

BOOZE RUNNERS AND PREACHERS

BIG COMBINATION IS AFTER CITY MANAGER

Much Fine Italian Hand Work Seen
in Their Movements

UPDIKE WANTS TO BOSS WHOLE JOB

Prime Movers in Affair Would Perpetuate Their Jobs and Create
Line of Big Graft for Themselves and Friends—
Legislative Action Needed

As days pass by the elaborate attempt of a coterie of political bunco men to place the city of Omaha under the general manager system and to take from the rank and file of Omaha citizens the right to govern themselves are beginning to show up in various forms, with the same old bunch of "legal robbers" handling the affair that have been on the job for several years.

The promoters, who, until within the last two weeks, have worked under cover, are just beginning to show up, and their ramifications give indication of one of the wildest conspiracies on record being well in hand at this time to turn the city over to a small crowd of highbinders and hijackers that has been shown up to public view.

The latest bit of activity has been the lining up of Nels Updike, owner of the Omaha Bee. That very fine newspaper has taken up the city manager business and is giving it hearty support. The Bee has been in discredit so long that Mr. Updike apparently is ready to take up any new fad that may come along to boost that newspaper into popularity again. The Bee is now telling the public what a fine thing such cities as Muskogee, Okla., have found the city manager business to be, and intimates that Omaha should emulate the system in vogue in that Indian village.

The city manager business has its inception in the fertile minds of Bob Smith, Bill Ure, R. Beecher Howell and Bob Druesdow, all of whom have

existed for a score of years by means of political graft, and the system they are now trying to perpetuate. Bob Smith, who picks the juries for Douglas county, and his friends got together on the business several months ago and those leaders who have been active in the business are said to have made it mandatory on republican candidates for the legislature that they put the city manager law across in the coming legislature.

As usual, it is expected this bill, when it appears, will be sent to the committee on cities and towns for final action and report. In the shortest possible time, according to the program, that bill will be reported favorably and pushed for final action. Just where the governor stands on the proposed law, is not known. McKelvie was pretty badly double-crossed in Douglas county, and there appears to be some doubt whether he will fall in readily with the proposed scheme of those who knifed him in this city.

The chairmanship of the committee on cities and towns, in the house, where the bill is expected to originate, is an important position. Bob Druesdow held it two years, and is a candidate for the place again. He is the fellow who is expected to get away with this bit of new style highway robbery in the event of his being named chairman of that committee.

On the other hand, some lively internal opposition has developed, which means the bill will not have easy sailing all the way. Druesdow is booked (Continued on Page Three.)

HOP MARKET BULLED BY ORDERS GIVEN OUT FROM DRY QUARTERS

Home Brewers Can no Longer Secure Hops and Bakers and Confectioners Corner Market—Thirsty Omahans Must
Find New Supply of Supplies

Brewers of beer for home consumption will have to raise their own hops if they find they can not get along without this fluid. An order has gone out to that effect from prohibition enforcement headquarters in Washington. Only bakers and confectioners will be permitted to purchase hops in the future and they will be ordered to show just what they do with the product or their supply may also be cut off.

Since national prohibition went into effect, the private brewing of beer in comparatively small amounts for home consumption has been indulged in all over the country. Most any person found it comparatively easy to buy what few hops they wanted to put the proper tone in their product, with the result that thousands of persons indulged in the manufacture of small quantities of beer for home consumption. All of this must be stopped, under the most recent order of the treasury department, although the order has not yet been approved by Secretary Houston.

It appears that many of the small manufacturers of beer did not confine their efforts to the home product and that many of them were peddling the liquid to outside consumers, at a hand-

some profit. Reports of this condition reached the treasury department and is said to be responsible for this latest order regarding the sale of hops.

On the South Side, since prohibition went into effect, there have sprung up hundreds of small private breweries. Some of them were operated by master brewers and their product was very much in demand. It is said that similar conditions existed in all parts of the country. They all came to the notice of the Washington authorities and the late order against hops was the result.

