

RURAL CITIZEN.

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Lee Allen on Lightning Rod Agents.

For the Citizen.

I haint rote to yu in a good while, fur I've bin too bizzzy fitin' fait and destina. I used ter think when we maid the Red Skins skrach dart over them prairz, afore Jakksborn konseved the idee ov bein a town, and the kounty wuz an Injun rezervashun, I used ter think we fit then. But sense Betsy (that's my wife) an me cum down here to enjoy the lugshery ov sociaty an edicate the children, I hav diskoverd that fait iz worse than enny Injun to fite. Me an Betsy had a stoekin choek ful ov munny an we sheld out every nickle fur a little farm; an we went ter work tarin up the golding sile an put in a crap ov cotting. I wurked like a pare ov jak kulm an maid a heep ov cotting, an feelin purty well off we konkluded to hitch a plank kitchin onto the back ov the house. We also whitewashed it, an the next mornin the naybors in passin wood stop an maik the remark that we wuz puttin on stile. Me an Betsy wishin to be a shinin lite fur the nayborhood, we maid a big marting box an histed it on a slim stik staplin an whitewashed that too; an jest between me an yu the martings cum a crowdin up sorky tike Gaines' dogs did at eleshun. Me an Betsy had about konkluded to by us a bagge to ride to meetin in, when two ltitin rod fellers drove up in a bran new wagging an hosses, an sed they had hent about our fine rezidens an wuz sent up from Waco by Snap & Swingle to put up sum ltitin rodz. Me an Betsy both belevd that what wuz ter be wood be ennyhow, rodz or no rodz. The fellers had come ter stay; the follered me awl day plowin, each one on the tother side ov me an they tawked ltitin sort o craws waze till dinner, an then follered me to the house an cum ter the table without bein axed an tawked ltitin. When I went to plowin agin wun ov em follered me with a ltitin rod in wun hand an a big book in the tother, splainin the fizix ov lectricta. The tother chap staid in the house ter tawk ter Betsy. I noad if he tride ter tawk sassy that Betsy wud maik him think a sighelean had struck him; fur Betsy iz wun ov the blew hen's chickens when she gits mad. When I set down ter rest that cuss wood open his book an tawk ltitin an rub it in with picturaz; an show me wher a house wuz hit with a streak ov ltitin an nocked clean off the world, an the gray hedded parents an ther 28 children wuz never found. I began ter feel fealuber on the subje an when we went two the house Betsy wuz a erine sorter easy like, an when I axed what wuz the matter she handid me a fresh copy ov the Ft. Worth "Oho-Colorou," an pintin to an article wher a streak ov ltitin hit the iron rale on the rale rode an follered the trane from Wetherford to Fort Worth wher it catched up kilin everybody an meltin the kilin inter silver plaved spoons, tude up and labled "exelsibur." We wuz expectin wun ov Betsy's ankles

