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WHY MAKE PRESENTMENTS?

We sometimes wonder why the grand juries make presentments to the courts. We know of course that they pass on bills handed them by the solicitors, and where they find true bills the cases are docketed for trial. That part of their work may be classified as routine and is all right in its way, but at the conclusion of their work they make a "presentment" to the court. And this is what we are asking about. At the convening of court the presiding judge delivers his charge to the grand jury, impressing upon them their great responsibility, and pointing out in some instances their duties. They are some times told that their duties are so broad that they may inspect the public schools and see whether or not they are being properly conducted. They are to examine the various county offices and see that the officers are doing their duties. They are to report conditions of the roads, public buildings, including the court house and jails. They have supervision over the chain gangs. In fact they have a wonderful scope of duties and responsibilities. We would be glad if some able judge would attempt to define definitely the duties of the grand juries, and point out the law that bestows authority upon them to see that each of their recommendations are carried out. About as little attention is paid to a presentment of a grand jury as anything we know of, and for a verification of this statement just look up any presentment which contains a recommendation and then see if it was carried out. Court will soon convene in this county, and the usual presentment will be made of course, but watch if the recommendations are paid any attention to, as good and wholesome as many of them really are. We are not saying anything here with a view of reflecting upon grand juries at all, for as a rule they are capable men and among our best citizens, but why have the judge to tell them what their duties are and when they proceed along that line, no attention is paid to their recommendations? Why not let them go through with their routine work of finding true bills or no bills, and then retire? It should be a useful body of men, and we have no doubt these desire to do their full duty, and their recommendations should be given consideration at least. It may be, and occasionally we believe it is true, that some particular matter is called to the attention of the court, and that part of the presentment is furnished the officer or officers who are the proper ones to take action, but it is the exception and not the rule that the grand jury "recommendations" are paid any attention to.

A GROUNDLESS IDIOSYNCRACY

Herbert Hoover proposes a question very pertinent to the time, when he says: "I often wonder why it is that insurance must be secured by solicitation." It is a peculiar fact that, with the exception of fire insurance, practically everyone has to be "sold" by the ability and tenacity of the agent, rather than by their own wish to purchase an indispensable commodity. Yet the hazards of death, accident, liability, and the rest are every bit as imminent as the chance of fire, perhaps more so. This idiosyncrasy of entire races of people, to "dodge" the insurance seller, is groundless and foolish. It has gone to the extent where insurance selling is the basis for numberless jokes. But the humorist quickly reacts on the joker when he dies leaving a penniless family, or is injured, or has his business wiped out by court judgment. Persons will eventually realize that they should give every assistance toward furthering anything so entirely for their own benefit. And when that comes to pass, more people will come to the insurance dealer's office, instead of trying to avoid him in theirs.

ANOTHER WIDOW ACQUITTED

Mrs. Belle McSwain, of Union, who was charged with the murder of her husband, David McSwain, whose body was found in a canal last March, was acquitted very promptly in general sessions court last week after the case reached the jury. When the body of her husband was found Detective Rodgers was put on the case and a warrant issued for the widow. Only recently in Greenville Mrs. Ethel Willis was acquitted, along with the sheriff's deputy for the murder of Sheriff Sam Willis. Detective Rodgers investigated this case also. He

evidently thought that he had sufficient evidence to issue warrants for these widows, but notwithstanding this the juries hearing the cases acquitted them. Each case attracted considerable attention, especially the Willis case. Able lawyers were engaged on both sides, and the costs mounted up to a considerable sum.

A WORTH WHILE SERVICE

The Child Placing Bureau is engaged in a real worth while service to scores of helpless little ones in our state. Mrs. W. C. Cathcart, of Columbia, who supervises the work is deeply interested in it, and has others with her who look after the many details. We have discussed with Mrs. Cathcart this work on several occasions, and have been impressed with her great earnestness and the very capable manner in which she handles a difficult task. Take a helpless little child, unable to care for itself and with no parents to care for it, and this bureau steps in and does a fine work for the child in seeing that it is placed in the right kind of home, the law giving to the bureau the custody of the child. It is a great service this branch of our state government is rendering, and the people of the State should acquaint themselves with it. Like many other worthy organizations it is more or less hampered in its work by lack of sufficient funds. It takes money to carry on such an important work. We are not familiar with its details as we would like to be so that we could better acquaint our readers with just the character of work that is being done but we do know enough about it to know that it is very important and the newspapers of the state could render a real service by bringing this work to the notice of their readers from time to time and the ladies interested in it would certainly appreciate having the publicity that is needed so that the people of the state would become familiar with it.