Hops are an innocent vegetable, in themselves, but when put to use in fermented liquids have a very decided influence over the liquids. Just how easy the treasury department expects to find it to confine the sale to confectioners and bakers is not stated, but the order is out and thirsty Omahans who have been drinking up the South Side supply will have to look for new inventions if they continue to imbibe in this amber liquid that has had such a cheering effect for them.

In Omaha, it is said, there still remains a very liberal supply of hops that may be purchased if prospective home brew masters have the price.

"KIDS"



Doings In Omaha Fifty Years Ago

Some of our village cutups, who dabbled around Bill Fox's genteel cigar store, spent the Sabbath day at Eleventh and Douglas streets, where our harness bulls are in charge. They prepared their alibis for the judge.

Roy Broomfield was the busy kid. Roy always had a nice word or two for all the boys and girls who called at his big cabaret.

Bill Cage was busy telling the boys how it all happened. Cage was one of our honest citizens and said the Daily News was always overdoing things anyway.

Dr. Edwards, finished in his line of business, was one of the best Gayety patrons, according to E. L. Johnson. Johnson said everybody was always welcome.

Johnny Lee called on several of the local sports writers asking what the chance was for a little space. They told him to get out and do something to make it worth their while.

Bill Rourke, our general base ball boss for fifty years, denied that he was getting out of the business. He said there were a lot of jealous fellows trying to run base ball clubs.

Frank Judson had quite a time explaining to friends how they come to find his Cadillac up at Minot, N. D. Truth was, a lot of them were jealous of Frank, so the word went out.

The report that Posey was going to work was declared all bosh. He said his feet were still very bad. Rabs said so, too.

Some new lines were being put out by the Salt Lake restaurant, which was one of the city's busy eating places.

Bert Perigue was still on the map. He always was, his friends said.

Jimmy Silk was looking over North End property, with a view to opening another drug store. Joe Wright said he better leave well enough alone.

Who Shall Be Boss?

Who shall be the city boss of Omaha is a question being seriously considered by large interests of the city at this time. The new regime proposes to have a city manager, if that job can be gotten away with, and who shall be the city manager is one of the moot questions now being talked about in the inner circles of the city manager crowd.

If the proposition goes through, the city manager shall have the power to select and discharge any city official, when he feels so inclined, except the few elected by the people. There is a pretty general understanding among those promoting the business that the city manager shall be the big political boss, and that he will do the bidding of those who put him on the job.

Who shall have that job if it is created? That is the big question just at this time.

Incidentally, a city manager would prepare the various budgets and would tell the people just how much taxes they must pay, how they shall pay them and when they shall pay them. He would have an opportunity to offer favors to the large taxpayers and to take graft money for any favors thus shown. Of course, no candidate now in sight would think of doing such a thing, but it would be easy that in the future it might become disastrous, since hundreds of immense corporations pay taxes in the city of Omaha.

The combination that is now promoting the proposition, it is stated openly, are preparing to run the job to suit themselves, in the event of their winning out, and they have prepared an airtight combination which they hope will get away with their mischief before another three or four months roll around.

It is time for the people of Omaha to get their eyes open and put the fixings to this crowd that is trying to put the city in charge of one big boss.

DAKOTA MINISTERS AFTER BAD RUNNERS

U. S. Attorneys Say Daring Business
Men Now Biggest Violators

DESPERATE DEALERS AFTER MONEY

Minot, North Dakota, Scene of Gathering of Men Who Run
Gauntlet in High Powered Cars to Make
Bundle of Money

Whisky runners who have been bringing large collections of Canadian booze to this country are having an inning up in North Dakota with the authorities, according to latest reports, and government authorities have asked the preachers of that state to preach a sermon on law observance.

Although the preachers have not yet consented to preaching such a sermon, it is believed they will accept the invitation in the near future. Some of them, it is also stated, have been beneficiaries of this whisky running business and they are by no means a unit on taking the business before the preachers for settlement. Some of them say the law is on the books and that it is up to Uncle Sam to enforce it. In fact, the Volstead act does not appear to be as popular as was predicted a few months ago.

