

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

I would, indeed, be a trafficker in trifles were I to maintain silence on the vital issue of liquor regulation, which confronts the citizenship of our state. Let me state at the very outset, that this is not a political but a moral question, and the sole consideration upon which it ought to be solved is the promotion of temperance. If the Legislature will have this principle in view, it will appoint a non-partisan commission of experts to study the problem, and base its regulations not on haphazard opinions, but upon the results of research and investigation. But if the principles of temperance will be overshadowed by the revenue question, or any other political consideration, the regulation enacted is bound to be an unsavory hodge-podge of compromise that will hurt the cause of temperance more than the open saloon. I am thoroughly opposed to state monopoly. Every monopoly is a manacle on the liberty of the people. I prefer a drunk democracy to a sober dictatorship. However, in its final analysis, an effective regulation not of the sale, but of the consumption of liquor, will be established not by an ignorant Legislature, but an enlightened public opinion as formed by the homes, schools and churches. The responsibility for temperance rests on these three agencies, and if these fail in their efforts, the wisest legislation will be merely a scrap of paper.

I hate meetings. Attending as I do a score of them every month, I should have become habituated to them. Yet, their cold convention and dull routine go against my grain, and I wearily drag myself to them as a matter of painful duty, rather than personal predilection. And, if the meeting is presided over by a clumsy chairman, who, because of his indecision, lets the discussions go off on endless tangents, or, if a bore in the audience holds the floor long enough to have struck root in it, or if someone with a sonorous voice and sine gray matter, brings in a pompous resolution to reform the wicked world, all these proceedings are a torture to my flesh and a vexation to my spirit. Meetings should really be the monopoly of women. They make a sacred ritual out of the dullest routine. To women the meetings are welcome opportunities for display of style, for drills in parliamentary law, for the exercise of native oratorical gifts, and for the collection and dissemination of social gossip and chit-chat. Mr. Chairman, I move that attendance at meetings should universally be considered an exclusive privilege of the fair sex, and the intrusion of a male at them be branded as a felony. All those in favor, should signify by saying aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Beaumont badly needs a vocational school. Our schools prepare too many white-collar workers and too few craftsmen. Mechanical employment or handicrafts still represent a field less overcrowded than bookkeeping, stenography and general office work, and the training of our youth ought to be directed into channels where they would have better prospects to earn a livelihood.

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT



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Slants at the Meeting

That's all right Cooke, don't be discouraged; everything is Okay, for we remember the one about the:

"Friend telling the Frenchman how to treat a gaspergou . . . catch him, cut him and clean him. Remove his dorsal fins, slice him in the back a couple of times then stuff him with fertilizer for aroma. Make a thick sauce of rare spices and rich condiments then baste him thoroughly and put in the oven to bake for seven minutes. Take him out baste him again and put back to bake for four minutes. Remove him and treat with two cups of rare old burgundy wine and then put back to steam for six minutes. After this baste him again and put in to bake until he is firm and crisp and then remove ready to serve. Eat the fertilizer and throw the d— gaspergou away."

Check.

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Your Congressman

The Hon. Martin Dies, representative from the 2nd District, will deliver an address before the Club today.

He will probably tell you of one of the most remarkable (some may use the word "ridiculous") congresses that ever assembled.

Anyway Martin is a fluent speaker and never fails to bring us a message, so be on hand.

—R—

Credit Bureaus

Less than thirty years ago the retail merchants and the professional men of the country were doing a credit business upon a guesswork plan. There were no established bureaus, and the eye-ball system was the only method by which credit was extended by retail merchants to the consuming public, and either the owner, manager, bookkeeper or sales person acted as credit grantor in opening charge accounts, and neither of them had any experience training in this particular line of endeavor. While occasional references were given by a prospective customer applying for credit this meant but little to the merchant opening the account, as he had more faith and confidence in the new customer than he had in the information he might obtain from his competitors. Losses to the retailers under this old system were enormous, and in a few years meant bankruptcy to 85 per cent of them.

In 1908 an effort was made to organize the Retail Merchants Association of Beaumont, and in June 1909, this Association was completed by incorporating, and receiving a charter from the State of Texas to operate a credit bureau, and this Bureau has been under the sole and continuous guidance of one manager since January 1910.

The Bureau does not "rate" people, it merely acts as a Clearing House for its members, and like 95 per cent of about 4000 bureaus in the United States and Canada, only gives reports on applicants for

credit, without making any kind of recommendation as to whether they are or may be GOOD, BAD or WORSE. The Beaumont Bureau never gives its opinion or judgment as to how customers "rate"; merely gives the facts, and the credit granter of each member inquiring passes upon the opening or refusing the account.

The local bureau while quite old in experience is ultra modern in its management, equipment and its activities. It has seven assistant reporters, each with many years experience, and these young ladies are attentive, thorough and prompt in their work. The office has records on 135,000 people in Beaumont and its trade area; its connection with 150 bureaus in the State of Texas as well as with 1300 Bureau members in the U. S. to say nothing of its thousands of correspondents wherever there is a post-office. The motto of the Beaumont Bureau is "Keep Your Credit Good", and remember "A GOOD NAME IS RATHER TO BE CHOSEN THAN GREAT RICHES."

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—R—

A Clean Business

The Cleaning and Dyeing industry was judged the most essential and necessary during the war period. At that time, all industries were classified and those found not necessary for the betterment of the citizens of America were disqualified and placed on the non-essential list. The United States Chamber of Commerce awarded the merit badge to the cleaning industry, stating that it was most beneficial to the citizens of the nation from a service and health standpoint.

Giving you somewhat a resume of the cleaning and dyeing industry, I would like to state that it has grown faster than any other in America in the last fifteen years.

There is something like fifteen thousand cleaning plants in the United States, ranging in investments from five thousand to a million dollars, enjoying an annual volume of business of four billion dollars, and employing somewhere in the neighborhood of five hundred thousand people.

The benefits of the cleaning and dyeing industry are two-fold. The first is from a health and sanitary standpoint. Garments should be properly cleaned and sterilized regularly in order to prevent the carrying of germs and contagious diseases. It is a proven fact that germs adhere to wearing apparel, and in that way are carried and spread.

The second benefit is appearance. There is an old adage that "personality (which in reality is appearance) is seventy-five percent of success." One's personal appearance has everything to do with his success or contact with people he meets. It is very easy to recognize an individual who patronizes a good cleaner regularly.

John D. Gore.