

NO GRAFT SAYS COUNTY BOARD

PEEK-A-BOO WAISTS TO BE BANNED BY CENSOR

Welfare Board Woman Says Morals Are Being Being Threatened

AK-SAR-BEN BALL NOT THREATENED

Dance Hall Proprietors Are Criticized by Mrs. Johnson Who is Sponsor for Clean Dancing and Opposes Brevity of Dress—Mayor to Act

What are Omaha girls going to do if this welfare board stuff puts the public dance hall out of business? That is the question being seriously asked these days. The Welfare board which has assumed the role of dictator of morals, dress and about everything else which interests young people, is trying to put a crimp into the dancing business in its own peculiar way. This board, the youngsters allege is made up of a bunch of grouches who could never get any place in their own young days, and want to put a damper on everything done by Omaha young people in these modern days.

Dance hall proprietors are trying to meet all emergencies by giving the youngsters everything they want. Since the short skirt and peek-a-boo waist became popular, welfare workers claim, the whole business of simplified wearing apparel is being overdone. The result is that girls appear on dance floors with a display of nudeness that shocks the old hens who were reared to wear dresses without the least regard for comfort. These women wore high-neck waists, with collars sticking up around the ears and skirts dragging in the dirt and filth of the streets, quite in contrast with the up-to-date ideas of feminine wearing apparel.

These modern gowns have become popular at all public dances. The young men go there for a look, if nothing else and they are seldom disappointed. Some of the dances are not considered in keeping with orderly things, so far as they concern good morals. For all of which reasons this Welfare Board crowd is setting up a big hellabaloo and want more restrictions put on dance halls.

Lyric hall, Turpin's academy and the Krug park pavilion are among the places under fire. Mayor Dahlman intimates he will look the whole business over. The mayor does not dance, but he has a pretty good idea

of what good decorum is, even in dance halls, which means his opinion ought to be worth something. He has gone to Cheyenne, where the cow girls are kicking up and where his judgement ought to be good, even if it does not take so well in Omaha dance halls.

At any rate, Mrs. E. W. Johnson, who does the talking for the Welfare Board says there will soon be some new rules.

It is claimed by some of the dance hall proprietors that the Welfare Board is over doing matters. They cite the annual Ak-Sar-Ben balls, where the Welfare Board has no say in how dancing may go on. At those affairs, it is freely admitted that women attend the dance in very abbreviated costume and many of them last fall wore knee dresses, about which the Welfare board said nothing. It all appeared to please the men very much. The older dames appeared to be as anxious to display their shapes as the younger ones and there was considerable rivalry between the two sets about who should make the biggest display of figures.

Dancing is an old custom. In fact history says that Solomon insisted on that sort of entertainment, and when he put on a dance it was something to talk about. There were no old women on the dance floor in the temple and Solomon insisted on having the real thing. The girls were not dressed in tights, according to reports handed down, nor in much of anything else if the pictures of today are true ones.

The idea of Mrs. Johnson and other members of the Welfare Board that dancers can array themselves in outlandish long gowns and high necks, appears to be preposterous. Solomon set the example otherwise. In Omaha the morals of our people doubtless need looking after but the selection of persons to decide what is

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JUST KIDS—WHEN IT RAINED CATS AND DOGS.

By Ad Carter



School Taxes Increased

Omaha taxpayers are to be asked, or rather required, to pay a 60 mill levy the coming year for school purposes. That is just four times the amount they paid only a few years ago, and a great amount of kicking is heard. Few of the taxpayers clearly understand why this condition exists. It is not because of increased school facilities, nor on account of a big school building program, although numerous additions and new buildings have come into existence recently. Valuations have been inflated also, which makes this school levy of 60 mills an increase of nearly 500 per cent in taxes levied for educational purposes over those of only a few years ago.

The real cause is prohibition. In former years the city collected nearly half million dollars in licenses and other liquor sources, all of which went to the school fund. Since that annual half million dollars disappeared it has become necessary to raise the money from a direct levy on the taxpayers. The rate has increased nearly 500 per cent. This is what

prohibition is doing for Omaha. The same condition exists in our national affairs. The president and congress at this moment are greatly worried to know how to raise enough money to pay off the debts already incurred and those that are daily piling up. Prohibition took from Uncle Sam an income which compares favorably with what Omaha taxpayers are being asked to raise at this time for educational purposes.