In this connection, it is stated, every state north of the Mason and Dixon line is having its troubles, and even our own good city of Omaha has not been immune from results of Canadian whisky coming into the city. Most of the men who have been in the business have been making those runs because of the big money they were able to realize in profits if they successfully eluded the authorities. Nothing but expert drivers, with high-powered cars, have been in the business and most of them have been successful in their endeavors to get past the federal agents who have been on the job watching for the smugglers. In fact, it is intimated, some of the federal agents themselves have been financially interested in the business.

A recent shipment, via overland auto express, reached this city, the booty amounting to thirty-seven cases in one big car, which really amounts to considerable, if the story is true. It seems that Minot, N. D., is one of the central points on which government agents have concentrated their efforts. That city is not far from the Canadian border line and most of the whisky runners find it convenient to pass in that vicinity. Many of them have been caught, but most of them have found it possible to get by.

For all of which reasons, it is said, Uncle Sam's district attorney, named Eldredge, wants the preachers to take a hand in the business. He is stationed most of his time at Minot, and he finds his job a very strenuous one. It has been charged that gunmen are the ones who are taking the daring chances of bringing Canadian liquor into this country. As a matter of fact, however, many wealthy citizens of this country have had a big hand in the business. They have sent men with their cars to bring back big consignments of liquor. Right here in

(Continued on Page Three.)

CURTAINED BOOTH FURNISHES AMUSEMENT FOR ALL SPORTSMEN

Chop Suey Joints Now Substitute for Former Sporting Houses of
East End—Corn Whisky Peddlers Reap Harvest
by Serving Hootch to Booth Visitors

The "curtained booth" is coming in for plenty of criticism these days and part of that criticism is having its effect. Only a small percentage of Omaha people realize the disastrous result possible with the curtained booth available to the young world.

The booth business is confined almost entirely to Chinese restaurants and chop suey joints, and they all have them. In fact, these places could not exist without them. These booths are so constructed that men may take women to these places and have a private room all to themselves after having spent a few quarters for chop suey or some similar dish and liberally tipping the waiter.

It is said that more drunken parties are pulled off in these booths than in all other places, including hotels, combined. The visitor and his lady go to these places and are given a booth. The visitor carries his bottle of "hootch" in his hip pocket and buys a bottle of ginger ale to use on the side. The Chink waiter serves him with plenty of glasses and the orgy continues until it oftentimes becomes necessary to call a waiter for assistance in leaving the place.

It is said these joints could not exist without booths and that probably is true. Few of them cater to a legitimate restaurant business. The booth makes it possible for visitors to

keep out of sight and crimes that used to be pulled off on Ninth street are common in these places in the more modern times and more modern fashions.

Incidentally, these booths are considered fine places to meet your neighbor's wife and spend an afternoon or evening with her. If she is inclined that way she meets you in the booth by appointment and the Chinese waiter does the rest. In many of these places corn whisky may be easily secured and consumed at will in these booths. Other things that go with such orgies may also be had.

At almost every one of these places, an agent for corn whisky is within easy call and will secure whatever is wanted in the wet goods line. Altogether, curtained booth parties have come to be one of the chief amusements of the large class of people that formerly used East End sporting houses for the amusement they sought when taking a night out.

There are about a score of these places in the downtown district. Proprietors pass the buck when asked about the places and say they know of nothing bad about them. In most instances proprietors leave the dirty work for the waiters and themselves gather in the shekels that come as a result of the dirty work that goes on in their curtained booths.

The MEDIATOR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

The Mediator Publishing Co.

DOUGLAS 8070

417 KARBACH BLOCK

AN INDEPENDENT PAPER

EDWIN L. HUNTLEY, Editor and Proprietor

Per Year - - \$2.00 Single Copy - - 5 Cents

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Omaha, Nebraska, under the act of March 9, 1879.