CRIMES IN HIGH PLACES

The newspapers of the country are full of the crimes committed by those in high places. A few days ago the mayor of Indianapolis was convicted of corrupt practices and given a jail sentence of thirty days and a fine of \$1,000. Only recently the Governor of Indiana was paroled from the federal prison, he having been given a sentence of ten years. Many others prominent in public life have been before the courts on various charges, and in a number of instances convictions were had. After they get behind prison bars influential friends begin to work for their release, and are sometimes successful. It is a great thing to have men in office who are clean and incorruptible; it is a calamity to have men who are corrupt and resort to corrupt practices to obtain office. In many instances the sentences are so light that the punishment is not commensurate with the enormity of the crimes committed.

All corrupt politicians as well as others who hold responsible positions should be forced to stand aside. Corrupt practice destroys confidence.

A BABY MIX-UP

In a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Sam Smith gave birth to a baby, and was told by the nurse that it was a boy. The baby was named George and the mother and father were rejoicing over the stranger being a boy, for they wanted a boy baby, several girls having previously been born to them. Four weeks later Mrs. Smith found herself in possession of a girl baby, and she became distressed over the mix-up of babies. Experts were brought into the case to help unravel the situation and the courts were also appealed to and finally the baby girl was declared legally the baby of Mrs. Smith. The parents finally after the court's decision returned to the hospital and took charge of the girl baby, taking it home, the husband saying: "It was the sporting thing to do—to take the baby girl. We brought her home and we'll keep her and take care of her. We haven't thought anything about naming her." Then parents while they have taken the girl baby home are still in doubt as to whether or not it is their baby, and perhaps always will doubt it unless as the baby develops some distinctive family resemblance to satisfy them. It was an unfortunate occurrence and has attracted much attention and genuine sympathy for the parents.

THE SMALL NEWSPAPER

The spirit of the small weekly newspaper published in towns of from 100 to 1,000 population but really furnishing a rural neighborhood of from 500 to 2,000 population, is expressed by the Amity, Oregon, Standard in its slogan, "Why roam? Make Amity your home." The small local paper, a four-page folio, a six-page five-column paper, or an eight-page five-column patent inside, properly conducted, when meas-

ured in influence, probably exerts greater power in the community it serves than any other form of publication.

Such newspapers become very profitable when they confine themselves to service of the homes in that community, giving all the little local personal items of the community and taking an interest in the smaller social and industrial affairs like the gasoline woodsaw, the little chicken farms, the local creamery, the country churches and other community activities.

There are from two to five of these smaller-sized weekly papers in practically every county in the 48 states, and the editor—whether man or woman—exerts an influence in local and state affairs that is incomparably greater with subscribers than that of the large metropolitan press with its readers.

The newspaper above mentioned, for the issue of August 26, had 136 items of local, county and state news, all of intense interest to the community it serves, and read in all the homes in its territory for its contents which are supplied by no other newspaper.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

October 2, 1927

ELIJAH ON MT. CARMEL

Lesson Text—I Kings 18:17-39

Burdened over the apostate condition of the people, the prophet Elijah had been led to pray that rain might be withheld, as a means of bringing Israel to their knees. The chapter for today shows something of how this preparatory work had been accomplished in the hearts of king and people.

They had gone through a fearful experience. They began to realize that it was the God of their fathers, and not Baal, who incontestably and absolutely controlled the clouds of heaven. The thoughtful among the people evidently had some realization of the grave offense of Israel against the living God. They saw that their protracted suffering was the consequence of departure from the true God.

King Ahab, and his court too, had shared in some of the terrible experiences. His search throughout the land for Elijah, the man of God, shows that he had been doing some thinking. He at least had a feeling that the drought was due to the prophet's prayers, and would have laid murderous hands on him, could he have found him. But the search had been in vain. Meanwhile all the prophet's words continued to come true.

Three years and a half had elapsed since Elijah's startling prediction to Ahab. God's time to send rain had come, therefore, Elijah is bidden to go and show himself to Ahab. There was one godly man in Ahab's court—Obadiah. To save the remnant of the King's horses and mules, Ahab directed Obadiah to search through one-half of the land for grass, while the king himself took the other half.