Although nothing has been said about the affair, truth is our government, much like our own city is in a very bad financial position. The available gold is all piled up in vaults and we are on a purely paper money basis. The city of Omaha has plenty of assets but they are hard to realize on. Prohibition, more than any other half dozen agencies combined, is responsible for this condition. The only people to gain by prohibition have been the fat-salaried Anti-saloon league officials, and it is said that bank roll is about to run out and force those fellows to go to work.

REPORTS SAY FRANK

WILLIAMS COMES BACK

Persistent reports say Frank Williams, formerly a member of the Omaha police force is to return to the city's employ in the near future. He resigned during the Ringer administration and was in the employ of the Merchant's National bank for several months. The same reports say he

will succeed Ben Dannbaum, present head of the morals squad. Williams has had much experience in morals work and is well acquainted with that line. At the city hall the report could not be confirmed.

It is also stated that a very considerable number of other changes are slated for August 1 in various departments of the police work.

Doings In Omaha Fifty Years Ago

Many inquiries were made about former townsman, Amos Abley, and common report said he had gone to Lincoln to stay an indefinite length of time.

Tommy Curran had a new address. Everybody who knew Tom said he was a hard man to keep track of.

Mike Endres, our county treasurer, made an unsuccessful trip to New York. He said he substituted for Charlie Unitt, but did not get fired out of the W. O. W. like some of the other fellows.

Nathan Watts was giving it out among the smoggy job lot a regular pio looking for trouble better lay off of him. Nate sure had troubles of his own.

Tom Dennison and Ed Peterson were visiting eastern race tracks.

Vic Fransen was thinking seriously of buying a ten story building for an addition to his Howard street cafe. Vic had troubles of his own taking care of his big business.

Mike Fish was forced to move, but not because he failed to pay his rent.

Jack Welch visited with friends at

Twenty-first and Cuming street, but the report that he called a taxi to take him home was incorrect. A friend obliged Jack, because he did not have far to go.

Tom Matters was having troubles of his own. Tom denied that it cost him half a million dollars to get out of the pen.

Dan Brady was named champion cribbage player of Omaha. But he lost a game to one of his customers and squawked his head off.

Fred Brodegard was putting on another one of those auction sales at the old stand. He said he needed the money. A lot of the fellows said he ought to hire Charlie Tyrrell for a week.

Mike Gibson's stinkierinos got him in bad at the court house, where he had always been popular.

Billy Fox had a hard time squaring himself at home following a visit he made to Tenth and Harney streets.

Bill Ferrin had to come across to Uncle Sam for a bundle of war tax on interstate commerce transactions. He kicked like a bay steer.

COUNTY PAVING IS GIVEN LONG HEARING

Commissioners Passing The Buck To Somebody Else

COUNTY SURVEYOR GIVEN HARD RAP

State Engineer Comes to Omaha and Makes Big Bluff and County Board Raves With Him—No Evidence of Graft is Found Says Board's Report

During the last week the people of Omaha have had an opportunity to witness one of the biggest fiascos ever pulled off in the name of enlightened progress and road building reform. Somebody with nothing else to do, seemed to feel that it was time to "start something". Just who that somebody was has not been ascertained, but whoever it was managed to get away with what he went after.

The Hugh Murphy Construction company has been paving the highway down near Valley, which is in Douglas county. Somebody became displeased at the work. Perhaps it was a jealous competitor of Murphy, nobody appears to know. At any rate a few weeks ago the kickers managed to get the ear of State Engineer Johnson, who spent much of the present week in the city trying to find some reason for condemning the road that has already been built. He went back to Lincoln without doing anything, except to make a great big noise, and to leave an impression that he really amounted to something.

The whole affair has turned out to be the making of a mountain out of a mole hill. Not an iota of evidence was presented to show that there had been any attempt made to "cheat" in the road construction, and the total result was the making of a great big bluff by Johnson and the county commissioners in an attempt to prove that they were doing something for which they draw their salaries. The board passed a resolution attempting to sidestep their responsibility and slip the buck to Lew Adams, county surveyor of Douglas county. They

also decided that two inspectors should be fired from their jobs. They probably would also have discharged Lew Adams if they had any power to do so. Adams was elected by the people and has been a pretty faithful servant, from all indications. The people apparently have no intentions of putting the skids under the county surveyor.

George L. Campen, one of Uncle Sam's experts on road building was here and listened to the testimony offered before the board of county commissioners. Campen is considered authority on road building. That is the reason he is in the government's employ. After hearing all the talk and making a few observations for himself, Campen had this to say: "The county commissioners have no case at all. All this talk is real bull. The fellows who are making this trouble apparently know no more about road building than a pig knows about Latin."