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HOWELL FOR NAVAL SECRETARY

It is said R. Beecher Howell is slated as a candidate for the position of secretary of the navy, under President Harding, a position which it is pretty generally conceded he is big enough and able to fill in a satisfactory manner. Howell is a graduate of our naval academy and saw service as recently as the European war. Being a national committeeman, Howell should stand pretty well with the powers that are interested in cabinet appointments.

Incidentally, the sending of R. Beecher Howell to Washington for four years would tend to relieve the tension that is just now being felt in city politics in Omaha. He is slated for the job of general manager of the city, but if he were given a federal appointment it would clear the way for W. G. Ure, who is also an aspirant for that place, in the event of it being created by the next legislature.

Mr. Howell saw active service in the navy, following his graduation from Annapolis, and still holds the commission of naval lieutenant, although, of course, he is not in active service any more. His knowledge of naval affairs, it is said by his friends, makes Howell one of the most likely candidates for this important naval appointment in the new cabinet.

Howell is a man of considerable wealth, which would make it possible for him to accept a position that pays only \$7,500 per annum, a condition not possessed by many who would like to have that job. In Omaha and all over Nebraska, republicans are talking about R. Beecher Howell for secretary of the navy. It would hardly be possible for Harding to ignore Nebraska entirely in the makeup of his cabinet and Howell is considered the logical man for the place.

It is said Howell also has the support of Nelson Updike, who was an active factor in the recent campaign which resulted so disastrously for the democrats of the country. Mr. Updike's word ought to go a long way in the selection of Howell for this appointment.

BACK TO NORMAL

Most of the railroads of the country are back to normal, which means much to a long-suffering public. Within a short time, every railroad in the country will resume pre-war passenger service, which means much comfort to travelers. Americans had been trained up to the parlor car notion and most of them used that high class of accommodation when the war came along and put everything on the bum.

Of course, freight traffic will continue to be congested for some time to come, but, with the reduced demands, railroads will tide over the winter in good shape and be ready for the big business that will come next spring.

The caboose passenger will soon again be able to ride in coaches with regular seats and plush cushions. The "local" trains will again be on the job to take care of country business, which will mean much to the farming communities. The automobile has saved the farmer much worry and will continue to do so. He will make his trips from town to town in his vicinity without having to wait twenty-four hours for the "local" to pick him up, and the gasoline bill will equalize the railroad fare.

Rail officials representing the big roads have promised to have things back to normal within a short while and they will make their word good in most cases.

For all of which reasons the general public will offer sincere thanks and feel that life is once more worth living.

PROVISIONAL HOME RULE FOR IRELAND

Provisional home rule for Ireland has been suggested by men high in the councils of the party interested in Irish freedom.

Under such a provisional arrangement Ireland would have practically the same relation to England that Cuba has to the United States. Such an arrangement should be admirable. Once since this arrangement went into effect, Uncle Sam has found it necessary to send troops to Cuba and to also send a battle fleet into Cuban waters. The whole trouble was quickly settled and Cuba today is again enjoying perfect freedom and self-government. Such an arrangement should be perfectly satisfactory to both England and Ireland. The Irish people are not financially able to support either an army or navy of any proportion that would make it defensible against large nations. England, however, would always be able to furnish all the armed protection necessary and would not find it necessary to lay more than a nominal tax on the Irish people for such protection.

Of course, the Cuban people are not taxed at all for armed protection by the United States, but that has been simply a matter of choice on our part, and if anything came up that made it necessary for this country to make an outlay for armed protection the Cubans would be called upon to assume their share of the burden.

The sooner both England and Ireland reach some such agreement the better off they both will be.

READERS GIVEN SCARE

ABOUT ROURKE CLUB

Readers of Omaha's newspapers were given a scare last week when they read a story saying Bill Rourke might sell the Omaha club of the Western league. Rourke has built up a mighty organization and has furnished a lot of amusement for Omaha fans. He has been in the business all his life and has long been considered the leading magnate of the Western league.

Rourke's price is high but he is entitled to a big price if he lets go of the franchise. Reorganization is said to be slated for the Western league. If anybody in the league is entitled to the best of it that man is Bill Rourke, and every good sport will wish him well whether he stays in the league or sells out.

