

Willie's Experience on the Stage. Willie Van Wyck, formerly a Journalist, decided to go on the stage a few weeks ago. One day Business-Manager McDonough discovered in Van Wyck just the talents he had been searching for. Until there was a favorable opening on the stage the young man was to act as the business-manager's secretary, with privileges to use the stage mornings. A week later, Van Wyck abruptly ceased his dramatic instructions. "I don't think I was treated quite right," he explained. "I came here to be prepared for the stage, and my training did not agree with me. I didn't mind posting lithographs, writing bright paragraphs for the press, getting the managers old-fashioned silk hat pressed, showing ladies to the boxes, sweeping out the office, bringing the stage-manger chewing tobacco, sitting in a chair for the strong fakir to hoist me with his teeth, washing bottles in the bar or working the growler for the soufrettes, but when it came to shoveling coal in the boiler all night, then I quit. I wouldn't have cared so much for the work, but the way Mr. McDonough tried to jolly me was insultingly original. "I came here to act," I pleaded, "and not to shovel coal." McDonough had the nerve to look me squarely in the eye and say: "I'm a little disappointed in you, my boy. You are an ingrate. You are learning the rudiments of a noble profession at the expense of my experience and patience. I simply have you toss a little coal in the boiler now and then so you will appear natural should you ever be cast in the part of fireman."

And they have not seen him since.—Evening Sun. The foreign vote of Chicago is steadily increasing. A year ago it was 49.4 of the total vote of the city, and in the election just held there is little doubt that it exceeded one-half of the whole number. When a Chicago voter is registered he has to state his birthplace. If he does not tell the truth it is because he claims to be American when he is really foreign born. Hence the data furnished by these queries do not make the number of foreign-born voters larger than it actually is. A comparison of tables published in 1888 and 1892 show that in four years the native born voters have fallen off three and one-half per cent. The Germans have held their own. The Irish have lost, but they still have their grip on the offices. Most of the other nationalities have gained slightly, the most noticeable being Austria, Sweden and Bohemia. The increase of the foreign element in Chicago is shown clearly by the federal census. In 1880 31 per cent of the total population was born outside of the United States. Ten years later the percentage had risen to 41.9. It appears, also, that of 650,000 persons born in this country living in Chicago in 1890, 412,000 were the children of foreign-born parents.

The highest point attained by a railroad in the United States is in the Rocky mountains, 9,027 feet above the sea. Trains on the Callao Oroya line in Peru are now ascending to a height as far above this great elevation as the total height of Mount Washington. In other words, when a train on the Oroya line enters the the Galera tunnel to cross from the western to the eastern slope of the Cordilleras, it is more than a mile higher above the sea than the loftiest bit of railroad track in this country. At present the Galera tunnel is the highest elevation attained by any railroad in the world. It was on September 28th last that the first train from Callao passed through the tunnel to the eastern side of the mountains. Twenty years elapsed after the line was started at the sea before the Cordilleras were conquered; and trains have scarcely a foot of level grade for 106 miles until they pull into the Galera tunnel, 15,638 feet above the sea, and emerge upon the eastern face of the Andes. This tunnel was driven through the rock a distance of 3,855 feet. The melting snow that crowns the mountain summit above it filters through to the excavation. Two channels are cut in the rock to carry the water out of the tunnel. One of them leads to the head stream of the Amazon tributary and the Atlantic; the other to the Rimac River and the Pacific.

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