And from all indications all the trouble these kickers went to has come to naught. It has been shown conclusively that the valley road was being built according to specifications and that the tax payers are getting just what they are paying for. The Murphy company has been doing nothing it has any occasion to apologize for. From all indication a bunch of high-brow fellows whose biggest business is to sell second-hand automobiles to the public at new car prices are responsible for much of the trouble. They appear to think that the taxes put into road building is paid by the people for

Continued on Page 3.

ICE PHILANTHROPISTS BILK OMAHA HOUSEWIVES CHARGE BEING MADE

Short Weights Charged Against Big Dealers—Drivers Insult Women When They Complain About Service—Proprietors Wink at Telephone Kicks

The expose printed in an Omaha daily paper about weights given by some of the city's ice philanthropists tells only part of the truth. All this summer and for several other summers these fellows have been getting away with their short weights about as they pleased and when they pleased. It is said Dan Butler, who has posed as and proved himself some public benefactor, has taken up the matter, and will go after these derelict ice concerns in his vigorous way. If he does that it ought to insure him at least five more terms as city commissioner.

Laying jokes aside, it is simply rotten the way Omaha people have been treated by the "ice trust". The dealers are guilty of every indignity found against them, without an exception. The Omaha Ice & Cold Storage company has been one of the principal sinners. The drivers get in their best work at some of the apartment buildings. At one of these near Twenty-fifth avenue and Douglas streets, tenants have suffered all summer.

The municipal ice costs only half as much charged by the ice companies, which in itself gives proof of the manner in which Omaha people are being held up every day. When the housewife puts an ice card in the window indicating she wants fifty pounds, the driver snatches the first piece at hand and carries it to her icebox without even thinking of weighing the piece. If the woman protests she usually gets a rebuff that often amounts to an insult. If she were to ask the fellow to weigh the piece she would receive a sneer

for her trouble and that would be all. In fact a lot of these wagons do not even carry scales. People think they are buying ice by the hundred pounds. On the contrary they are buying it by the chunk—just any old thing the driver wants to give them. And the driver is not required to make apology to his employer if a kick comes into the down town office. Some clerk there does the talking and usually ends up by intimating thusly: "If you don't like it get another ice man. We are not in the business for fun."

The only difference noticeable in service is that some dealers sell for seventy cents a hundred and others for sixty cents.

The Omaha Ice & Cold Storage is very independent and insolent drivers quickly tell complainers where to head in. This trick has been repeated so often that housewives are getting used to it and prepare in advance for this insolence, if they say a word to drivers, and expect only the same thing if they register a kick with the office.

Many consumers receive a 25-pound piece of ice when they order fifty pounds. If they did not pay for more than thirty-five pounds it would be taken from the ice box. The drivers are not personally at fault, but they know that the only way to hold their jobs is to carry out orders, for which reason they are forced to slip the buck to the public.

If Butler will bring the ice companies to time he will make himself popular with thousands of Omaha people.

JEPSON GROCERY QUILTS HOOTCH BUSINESS BUT BUYERS PLENTIFUL

Grocery Man Writes He is Out of it as Long As Dahlman and Dunn Are on the Job—Probably Liked Smith and Ringer

From appearances many bootleggers in Omaha have been put out of the business of selling hootch and other brands of intoxicating beverages by the new administration. One of these concerns, the Jepson grocery, at Twenty-fifth and Cuming streets, admits it can not and will not attempt to sell this stuff with Dahlman and Dunn on the job. In a letter to The Mediator this firm freely admits they have been forced to get out of the hootch business, but also admit they are doing so against their will. The letter is a very interesting one and is as follows:

"Editor of The Mediator:—I wish to inform you of the fact that the grocery you referred to in your paper of July 15, has not been engaged in the hootch business for a long time and don't intend to as long as our Hon. Mayor Jim Dahlman and our humble servant Henry Dunn say 'Thou shalt not.' But this is not saying that we don't like it. Hoping that you will make a correction in your next issue, as we have been run to death since your issue of July 15 with prospective buyers. Thank you. Respectfully yours, Jepson Bros.,"

The Jepson grocery is one of the largest and best on Cuming street. From all reports it appears it was doing an extensive business in groceries with hootch as a side line until

Dahlman and Dunn took hold of things. At any rate their letter would leave that impression. The statement that they have been run ragged by "prospective customers" the last two weeks also indicates how many "wets" read The Mediator.