PETER AULT PASSES

AWAY AT HIS HOME

The death of Peter Ault takes away one of the old timers, who has so long been one of the regular fellows. The tragic conditions of his death caused many of his old friends to recall favors he did for them, and for which he was never repaid. He owned a fine home on the South Side and had a splendid family, who will have the sincere sympathy of those who knew him.

Ault was at one time in the saloon business on U street, near the Jetter brewery. He knew about everybody on the South Side worth knowing and had had business dealings with most of them. He was also well known in political activities, having been one of the South Side captains in elections for many years.

The Strange Guest

By PERCIVAL BROOKS

(© 1920, Western Newspaper Union.)

"Come home," wrote Walter Dunn's truly loving wife. "We miss you. Never mind as to your failure in bettering things—they are good enough as they are, as long as we are together."

"Dear little woman!" enthused the recipient of the letter and his heart warmed and home, poor as it was, seemed a fine beckoning haven at that moment.

Hard as Nellie and he had worked on the little ten-acre patch of ground at the limits of Weston, they wound up at the end of every year in debt. They had enough to eat and that was about all. There were two little children, however. Father and mother did not mind wearing old mended clothes, but they deplored their inability to dress their children as those of their neighbors were attired.

"If we only had a little capital to invest in fertilizers and the machinery to do real farming, I wouldn't call the king my brother," Walter had asserted strenuously. "Why, the old stumps and rocks rooted out and a year given to preparing the land for real cultivation, and I'd show you results."

But they never yet had the money or the time to carry out Walter's plan. It was certainly practicable, for others with money had made grand successes. So, burdened with debt and the prospect ahead more forlorn and unpromising than ever, Walter had held a serious consultation with Nellie.

"I know no trade," he confessed. "The city is probably crowded with just such unsuccessful and disappointed fellows as myself, but it must offer

some opportunities to a willing man."

He had come to Alton, a thriving little city, to try his luck. Three weeks' earnest effort to secure work went for practically nothing. He grew homesick for the wife and the little ones. He wrote so to Nellie. The answer to his letter decided him. He spent two hours at dusk strolling about the streets thinking it all over and decided to start back for home the next morning. There came a slight sprinkle of rain and, as he wore his best suit of clothing, Walter stepped back into the entrance of a broad doorway just above a fashionable restaurant. "Supper rooms upstairs," he read on an illuminating globe and it made him think of home, for his provender for the day had been light. He had but two dollars in his pocket and was saving of that, for it would take him only two-thirds of the way home.

As Walter stood under shelter a middle-aged man, opulence prevailing in dress, manner and ornament, came down the stairs, glanced along the street, then into the lower restaurant and then chanced to take Walter within his vision. He wore a light overcoat of peculiar pattern and this he removed as he re-entered the archway, half halted, studied Walter closely and then approached him.

"Young man," he spoke, "have you the time and inclination to partake of a very princely supper?"

"Why," replied Walter, smiling at the oddity of the circumstance, "I scarcely understand you."

"Very well. Some friends are gathered for a little banquet; others expected have not arrived. We are just thirteen as it is, and the superstitious ones won't sit down until we have filled the fourteenth chair."

"I shall be glad to be at your service," said Walter simply, and a few minutes later found himself one of a party of men who suggested refinement and wealth. He who had invited him spoke an occasional word to him, but Walter did not intrude upon the general conversation.

"Such a meal!" he told Nellie afterward, and said it to himself. For two hours, as a truly hungry man, Walter revelled at a table of luxury and plenty. He thanked the man who had invited him when the repast was over and came down to the street alone like a man in a dream. He started at once for his boarding house. Half way down the block, just ahead of him, a man acting suspiciously stepped from a dark alley. The coat he wore at once attracted the attention of Walter. It was the one he had noticed on his recent friendly host. In a flash Walter decided that the man had stolen the garment and had slipped out the rear way with it.

