

LAS VEGAS AGE

Las Vegas, Clark Co., Nev.

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Published every Saturday
and entered at Las Vegas
postoffice as mail matter of
the second class.

Subscription Terms
One year\$2.00
Six months1.00

THE PITY OF IT

The loss of \$516,000 either by the State of Nevada or by the Carson Valley Bank, as the result of the alleged embezzlements of State Treasurer Ed Malley, aided and abetted by former State Controller Cole and Cashier H. C. Clapp of the bank, or partly by the bondsmen of each, is a disaster of no small magnitude.

But the wreck of these human lives, the sorrow, suffering and disgrace of their families and friends are the most pitiful aspects of the case. Respected, trusted and well loved, these men apparently allowed the lust for money to wreck their lives and destroy in a measure the confidence of the people in humanity. Money, if fairly and honestly acquired, is a good and wholesome thing for the average man who has the sense to use it wisely. But all the money in the world, nothing that money could buy, can restore to happiness those who have so violated their obligations.

NO BITTERNESS

Not in bitterness, but in sorrow, the people of Nevada regard the plight of those who were false to their trusts. Indeed, although the circumstances as set forth by the press leaves no room to doubt, it is the wish of the people of the State of Nevada to give to those whom they trusted, the benefit of fair trial. Those of us who have known Malley and Cole well for many years can feel only sorrow and regret for their plight.

REASSURANCE

George Wingfield, more than ever, is the outstanding figure of the state today by reason of his prompt action in depositing some \$600,000 in cash in the Carson Valley Bank to protect the depositors and stockholders of that institution from loss; and because of his assurance that he will see that every dollar of legal obligations which the bank owes to the State of Nevada will be paid in full. Had Mr. Wingfield been less prompt and decisive in his action it is quite possible that excitement and panic might have disrupted the banking and business life of the entire state. As it is there is a feeling of perfect and complete confidence. Mr. Wingfield's word and action brings complete reassurance to the entire state.

HENDERSON'S HUNCH

To Senator Henderson of Las Vegas, should be given credit for taking the first practical step to-

ward bringing about a better system of state accounting. Convicted that the financial affairs of the state had not been surrounded by sufficient safeguards, Senator Henderson introduced and secured the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which was signed by Gov. Balzar Feb. 10, 1927. The resolution says:

"WHEREAS, it appears that the system of accounting in some state departments could be improved upon and changes made which would be greatly advantageous to the people of Nevada; and it also further appears that the various state departments have not been checked or audited for some time except by state officers and that it is proper to appoint a committee to investigate said matters and report to the Senate and assembly its conclusions;

The resolution then goes on to provide for a committee of six members of the legislature to investigate said matter and report thereon. The committee was appointed, but apparently failed to report before the expiration of the legislature. But it is clear that Senator Henderson sensed something wrong and sought to correct it.

THE DEFALCATION

Several phases of the state treasury and bank defalcation will rise out of the fog bank which for the past week has seemed to surround the whole matter. Whether the defalcation was from the state treasury or from the bank; whether Malley is the principal and Cole and Clapp only accessories; or whether Clapp is the chief in guilt and Malley and Cole accessories; whether the state can recover on the bonds of Malley and Cole, if so for how many terms back; whether the \$516,332.16 in cashier's checks are a legal obligation against the bank; whether the bank can hold as valid the state warrant for \$392,900, claimed to have been fraudulently issued by Cole; whether—whether—whether—there seems to be an interminable string of doubtful legal questions coming up.

BALZAR ACTS

The action of Governor Balzar in taking prompt steps to assure the financial stability of the state following the startling disclosure of a deficit of more than half a million is most satisfying. Also his decision not to call a special session of the legislature at this time. The special session may possibly be necessary some time later to legalize plans which the governor has in view, but just now it would only create distrust and confusion. The situation will be carefully studied by the Governor and a means of providing for the future welfare and stability of the state government worked out.

LAS VEGAS' BIRTHDAY

Twenty-two years ago tomorrow, May 15, 1905, Las Vegas was born. It was not a gradual transition such as new mining camps

have. On the evening of May 15, 1905, there was not a tent or building or piece of lumber on what is known as Clark's Las Vegas Townsite. On the morning of May 16, a full fledged town was being built on the townsite. Some of the buildings which the writer saw that morning as piles of lumber among the desert grease wood and mesquite, are still a part of our business section. It was a novel and exciting thing to see the hundreds of lot buyers vying with each other to get started in business in the new town. A full fledged town sprang into being in a day. Perhaps it seems long to some, yet as cities grow Las Vegas is still but a lusty infant. But few places have made the constant, steady, substantial advance which Las Vegas has made in this 22 years. And the future holds a certainty of greatness which will make our past growth seem but puny.