At any rate the letter pays a high compliment to Mayor Dahlman and Superintendent Dunn of the police department and indicates they got along with Mayor Ed P. Smith and Mr. Ringer very well, although the letter does not say as much.

But the Jepsens are apparently having the same trouble that has come to a lot of other fellows the last few months. The cleaning has been pretty general and from all indications it is not over with. They are landing on them all as fast as possible. Jepson says there is not much money in the business, when a man takes a chance of peddling it out at fifty cents a drink. "It is taking too many chances," says Jepson. "When we could hand it out by the bottle at \$5 a throw it was worth while monkeying with, but no more of it for me."

The demand for wet goods in Jepson's neighborhood seems to be as good as in any other part of town, but purchasers now are forced to walk three blocks farther to get what they want.

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HANDLING THE SPORTS BUSINESS

The country is intensely interested in the revival of clean sports, and many states, including Nebraska, have revived the boxing game. Already in Omaha, several matches have been put on, generally to the credit of the promoters. The boxing rules that have been promulgated may need some changing from time to time, but as a general proposition they are satisfactory.

One of the things to be watched most closely is to prevent any one coterie of promoters cornering up the business. Almost everybody likes to see a prize-fight, despite all the ravings of alleged reformers. The game has had the endorsement of thousands of preachers, and some of them have even got into the game themselves. Properly protected the boxing game will be a great thing for the country. The immense profits for the effort of putting on boxing matches, however, have attracted many persons of wealth, who hope to keep all the small fellows out.

If we are to have legalized boxing it should be a free-for-all affair, and no coterie of promoters should be permitted to get a corner on the business. If such a thing happens it will quickly put an end to legalized boxing.

Here in Omaha there are a number of ambitious promoters who want to get in. If they treat the public right in the matter they will experience no trouble, but any attempt to "slip one across" on the people will spell "thirty," as the telegraph operator would put it, for the promoter.

Boxing-should also be kept out of politics, that is no private promoter should be permitted to engage himself to secure the election of men to office who promise to insure the cornering up of these sports exhibitions in favor of a small coterie of promoters.

Let the old game go on, the more the merrier, but let us have it clean to the core, with clean cut regulation and honest to God sportsmen promoting it.

PROHIBITION AND THE CRAZY-HOUSE

One institution of our country that is increasing its business as a result of prohibition, is the insane asylum. It is hardly what the prohibitionists want to crow about, but it is a fact, nevertheless.

Dr. Persy M. Lichtenstein, resident physician of Tooms prison, New York City, testified recently before the New York Lunacy commission. "The stuff that sells for liquor has caused

more insanity since prohibition was proclaimed in the United States," he said, "than shell shock and kindred influences caused by the war."

It matters little that this expert testimony comes from a New York physician, because there are few physicians in any part of the country who have dealt with lunacy cases that will, if they have not already, given similar testimony.

Many cases of alcoholic insanity have come to Dr. Lichtenstein's notice, he said, since prohibition went into effect. A remarkable thing about it all is that the younger generation furnishes the most victims. They appear to be unable to withstand the effects of this poison like some of the older men who are becoming victims. Here in Omaha within the last year there have been more than fifty victims, one reliable physician told The Mediator the other day.

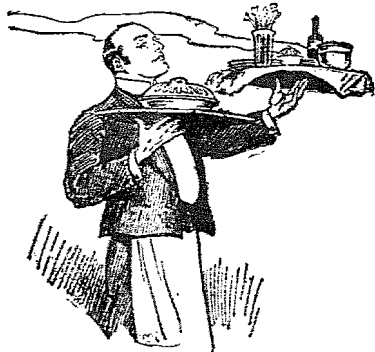
The poisonous substitutes absorbed by victims create a toxic condition which deadens and destroys the nervous system and produces alcoholic psychosis, the New York expert declared. In other words paralysis is caused after imbibing in these substitutes.

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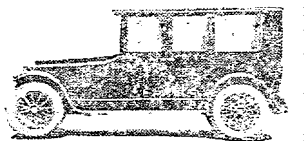
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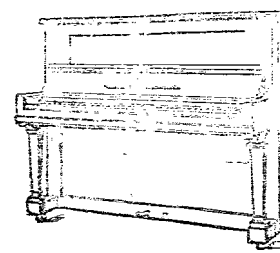
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COUNTRY PAVING IS GIVEN LONG HEARING

Continued From Page 1.

their sole benefit and that they have a divine right to dictate the manner in which all this money may be spent.