"Just a minute, my friend," he spoke, hurrying to the man and seizing him by the collar. "Stolen property, eh?" But the slick thief evaded detection by slipping out of the garment and dashing away.

Walter returned to the banquet room to tell his story. The owner of the coat excitedly rummaged the garment, revealing a large package of papers.

"My friend, you have done me a vast service. That package holds over ten thousand dollars in negotiable bonds. What can I do for you to repay your diligence and honesty?"

"I need a little money to pay part of my way home to my wife and children," replied Walter frankly.

"Wife and children? That sounds interesting to a lonely old bachelor. Come, sit down and tell me about it."

And because he of opulence was whole-hearted and sympathetic, and because Walter told the truth in his simple story, when he left the city Walter carried with him sufficient to carry out all his cherished farming plans, with his new friend an interested friend for life.

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PIPKIN FINALLY CLEARS

UP EMPRESS MYSTERIES

The Pipkin Detective Agency has finally cleared up the last link in the Empress theater robbery in running down the last one of the trio that planned and carried out the robbery. This agency has been busy on some of the big cases in Omaha and has succeeded in locating some of the dangerous ones who have been operating in this vicinity recently. In many ways this agency has also been a big help to Uncle Sam in running down many law violators in this vicinity.

WHY NOT have your watch repaired right? Brodegaard Bros. will do this for you. They know how. Strictly union shop.—Adv.

NELLIE MAGEE GOES

TO HER FINAL REST

Nellie Magee was buried in a Council Bluffs cemetery last week, and a long list of mourners dropped a tear when she went to her final rest. Miss Magee was one of the real missionaries, and her work was confined to Omaha. She began a long time ago, and the City Endeavor union financed her work for several years. She received a salary of \$30 a month, when she received any at all, but most of that amount went to Omaha's poor because Nellie Magee never spent a nickel for herself, beyond the merest requirements of an existence. She dealt with the East End when it was at its rottenest. After many years of real service, some questionable Christian promoters double-crossed her in her work, but she never stopped. It will be a long time before Omaha has another Nellie Magee.

CASPER YOST'S DEATH

RECALLS OMAHA HISTORY

The death of Casper E. Yost, nearly 80 years old, recalls to Omahans much interesting history of the city. Mr. Yost had lived in Omaha more than fifty years and had seen Omaha grow from a village to a metropolitan city. He was once United States marshal for the territory of Nebraska and dealt with some of the worst characters that infested the territory in early days. In recent years he often walked down town from his West Farnam street home, although he had a his disposal a big limousine.

IF YOUR WATCH don't keep time, bring it to us for correction. We know how. Strictly union shop.—BRODEGAARD BROS.—Adv.

BIG COMBINATION IS

AFTER CITY MANAGER

(Continued From First Page.)

for strong opposition in his candidacy for this chairmanship, and it is said Representative Foster, who is openly opposed to the proposed law, will be a candidate for the place, which is always conceded to Douglas county. Foster was a member of the last legislature and is pretty well versed on matters which concern the city of Omaha. He is a well known dentist and enjoys a big practice.

Altogether, it is believed there will be plenty of opposition to the proposed legislative action, by which Omaha would come under the control of a city manager. Two men are admittedly candidates for the job of city manager if it is created. R. Beecher Howell, generalissimo of everything that needs a boss, is at present in the lead, while W. G. Ure, city commissioner, and one of the promoters of the affair, insists that he is entitled to the job. Meantime, Nels Updike, who is also a promoter, intimates that he will name the man he wants for the job.

Definite action will not be taken for some time, pending some sort of agreement, by which ringleaders may learn just where they stand.

