebonnet decorative motif. Thus, this famed Texan wild flower, celebrated by poets and painters, would lend also our city and environment an adornment of exquisite beauty.

My highest commendations to the firms and the Library Commission for their patriotic and humanitarian act in raising the salaries of their employees. This is the most direct and most effective method whereby the prosperity of our community may be established. It is such a profit-sharing that the bibliical writer must have had in mind when he made the sage observation; "There is one that scattereth and yet increaseth." Selfishness invariably defeats itself, while generosity brings rich returns in satisfaction, in reputation and, if coupled with good judgment, even in dollars and cents.

As to the library, the Commission ought to climax its increase in salary by the restoration of the most valuable information service that the library used to render by telephone. This extension service brought the library into one's home, and increased its usefulness far beyond the small financial outlay which its maintenance required. Under the very capable management of Miss Kathleen Munn, the library has maintained the high standard set by her predecessor. Courtesy and efficiency and a sound judgment in buying new books, have increased the circulation of our library to a point where it serves every section of the population. Therefore, the library fully deserves the moral support of the community and all the financial backing that the Commission is in a position to lend.

If personal worries gnaw at your vitals, or the world's woes have cast you into the dumps, take your old squeaking car, ride out into the country and feast your eyes on the colorful pageantry which the magic wand of the fairy queen of Spring has arrayed for your pleasure and delectation. The blooming wild flowers, the budding trees, the carpeting of the whole landscape with tender green, all speak of renovation, restoration and rejuvenation. Let the spirit of Spring enter into your sad heart and lift up your dejected soul. That miraculous power which brings about changes in the seasons will also heal your heart and turn the gloom of your grief into gladness and joy.

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Slants at the Meeting

Back in the mythological days of ancient Greece whom the gods loved they chastened and endowed. Charlie Wine-Balm must be a favorite and they surely have been chasing him and settled on him, for he has the talent, gift and genius for selecting speakers.

His skill runs in the same direction as water does up a hill, or a right-handed nut on a left-handed thread.

He can pick 'em unripe or over-rotten, and they are just as bad at the ends as they are in the middle.

He would pick Abraham Lincoln for wise-cracking and Aime McPherson for a rail-splitter.

If he was sent out to buy poultry he would get wooden-legged chickens to furnish drum-sticks for a banquet.

Diamond Dick, the Dalton Gang, or Jesse James never had more harrowing experiences than some of the characters referred to by Judge O'Quinn.

The devious ways of the criminals in an early period of our history, as depicted by the good judge, is just another evidence of the ingenuity of mankind.

The fecund mind of the judge entitles him to transmit these hair-raising stories to print and preserve them as historical data.

Boy: that Mitchell gang contained some tough hombres, and that bird by the name of Pruitt who ran Bill Mitchell from the bushes of East Texas to the bells of old Mexico, up arroyo, gulch and canon, was nobody's tender-foot.

The judge also related in graphic terms the idiosyncrasies and inconsistencies of the law, and we are frank to admit that period had no monopoly on the absurdities and miscarriages of justice.

We assume judges erred with as high frequency in those days as they do now and prejudice and bias was as rampant.

Some week-end we would like to sit down and listen to his 'nibs' relate without mental reservation or equivocation, some of the more intimate details of bad-boys doings while he was a prosecutor. Thanks, judge.

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Facts About Texas

A major development in Texas industry is the growth of the manufacture of women's clothes, largely wash dresses. Hardly making a showing in the 1920 census, that of 1930 showed thirty-eight Texas plants employing 2,097 workers and producing \$5,310,971 worth of clothing.

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For every spool of barbed wire manufactured in Texas, \$1.25 of the sale price goes to pay Texas labor. If the one barbed wire and nail factory in Texas had half of the wire and nail business in Texas, it would have to quadruple its capacity, its payroll and its output.

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There are nearly a hundred concerns in Texas manufacturing some article or articles for use in the oil industry, production, pumping or other phases. Texas-made oil field machinery is in use in every oil field in the world.

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It probably is not true now, thanks to a real selling effort on the part of Texas manufacturers strongly aided by officers of Progressive Texans, Inc., county commissioners and other buyers of road machinery have been convinced that road machinery made in Texas to meet Texas climatic and other conditions is as good as the best. But in 1931 out of the \$5,000,000 worth of road machinery bought in Texas, Texas manufacturers sold only \$250,000—just 5 per cent of the total. Eighty per cent of the cost of such machines is for labor. If Texas counties and cities, the State Highway Commission and

Texas road and paving contractors bought only half their annual needs from the several Texas manufacturers making such machinery, it would provide steady employment to at least 2,000 workers. The State Highway Commission is buying much if not most of its machinery now from Texas manufacturers, just as it is limiting its contracts on non-federal aid highway construction to Texas contractors and specifying Texas sand, gravel, cement and structural steel in all of its own contracts.

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H. G. Wells Writes of Life in 2106 A. D.

No skyscrapers will be standing two centuries hence, prophesies H. G. Wells, British historian and novelist. They will have been demolished to make way for larger, finer, more livable cities. Social life will be organized around public clubs in which will be grouped sports halls, perpetual news cinemas, studios, and social centers. In the Rotarian magazine, Mr. Wells sketches a graphic pre-view of the world of 2106 A. D. as he will give it in a history written as of that year.

"The twenty-first century," he says, "re-discovered an experience of the nineteenth century and the first centuries of the Christian era, a discovery also made by Alexander the Great, that it is much easier to build great modern cities in new places than to modernize the old centers of activity. And the more vital these old centers remained, the more difficult was their reconstruction . . . New York was typical of this lag in rebuilding. Up to quite recently, Lower New York was the world's most old fashioned city, unique in its gloomy antiquity. The last of the ancient skyscrapers, the Empire State building, is even now under demolition in 2106!"

Mr. Wells foresees a new era of homes, quickly erected and even more quickly demolished. "We no longer think it meet" he writes, "to wear another man's abandoned house than to wear the old clothes of the dead."

And speaking of clothes, he recalls the filthy twentieth century, when "men would wear their underclothes for years, having them painfully washed out, dried, ironed, and returned weekly, and they would wear their complex outer garments with all the old fastenings, buttons, straps, buckles, and so forth, sometimes for years. They had to be made of dark fabrics with broken patterns to conceal their griminess." But in the new day, he goes on, clothes are scanty and healthful, and are replaced at least every three days by new garments. Nothing is washed. Laundries are forgotten. Cobblers are unknown.—From *The Rotarian Magazine*.