Soon after the parting of Obadiah from Ahab, he came upon Elijah. That was no accident. We see such re-arranged providences brought about in the almost everyday meeting of men. It is God's purpose carried out in actual events, and no thinking man can doubt it.

Well did Obadiah know the king's intense desire to lay hand on Elijah. This he declared to the prophet. Elijah informed him of the purpose to show himself immediately to the king (v. 15). "So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah" (v. 16).

The meeting of the false-hearted king and the true-hearted prophet soon took place. The guilty Ahab dared to assume the side of right in charging evil upon the prophet. "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" he asks. His question shows that all events of three years had not humbled his heart in the least. He was a thoroughly self-willed man.

But Elijah was no reed blown by the wind. He also had a will, and it was reinforced by divine power. In the name of God, he hurled back the infamous charge! "I have not troubled Israel, but thou and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed Baalim" (v. 18). Ahab was the real Achan in the camp, the real troubler of Israel.

Where are the men today who dare to deal with these royal sinners? Samuel rebuked Saul; Nathan rebuked David; John rebuked Herod; Paul rebuked Felix. Do we fear to denounce sin in high places. Note how conscious guilt sealed the lips of Ahab. Not a word could he utter. There was nothing to do but listen silently to the command that followed. Without a word, he proceeded to obey it.

He was told to convene all Israel at Carmel (v. 19). All the idolatrous prophets were to be there also. So convinced was Ahab that Elijah was

the vicegerent of the King of kings, that he carried out Elijah's orders as though the prophet were sovereign and he the subject.

Now for a show-down. These people must be turned back to God. Something must be done to stir these sluggish souls. Elijah meets them with a sharp question and charge:—"How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; if Baal, then follow him" (v. 21).

They were silent. It was a confession of the truth of the rebuke. Elijah proposed a method of decision. If they were tottering between two opinions, he would show them something that would make them get off the fence, on one side or the other.

Sacrifice was a rite common to all religions. It was at first divinely instituted as the great symbol of expiation. False religions had copied it because of the awe attached to it, but had cast aside its true meaning. Elijah appealed to the ordeal of sacrifice. Let there be an appeal to their respective deities, "and the God that answereth by fire, let Him be God" (v. 24).

In former days Jehovah had thus testified His acceptance of the sacrifices of Moses, Gideon, David and Solomon. Baal was supposed to be the sun god, with sovereign control over all natural elements and forces. It would be an easy thing for Baal to send down fire, if the claims of the priests were true. Whether the priests liked the proposition or not, the people saw the reasonableness of the proposal. Ahab was silenced.

A dramatic scene it was! Baal paid attention to the blood-invoking power of his own priests. As theiraving intensified into mania, Elijah answered them with lofty defiance and withering sarcasm (vs. 28-29). Then followed the offering of Elijah, made in calm, sublime simplicity.

Baal's prophets had been given every advantage. They could not have asked for more favorable circumstances. "There was no voice, nor any that answered" (v. 26) even when the sun was hottest. All this is not a thing of the past. What strange scenes today are, by some people, called worship! Millions still are in idolatry. Millions still pray, though not to the personal, loving Heavenly Father, and there is no voice in the pitiless sky.

Other false prophets we have, who while they do not bow to Baal, point to nature as the only god there is, or try to enthrone humanity. In magazine articles they cry aloud. They talk of social salvation through their godless religions. For centuries the world has waited to see the descent of fire upon those albars, but no fire comes, and society goes on unrenewed.

Meanwhile, the world sees humble men and women, here and there, upon whom a divine fire descends in answer to prayer. Those who worship the true God through Jesus Christ are seen to have the flame of Christian love burning in their hearts, and there is a warmth of Christian zeal found in the Church of Christ, not to be found anywhere else.

Can there be any doubt as to which company call upon the true God? In simple, quiet, intelligent manner, Elijah called upon God. He spoke to a personal God. He asked something definite, and asked according to the will of God. "Let it be known that thou art God, and that I am thy servant and have done these things at thy word." God could not but honor such earnestness and such childlike faith.

The fire fell. "It was Elijah's prayer," says John Foster, "converted and returned in flame." The people bowed themselves to earth and cried: "The Lord, He is God" (v. 39).

