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A DASTARDLY CRIME AND SOME OF ITS LESSONS

No more reckless and unwarranted crime was ever committed than the double murder that took place in a Pueblo restaurant Sunday evening. Two honorable citizens, peacefully engaged in their evening meal, were suddenly and without any provocation shot to death by a robber who does not seem to have possessed even the ordinary mercy or compunction of his class.

Such a wanton, cruel and utterly unjustifiable murder calls for prompt and certain punishment.

It would be a flagrant and everlasting disgrace to this community and to its citizens and its officials if such a crime should go unpunished.

The circumstances of the deed were such as to make it certain that careful search and investigation will result in the discovery, arrest and punishment by the law of the guilty ones.

No excuse for failure to secure these results will be tolerated by a public sentiment that is thoroughly aroused and that is convinced that if the proper authorities do their duty, this crime will be punished.

And it will be well for the city of Pueblo if this crime at this critical time in the history of the city calls attention to the necessity of protecting our citizens from the legitimate fruits of vice and crime by a somewhat different method than chasing murderers after murders have been committed.

At the present time a movement is in progress whose purpose is to secure a more stringent enforcement of ordinances and police regulations, to restrict and to moderate some of the more open and flagrant forms of vice, and in general to make our city more orderly and more moral.

It is a fact clearly established by experience that no city can be run "wide open" without bringing upon it a terrible result in various crimes. The low saloon, the gambling hell, the cheap and nasty theater, the brothel and other resorts of vice are the hotbeds in which the seeds of crime are nursed and cultured, and from which are transplanted the rank growths that devastate and scourge the general community.

Pueblo needs to learn in time the lesson that has been bought by so many other cities with dreadful experience.

CRIME IS THE FRUIT OF VICE, AND THE CITY THAT SOWS THE SEED WILL SURELY REAP THE HARVEST.

An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, and the way to prevent the wanton murder of prominent citizens is to discourage the presence and the development of desperate criminals who are constantly on the outlook for some opportunity to rob or to murder.

High license and the strict enforcement of sensible ordinances against vice are the means by which life and property may be made safe, while the "free and easy" policy attracts criminals, depraves and ruins our own youths, and inevitably leads to such dreadful crimes as the one that came with such a shock to this city on Sunday night.

TOO MUCH LEGISLATIVE FOOLISHNESS

It is quite time for the Colorado senate and house of representatives to quit fooling and to get down to business.

There are important measures pending, and laws that need to be enacted, and yet the members of both houses are wasting time and money in foolish squabbles over petty partisan or personal disputes with which the general public can have neither patience nor interest.

Every measure that is for the public welfare, whether proposed law or constitutional amendment should receive a prompt passage by both houses, and no time should be wasted in quarreling about pet measures or in seeking to gain trifling party advantages.

The republican house may well set the example in this, and the majority therein ought promptly to ratify all measures that are desired by the people, without stopping to consider what is the political belief of the person responsible for their introduction in the legislature.

A sincere desire to supply what the people want and an earnest effort to transact the legislative business

collection of the taxes. Saloon licenses, for instance, may very properly be doubled. They are less now than they are in Denver and other large cities, and the increase will not only raise the amount of the city's revenue, but it will also have the effect of closing some of the low saloons that even the better class of saloon keepers say are a disgrace and a danger to the city.

With honest and competent officials supported by intelligent public sentiment, the financial problems of Pueblo are no worse than those that have been met and solved in many other cities where rapid growth has made it difficult to keep the revenue sufficient for rapidly increasing needs.

The city must be made and kept clean and wholesome, public improvements must be provided to meet the imperative needs of the community.

It is for the people to see to it that men are placed in office who will discharge these duties as honest and competent business men, and not as corrupt and selfish grafters or as narrow political partisans.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WILL VISIT PUEBLO

The announcement that President Roosevelt will visit this city on May 4th, will be received with pleasure by every citizen. The president will come to us not as the representative of any party or faction, but as the chief executive of the nation, and one who is worthy, both as a public official and as a man, of any honor that can be bestowed upon him.

While Theodore Roosevelt was elected as president from an eastern state, he is in many ways typically western, and in his public career he has preserved a close interest in western affairs, and has been able on important occasions to render very material services to this section of the country.

The people of the west, as well as those of the south, approve the idea of these presidential journeys. They bring the head of the nation into closer touch with the people of the various sections. They give the members of the presidential party and newspaper readers generally a better idea of what is happening in those parts of the country that are remote from the national capital. And at the same time they arouse in the people of those sections a more lively interest in national affairs and serve to stimulate a healthy national patriotism that is of great advantage to the whole country.

It is for these reasons among others that President Roosevelt will be welcomed in Pueblo most heartily, and fortunately the length of time that will elapse before his arrival is sufficient to prepare a reception for him that will be a notable one even as compared with those that will be extended by other hospitable cities along the selected route.

Pueblo is fortunate in possessing distinctive resources and attractions, and these should be displayed to the best advantage, so that the president and the members of his party may be impressed with the idea that there is not in all this broad land a more prosperous, progressive and patriotic city than Pueblo.

PROGRESS IN RUSSIA

For many years Russia has stood as the model of an autocratic and tyrannical government. The emperor has been the absolute master of the lives and the fortunes of his subjects, and worse than that, the emperor's authority has been delegated to a host of inferiors who have pursued their own selfish interests rather than the welfare of the nation.

And yet there have been plenty of evidences that Russia, in some respects the most medieval of the great nations of Europe, was in the line of progress and was willing to adopt rational reforms as fast as her people were ready to receive them. The great emporor Peter, who was the father of modern Russia, unmistakably showed his ability to meet new conditions with new measures, and so too did that Nicholas who freed the slaves in 1861, and Czar Alexander II who took a long step toward constitutional liberty in 1880.

The present czar, Nicholas II, grandson of Alexander II, has recently given proof of his intention to follow in the course of his illustrious ancestors, and on March 12 a decree was announced providing for the freedom of religion throughout his dominions, and establishing to some degree local self government, and making notable concessions to the village laws.

The proclamation of religious toleration is a most important step forward and it can not fail also to have an effective influence in promoting further reforms both civil and religious.

The recognition of the village laws is also an important matter, for these laws and customs form one of the most hopeful elements in the Russian political situation. For while the people have been denied all participation in national affairs they have cultivated the art of self-government in the village commune to a degree that com-

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