This man Johnson, who came up from Lincoln to make himself heard and furnish a story for an Omaha daily newspaper, had better have stayed at home. There are a lot of substantial business men in Omaha who are saying a lot of things about Johnson. This is particularly true of his system of letting road grading contracts. Those who are fronting for Johnson say nobody has anything on him, but there are a lot of other fellows in Omaha who deny that assertion.

It is quietly hinted that some of the fellows who are trying at this time to make so much trouble have not been recipients of donations when they passed the hat. That is considered a pretty good excuse. As a matter of fact, it is stated that the least said about some of the transactions credited to some of these fellows the better it will be for them.

People of Omaha who have been riding over Murphy paved streets in Omaha for twenty-five years are better judges of the sort of work that concern puts out than anybody else, and the Murphy concern does not have to make apology for what it gives the public.

It is reported that county commissioners decided there had been no grafting going on, which is probably the same part of their decision. If they had found any grafting they would have found it so well distributed that a detailed report of it would not have looked well in print. Ever since John Lynch made his great deal with a big concern that did much county work, a deal in which something like \$15,000 in cash changed hands at one throw, there has been a lot of suspicion that a county contract could not be let without somebody seizing a goodly chunk of graft. It is a fine thing, indeed, that the county board should assert that there has been no grafting in this county road building.

SMOKE Gen'l. Stanton, mild Havana, 10c & 15c.

PEEKABOO WAISTS TO BE BANNED BY CENSOR

Continued From Page 1.

necessary to keep our public moral is the most important thing. The big question is who shall judge between the various sorts of gowns that are to be prescribed for dance hall amusement.

These same welfare people seem to entirely ignore the stage. On burlesque stages, fifty women may be seen at one time dancing in abbreviated costume, but no kicking is done about it. Why not let us alone then, say the dance hall proprietors and there appears to be considerable sense to their talk.

But sooner or later the Welfare board will decide what sort of rules are to govern dancing conditions in Omaha. They will be very interesting.

SMOKE Gen'l. Stanton, mild Havana, 10c & 15c.

BECKER SAYS BARBERS NOT REDUCING PRICES

Jess Becker, business agent for the Barber's union, declares the report that closed shops are reducing prices is untrue. He says they have all agreed to maintain war prices. He also stated that to reduce prices meant to return to starvation wages. It appears, however, that a lot of Omaha barber shops have refused to maintain the high prices formerly charged. One Sixteenth street shop is advertising shaves at fifteen cents and hair cuts at thirty-five cents. It appears that a lot of people do not care particularly whether or not they have their work done in what are known as closed shops, especially when they get the same service in open shops at considerably reduced prices.

HAMMER-SCHLAIFER MATCH PROVES HUGE SUCCESS

The Municipal Baseball association which staged the Hammer-Schlaifer match is to be congratulated on the manner in which it pulled off that af-

fair at the Auditorium. Pat Boyle and Jake Issacson, whose activities were responsible for the successful ring affair worked like trojans to put it on and, despite the fact that one sports editor of the city was out with his hammer from the beginning, it was a huge success.

SMOKE Gen'l. Stanton, mild Havana, 10c & 15c.

SPARROWS HAVE CLOSE CALL SAYS MIKE FISH

Mike Fish, friend of the little street sparrows, has moved his horse feed store a block south of the old stand, which has been condemned. Mike had a hard time getting a satisfactory location and all the time he was worried about the sparrows. He argued that if he was forced to quit business, Omaha's horses could not be properly fed. Unless the horses were doing business every day, he said the sparrows would have a hard time staying in Omaha, where they woke everybody up in the morning with their songful chants, sung while they were getting their morning meal on the streets.

SMOKE Gen'l. Stanton, mild Havana, 10c & 15c.

ED BRINKMAN'S PICTURE APPEARS IN PUBLIC PRINT

Ed Brinkman, one of Omaha's monster police officers, got his picture in the papers this week. Ed is trying to get a divorce and, despite his enormous size, his wife on various occasions, took a smash at him, he says in the story of his side of the divorce and those who know him are wondering how seriously he was hurt in the allegations. Ed is a powerful fellow fistic mixups he says he had with his wife. Ed also says he has been a henpecked but docile husband. He has always been a popular member of the police force.