A HOT TIME

Referring to the auction sale of Las Vegas lots 22 years ago, the weather then has been fairly reproduced this week. The early part of May was raw and windy. Along about the 8th or 9th it rained all night. About the 12th it cleared and was pleasant and by May 15, the day of the sale, the thermometer stood at 105. The big crowd which stood about the auction stand built under the mesquite tree near the freight depot, sweltered and bought lots. And one of the first men in business on the town site was Frank Quireau selling lemons on the site of the Nevada Hotel, and the writer of this was one of his very first customers.

MARK TWAIN WAS MISTAKEN

Mark Twain, once a miner in the West, said that "a mine is a hole in the ground with a liar on top."

A former partner of Twain's, now living in Oregon, says that the eminent writer was "the laziest mortal I ever did see;" and that the partnership broke on that critical point. The picture would be complete, perhaps, with Mark sitting comfortably at the mine opening, smoking a villainous old pipe and telling preposterous stories to the dog, while the other partner toiled at the bottom of the shaft.

But Twain's definition of a mine is as misleading as his mining itself was impractical. The liar is conspicuously missing from more mines than from most other lines of business. A mine is a mineral factory where the hardest labor and the best intelligence and the highest integrity must meet if there is to be success. The proportion of successful mines is fully as large as the number of successful stores, professional offices, farms, and garages. And the mines' contribution to life and to a better civilization is equal to that of the best, and greater than that of most other enterprises.

THE D. A. R.

The thirty-sixth continental congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently closed a very successful session in Washington. From a humble beginning the D. A. R. has grown to one of the most potent forces in the country for things American and patriotic. Its influence in the United States is steadily increasing, and in this era of pacifism, internationalism and pink radicalism, this is one of the most encouraging signs of the future. The American estimate of the Daughters of the American Revolution is well summed up in the following words of President Coolidge in a letter to the convention:

"They stand for the Constitution and the flag. They believe in adequate military defense and represent the principles that have made this country free and prosperous. They always are on the alert to point out the difference between license and liberty, the destruction of our institutions and the promotion of human welfare. For all of this patriotic work they are entitled to the approbation of all loyal Americans."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH SERVICES

Christian Science Society of Las Vegas, Nev., is a branch of the mother Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass. Holds services at 315 Fremont Street every Sunday morning at 11:00; Wednesday evening at 7:30 testimony meeting. To these services the public is cordially invited. Sunday school at 9:45. Children up to 20 years are accepted.

Usually the fellow who says he is running for office to clean up politics really intends to clean up in politics.

Who remembers the good old days when it meant something to own a rubber tired rig with red running gear?

He must be a conservative editorial writer who cannot dash off a two-column article on how to settle the farm question.—Milwaukee Journal.

This may be a good opportunity to get even with the Chinese for that mah jongg deal.—Indianapolis Star.

According to one statistician the women of America spent eighteen times as much in pursuit of beauty last year as Uncle Sam spent on his navy. Here is something for the pacifists to worry about. For beauty causes more killings annually than the combined navies of the world.

MASONS PREPARING TO ENTERTAIN LEGION

Masonic lodges in France are preparing for American Legionnaires, according to an article in the New York Evening Post. Installation ceremonies of the officers of American Chapter No. 568, Rose Croix, Paris. This is the first Scottish Rite Masonic chapter formed by American Masons in Europe and among the founders are several of those Americans who were concerned in the recent foundation of the American Blue Lodge of Paris.

The American Chapter will work in the degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry from the Fourth to the Eighteenth, the warrant for which having been granted by the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry in France.



DILL'S FAR FROM HOME WITH TROUBLES DIRE; HE HASN'T GOT AN EXTRA TIRE.

It doesn't improve a man's vocabulary or peace of mind any to be left out on a lonely road without an extra tire. It is an excellent idea to carry two. One ounce of thinking before you start out on a trip is worth more than a ton of wishing when your engine goes dead or your tires go flat. Whatever your car needs to make it more comfortable and attractive is priced correctly by us. Whatever advice you need is given freely and cheerfully by us.