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DAKOTA MINISTERS

AFTER BAD RUNNERS

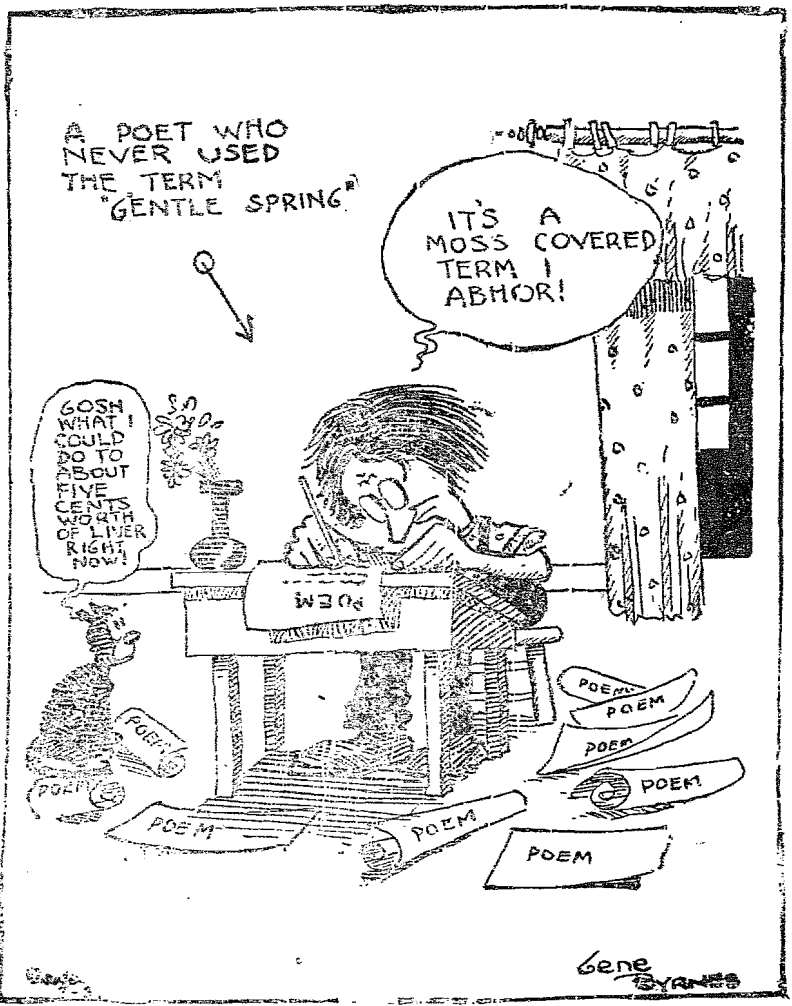
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Omaha several cases of this kind have already come to light.

The whole business seems to have resolved itself into an open conviction by many of our good citizens that the Volstead law, just like our constitutional Sunday observance provision, was made to be violated and for absolutely no other purpose. The Sunday observance law is very strict, but practically nobody observes it. Thousands of business concerns remain open on Sunday in open violation of the constitution, and ninety-nine per cent of our people patronize them. In fact, they would be severely censured by our best people if these proprietors had the temerity to observe the Sunday closing laws. The same is true respecting the illegal

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



purchase and sale of intoxicating liquor, it is stated by those who must deal with the traffic, as it is at present constituted.

The North Dakota authorities are unfortunate because their state is on the Canadian border, and where "whisky jumpers" find it convenient to do most of their business. It has not been definitely decided by the

preachers in that state whether or not they will preach on the subject. It is said they are pretty thoroughly agreed that other topics are even more pressing at this time and that they are not in the business of enforcing the laws of the country. One of them has already admitted that he does not believe such sermons would do a whit of good.

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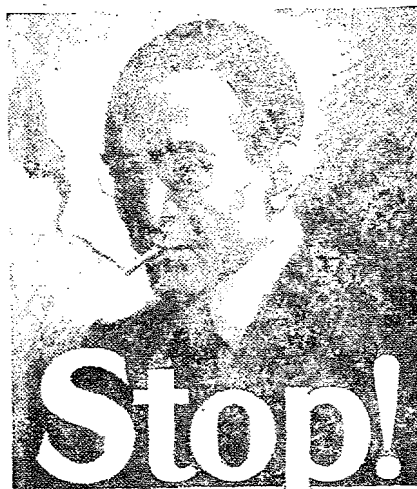
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