COMPETITION IS KEEN IN ITALIAN QUARTER OF CITY

Competition is getting very keen among the Italian dealers in dago red and other products of the South End distilleries and breweries it is reliably stated. These dealers are all out with their hammer on all competitors. During the week a police officer walking a South Thirteenth street beat was stopped by an Italian known to be interested in the sale of raisin booze. He told the officer in detail about an Italian on Fourteenth street, whom this informer declared to the officer was "running wide open" at that very moment. The officer listened to the story and walked on, leaving the matter for the morals squad to deal with. The competition in Dago Town has become so pronounced that the dealers are informing on each other with impunity.

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Because it sharpens in less
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SEND Coupon for Proof Tell us all about the deadly effects of tobacco and how easy it is to quit. We will also send you copies of letters from confirmed users telling how this simple, home-treatment freed them absolutely from the habit. Just mail coupon—no postal will do.

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THEATRICALS

EMPRESS ATTRACTIONS

Starting Sunday, the Empress is to have as its stellar act a terpsichorean novelty entitled "Syncopated Feet", which is to be presented by a quartette of artists headed by Floyd Rathburn, a dancer of international reputation. Their program includes soft shoe, hard shoe, jazz and eccentric dances in solos, trios, and quartettes and will no doubt prove a revelation to lovers of dancing.

A melange of singing, dancing and music is to be presented by Johnny & Wise, while Frazer & Peck who call their act "Gymnasts De Luxe", are to offer an exhibition of sensational acrobatic feats.

Completing the vaudeville program are a duo of blackface comedians who are to introduce a comedy attraction entitled "The Two Slickers."

The photoplay attraction for the first half of the week is to be "Blackbirds" featuring Justine Johnson.

Appetite Not Quite Gone.

Mary had reached the stage of satiety where she steadfastly refused all offers of "a little more turkey," "a bit more dressing or mashed potato," or "another piece of bread." Nothing apparently could tempt her to eat another mouthful. Finally, however, the nuts, raisins and candies were passed. "Yes, I will have some," said Mary, and then, apparently thinking her conduct needed some explanation, she added: "I can still eat little things!"

Most Men Will Remember That.

Boys know nearly as many untrue things as grown folk. Does anyone remember their saying that, "if a turtle got hold of a boy's toe it wouldn't let go until the sun goes down?"—Exchange.

Removing Label.

To easily and quickly remove a label from a bottle, wet the face of the label with water and hold for a moment over any convenient flame. The steam formed penetrates the label at once and softens the paste.

WANTS TO LOSE HIS LIONS

Trainer Asks Court to Rid Him of Animals Taken for Debt.

New Haven, Conn.—Instead of having a white elephant on his hands, Felix O. Rustand, a former circus and Coney Island animal trainer, has lions, but he insists that there is no difference in respect to the consequences.

Rustand attached the lions and took them from Bridgeport to his Short Beach shore home to satisfy a claim against Mme. Irene Castello, a performer, who was exhibiting them. He appeared before Judge John Booth to seek relief through a court order, alleging that it was costing more to keep the animals than to lose the claim against Mme. Castello, as the lions were "eating their heads off." He insisted that they should be classed as "perishable," subject to emergency court orders.

Judge Booth reserved decision.

Tests Wine in Divorce Case, Asks Nominal Fee

Omaha, Neb.—J. T. Bohan, Omaha real estate man, was required to sample 700 gallons of old wine. Acting as "referee" in the divorce case of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henas, he was requested by attorneys to ascertain if the wine was in good condition. In the divorce case Henas, according to attorneys, had agreed at the time of an out-of-court property settlement to take "everything in the cellar." The wine, which the Henas couple had made together, was five years old. Some of it was seven years. Bohan reported the wine in "excellent condition" and stated that his fee would be "nominal."

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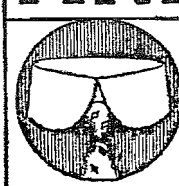
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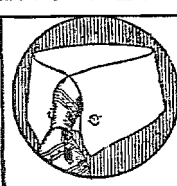
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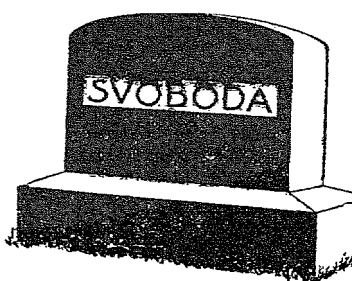
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