The modern reproduction of the "Test of Carmel may be witnessed in the powerlessness of all schemes of social reformation and rationalistic teachings, in contrast with the old Gospel which remains "the power of God unto salvation." God still answers by fire, for our God is a consuming fire, Who burns out sin and sets the souls of men aflame with holy zeal and spiritual fervor.

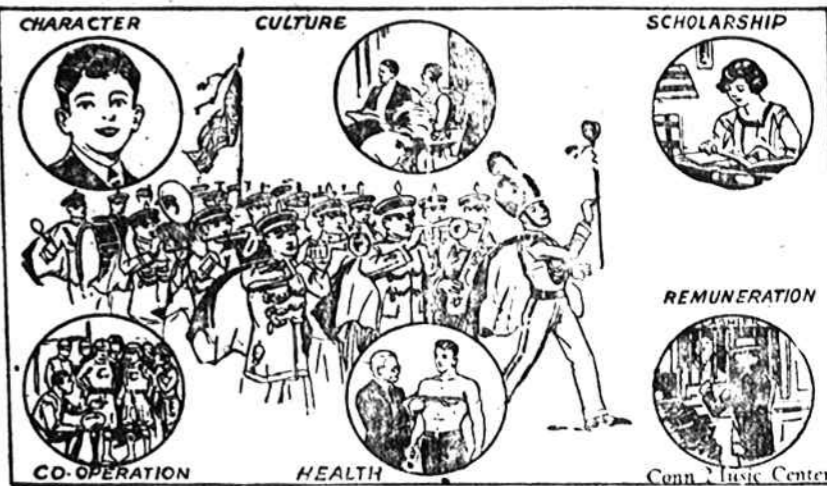
Railroad taxes have increased 228 per cent since 1923, while dividends to stockholders have increased but 22 per cent during the same period.

L. D. Hilton Lost Cotton by Fire

L. D. Hilton, local cotton and large farmer, lost 108 bales of cotton of last year's production by fire Sunday night. Mr. Hilton had the cotton stored at his home on the east side of town, and is unable to account for the origin of the fire. The cotton was worth probably about \$150 a bale at the prevailing price, the loss being covered by insurance. The price of cotton being down at the time of its loss occasioned a considerable loss to Mr. Hilton. The Kershaw Era.

Farming, like Gaul, is divided into three parts: soil building, quality production, intelligent marketing.

Horn Lets Youth "Blow Off Steam"



MORE comes out of a horn than music, or in other words the advantages to the boy or girl who plays in the school band or orchestra are not confined to the musical education and good times he gets out of doing it. College presidents, professors and directors of music all attest to the far-reaching profits which such training give the student. Out of 157 of such authorities co-operating in a survey, made by the Conn Music Center, 151 specifically mentioned the character building quality of music study. Learning to play an instrument calls for perseverance; self-discipline, patience, poise are some of the sterling qualities it develops.

In line with this is the benefit of co-operation, of the student learning to subordinate his own interests for the sake of the group which many a boy or girl learns for the first time when he joins the school band or orchestra.

The cultural advantages received are second emphasis: the ability to play good music as well as the other arts. A little actual experience in playing gives the greatest understanding of the problems of the professional musician and an appreciation of his genius. Equally valuable is the so-called mental training which comes in a band or orchestra through the young stu-

dent. Clear thinking, accuracy, concentration, quick adaptability are some of the qualities which music stimulates and whose effects are shown in other fields of endeavor.

Improved health is still another advantage. Induced by relaxing the nerves, improving the posture and expanding the lung capacity which various types of music study involve. Financial awards, too, are coming to the young musician who earns pocket money, opens a savings account or even earns his way through school by playing or teaching some musical instrument.

Speaking of the relation of music to health recently, Senator Royal S. Copeland, formerly health commissioner of New York City, said: "I think there can be no doubt that education in music adds to the happiness and general welfare of the individual. The rhythm and pleasurable emotions excited by inspiring music have their effect on the health. It is not alone the increase of lung capacity from the blowing of a horn or other wind instrument, but it is the general sense of well-being and stimulation associated with the enjoyment of music which has to do with its value. The purpose of exercise is to stimulate the action of the heart. Pleasurable sensations will accomplish exactly the same result."

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