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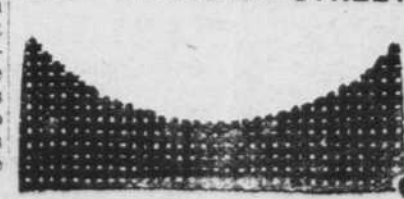
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KNOCKING THE KNOCKER

That such a book as "Elmer Gantry," malignantly caricaturing the clergyman's calling, should be written by such a man as Sinclair Lewis, is not surprising. Lewis is one of the king-pins of the world-wide revolutionary movement. He is a propagandist against every institution assailed by the agents of bolshevism throughout the world—the church, the home and the ordered state. "The Daily Worker," national organ of the communist party, declares that his skill as a revolutionary propagandist is so subtle that it is not generally recognized. Among all those who hate America, either at home or abroad, and especially in Russia, his venomous assaults upon American institutions, ideals, characters and the mass itself, are cause for rejoicing and counted among the most effective means of destroying the United States. Lewis is an atheist who stood up in a Kansas City pulpit a few months ago and "dared" God to strike him dead, declaring with characteristic modesty, when he failed to get personal service from the Almighty, that he had proved the non-existence of the Deity.

Lewis takes the case of an imaginary fraud and libertine and paints him as a type of the American clergyman. It is not surprising, we say, that he should draw such a picture. The surprising thing is that such a book achieves any measure of popularity—a popularity which must be derived from the mean love of detraction, since it is generally agreed that as a literary production it is a badly botched job. The American people know the men who serve them in the ministerial calling, and they cannot help but know that the attempt to make of the fopid, dissolute Gantry a clerical type, is the result of a malicious hatred of the clergyman and the faith he represents, rather than of any honest purpose to present a true picture of American life.

While clever cynics of the Lewis type are lining their pockets through befoolment of the American nest, thousands of clergymen are giving their lives for inadequate financial compensation to altruistic effort quite beyond the comprehension of the supercilious literary smartalecks whose eyes are glued only upon the exceptional faults in our civilization rather than upon its real values. These thousands of clergymen are comforting the sick, consoling the dying, helping the living. They are active in all movements for social betterment. For a clergyman to go wrong is so unusual that every case of this kind is sensationally exploited, whereas the frailties of a literary Bohemian are taken for granted and passed unnoticed.

The measure of a man is not the ability with which nature has endowed him, but the use to which he puts his talents. When literary gifts are employed for destructive purposes only they become a curse rather than a benefit to society. Brilliance appears in various forms; in the lightning bug's tail and the phosphorescence of putridity as well as in the candle which "shines like a good deed in a naughty world." But a glow worm or a rotten log lights no one along the way.

According to the latest figures eight of the ten leading American export groups established new high records for exporting in 1926. Which shows that a protective tariff does not destroy our foreign market.

Miami Democrats are inviting the Democratic national convention to meet there next year. Evidently it takes more than one storm to scare Miami.

A man in Australia picked up Wilkins radio broadcasting from Alaska the other day. Which proves that the world is getting smaller all the time.

It is said that nearly 40,000 German young men are serving in the French foreign legion; which is another way of training an army without getting credit for it.

The British newspapers say that they are unable to understand Uncle Sam's Chinese policy, but what they really mean is that they don't approve of it.

A dispatch from Mexico City says that a Mexican woman was arrested for kissing her husband on the street. But somehow or other we are unable to get excited about it.

The Peking police say they have evidence that Red Russia turned over ten million dollars to the Cantonese during the past year. Judging from recent events this would hardly come under the category of money well spent.

It's much easier now for a wife to poison her husband than it used to be, because nine times out of ten it will be blamed on to the home brew.

Secretary Kellogg denies that any news from China is being withheld from the public. Well there seems to be a plenty of it left for the public anyhow.

There seems to be a general impression that Andrew W. Mellon measures up pretty well when put alongside Alexander Hamilton.—Providence Journal.

Inasmuch as this country is a republic, whatever is the matter with it, if anything, can be blamed on the people.—Toledo Blade.

Peaches says she will work—if she has to. And there is an unanimous query, "Who?"—Houston Post Dispatch.

Before commenting further on the Chinese we should like to know definitely whether there are 300,000,000 of them or 400,000,000.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Congressmen will have a nine months' vacation to think up new laws.—Florida Times-Union.

Everybody seems to be interested in the Chinese situation except the League of Nations. China seems to be preparing for another thousand years of trouble.—Toledo Blade.

Now the Democrats are thinking some of taking their 1928 convention to Washington. This will make it possible for the convention to keep cool with Coolidge.

L. H. FOSTER
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