on that trane, an that wuz what she wuz erine fur. Them fellers set up that nite readin them books till me an Betsy giv in ter have a rod put up. When I cum back from the field next day them chaps had two rodz on the house, wun on the kichon, wun on the stablin an wuz jiz finishin fixin wun on the marting box. Ov kourse I wuz mad an mite hav sed so of they hadent both bin a heep bigger than I wuz. Me an Betsy didnt know what ter do fur we didnt hav near munny enuff to pay fur em; so I went down to Waco to se Lawer Graball, an he sed he'd settle ther hash fur em an only charg us enuf fur to pay his expenses. Snap & Swingle got a lawer to taelk urn an both ov em called the tother wun a liar, then the tawked and tawked till the both got mad an fit an fit, an the jura sea our side wuz whipped an we'd hav it ter pay. Well, the lawers an Snap & Swingle took the house an farm to pay fur the rodz an the expenses ov the soot; an me an Betsy had to leave the prairie we wuz a makin, an agin star face ter face with a cold cruel world. Betsy had sum relashuns awa up in Colorader, an tha rote that the only ltitin rod fellor hoo had cum thru had bin hung with a two inch rope an arterwad shot with a cannin an hiz jaws sent to a brass factory. We did think when we kum ter live here a life of edicated telgerence we wuz fulfillin the hiest asperashuns ov intellect. Our naybors sed it wuz pride an puttin on stile that rewined us. Oh, the gogelide skunks, let em crawl back ter ther mud dabbled hovils, ther minds is pind down to ther clods by ignorance. Filanterpists aint apreshated in ther own ginera-shun an countra, ther got ter go wher nobody nose em to meat with suckses. Ef ennybody hear maiks somthin ov plank et its only a chick-en coop, Snap & Swingle wil hav a ltitin rod on it before its a da old. When a peple git so meen that tha air afraid the Lord wil hit em with ltitin, its about time the cherabim ov insance went sumwher else; so me an Betsy konkluded to leave. Betsy had sum ful blooded Duram chickens, we maid a big coop fur em an tide it behind the wagging. Wun mornin erly we hiehed up Beecher an Nasety (themz our hosses) an started fur Colorader. The fust nite we camped az I wuz setten by the far smokin an tryin to think ov sumthin, an Betsy wuz feedin the chickens with a spoon, an Gorge Washinton an Maria Antonet (themz our children) wuz playin Injun, them ltitin rod fellers kum terin up in a ded run an jerkin up ther hosses went to throwin out ltitin rodz. "Look hear, yu fellers!" I sed, "He be swaggled ef I want enny more ov them things." "Wel yu needent git mad nohow," tha sed "fur the state has jes maid a law that everbody movin with ther famaly must be prepaired against axidents," an he shoed me the law, an sed it wood cost me nothin fur the state pade the bil. "Wel go ahead ole feller," I sed, "if the state pays em I dont fear how munny yu put up." An I sed to Betsy, sez I, "The state ov Teekses thinks a heep ov its citizens, an it looks sorter ungratefurl fur us to go to Colorader." Them fellers crawled on top ov our wagging an put two rodz on it, wun on the chieken coop, an hang me if the dident put wun on the end ov the wagging tung, an then axed me ef I wanted wun fixed on the hosses but I told em I reckond they got up anuff fur the present. Next day when we got to Slopvil these ltitin rod fellers wuz thar, an had us rested fur leevin the countra afore weed pade fur the rodz. I told em the state wuz ter pay fur em an tha sed I wuz another. When ennybody sez that to me I'm goin ter hit em sez the big as the Washinton monumint so I chucked wun ov em over with the big end ov my whip, an Betsy jerked out the churn dasher an neerly kild a lawer hoo wuz runnin up to git our kase to plead. A pearsman run up with a big sickle shooter an led us afore a red-noased judg, fur salt on battery. I was mioan lawer this time an maid a kompermise, givin the ltitin rod fellers ole Beecher, an he was a boss, too, ever inch ov im; an Betsy giv the lawer all her chickens fur hitin im. We couident go to Colorader now, so we wanted a farm an razed another big crap ov cotting. I wil tel yu in my nex artikel how me an

Betsy sold our cotting an went into literatur, an now publish a paper which we have named "The Texas Panther." LEE ALLEN. Waco, Texas. County Attorney Clint's Opinion of the Suppression of Gambling. What will be the result of the suppression of gambling in Dallas? was the first question asked Mr. Clint, to which he responded: "A decrease in crime of about twenty-five per cent, and a consequent decrease to a corresponding extent of taxation incident to the prosecution of criminals; a decided decrease in the shedding of many a womanly tear and manly drop of blood; less wasting of human aims and destruction of noble lives; fewer hungry mouths, desolate homes, and wasted fortunes; economy of time and money; a disappearance of many avenues to vice and crime, along which the young, the weak and ignorant have often trodden and often fallen by the wayside, and a nearer approach to a normal condition of the mental, moral and physical man." "Have any of these results been realized since the gamblers were driven away last October?" "Yes; with the gamblers departed a horde of petty criminals who swarmed about their resorts as the night-fly does about a candle. Blow out the light and the flies depart; strike down gambling and the criminals depart. The professional gambler carried with him the professional criminal and confidence man to a very considerable extent. As a consequence our county court has fewer new cases on the docket by more than twenty-five per cent. than it had a year ago. So with our district court, only the per cent. is not so great, besides quite an appreciable advance in all the other particulars mentioned. Although in so short a time, of course it is not to be expected that everything anticipated could have been realized, there are, however, fewer desolate homes and sore hearts, less hunger and want, and fewer lives going astray. Heretofore the infatuated mechanic and laborer deposited his week's earning with the faro bank or keno table, leaving his wife through the needle or wash tub to keep body and soul together; now he responds to home wants with it, and she to wifely duties. Heretofore, the credulous farmer squandered in a night his year's hard labor, leaving his wife and children through stress and want to drudge it through the coming year; now he husbands it, and provides home wants and comforts. Heretofore, the weak and unwary town lad was improvident and prodigal, living from hand to mouth a leonacious and dissipated life; now he is more circumspect in his habits, and beginning to be more provident with his time, money and morals. Safeguards are beginning to spring up and strengthen around society, and that general demoralization which invariably accompanies vice and crime, permeating the very atmosphere about us, slowly poisoning its purity, and which hangs as a lowering cloud over the people, ever threatening to deluge the earth with its putrid o'fall, paralyzing its integrity; stupefying its virtue, blinding its reason and stagnating judgment, thus rendering the best efforts of the law abortive and society a prey to a thousand losses, is gradually but surely evaporating and disappearing with the evil magi who conjured it into existence." "Since gambling generates so much that is disastrous to the well being of society why is it that it was allowed so long to exist in our community?" "Principally, I believe, because it was supposed that our laws were too weak to suppress it; partly because it has been a source of great revenue to the officers and, lastly, because no one seemed to like 'breaking the ice' with an experiment at suppressing it." "Now that it has been demonstrated in Dallas (which was the very hot bed of the vice) that the law is more than sufficient to cope with it, and since the highest court in the land has sustained and endorsed the course pursued here, what effect will it have in suppressing the crime elsewhere in Texas?" "A most decided effect. As a rule officers are possessed with integrity and intelligence, and now that

it is settled that gambling can be suppressed, they will doubtless be anxious and willing to inaugurate a vigorous and persistent crusade against this crime. With concert of action on the part of officials, and well-directed prosecutions, gambling can in three months be suppressed throughout the state. I believe our different county officers throughout the state will do their duty, and in a very short while professional gambling will be a thing of the past with our people." "But suppose in some communities faithless or corrupt officers fail or refuse to enter upon this warfare and discharge their duty, what is to be done about it?" "Prosecute the constabulary force and impeach the county judge or attorney. The law is very plain in relation to the matter. Articles 368 and 369 of our penal code expressly declare that any justice of the peace, mayor or recorder, or any peace officer, which includes sheriffs, city marshals, deputy sheriffs, constables and policemen, shall be fined from twenty-five dollars to one hundred dollars for a failure or neglect to prosecute or have prosecuted violations of the gambling statutes which come to their knowledge, and by proper official diligence no public professional violation of the gambling laws can well occur without their finding it out. In the very nature of things professional gambling cannot be publicly conducted without their knowing it. Wherever an officer shirks his duty in this regard, either to secure his re-election, or from fear or on account of money, or from any other cause, the grand jury of the people (if not selected by the jury commissioners with a view to screening the gamblers, and this the people should look to) will not be slow to visit upon their heads repeated and severe punishment. For, if there is one class of people or offenders above another who deserve no mercy, and who should be vigorously and swiftly dealt with, it is an official recreant to the trust reposed in him by a confiding people. A judge or county attorney could be guilty of no greater act of non-feasance in office than to allow a large per cent. of crime, to flaunt their vice to the four winds of heaven and go unpunished, and non-feasance in office subjects any officer to impeachment. The office of criminal law is the suppression of crime, and it is the first duty of all officers to strike at those things which produce crime. Gambling, more than any other of the twelve things made penal by law, begets crime, and gambling, therefore, should be stricken from the face of our fair state." "What if (as in Dallas) the influence of certain shop-keepers and other instrumentalities are arrayed in favor of the gamblers against the suppression of the vice?" "As a rule the merchants were not with them, certainly not the better class, but of course black-legism cannot be routed without a struggle. However, the powerful voice of an incorruptible press, which to-day is such a power in the land, together, with a few healthy lectures on the vice, and a committee of good, strong representative citizens, will be backed by the people of integrity and intelligence in the community, will be sufficient to break the back-bone and wipe from the face of the earth in a short time any opposition which may spring up in the gambler's favor." "Is it likely that a struggle similar to the one encountered in Dallas will be had anywhere in the state?" "I should think not. Ours was an experiment, and, as is well known, experiments, until by practical demonstration made success-

ful, always meet with severe resistance. It would be folly on the part of the gambler to fight what is inevitable—his extermination—wherever and whenever his extermination is by the officers resolved on." "But it is said that it deadens a town to suppress gambling." "This is the argument of gamblers' friends, which term includes the hack driver, the pimp, and all other classes that subsist on human depravity and error, and is as false as it is filthy. How a decrease of crime and taxation can injure a town, none but the vicious can explain; how the salvation of our youth, our weak and wayward, can injure a town, none but the human vampire and vulture, who live on the vitals of society, can appreciate. Dallas has suppressed it, and today she has two million dollars newly invested in improvements. She may be dead to crime, a howling wilderness to the prowling bludgeon wif, and a desolated plain to the preyin gambler, and a barren waste to the human vermin that shark-leg's wake and hold high carnival over the adversity and ruin of frail and tottering humanity. But to mankind, to justice and to law, crowded with magnificent temples and bidding fair to be the empire city of the state, to the man intent on right in life, she affords a most prolific field for prosperity and success." Mr. Clint states in conclusion that the legal warfare against gambling in Dallas having accomplished its every purpose, the crime having been permanently suppressed, is at an end.—(Dallas Herald Reporter.

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ESTRAYS. Taken up by R. A. Long and posted before R. M. Meador, J. P. Prec. No. 2 Jack county, Texas, one black horse, 4 years old, 14 hands high, shod all round, a B.H. on the hind feet, branded 7 on left shoulder and jaw. March 18, 1884. D. B. Mizell, co. clk.

ESTRAYS. Taken up by N. S. Cox and posted before R. M. Meador, J. P. Prec. No. 2 Jack county, Texas, one black horse, 4 years old, 14 hands high, shod all round, a B.H. on the hind feet, branded 7 on left shoulder and jaw. March 18, 1884. D. B. Mizell, co. clk.

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