

MOST INFAMOUS!

Was the Proposition of This Ex-Commissioner of Pensions.

HER HONOR FOR A SITUATION.

The Case of Miss Frett, who Scored the Vice Official—Two Female ex-Employees of the Bureau of Engraving Tell why They Can't Get Work—A Conductor of the Avenue Line Praises the President of the Company.

"My name is Frett—John Frett—an old soldier, as you see," said a still well preserved gentleman to The Globe editor in his sanctum.

"My father," continued Mr. Frett, "fought with Napoleon and against him. He was a German, and had to serve the conqueror as well as his native land. Well, we came here when I was a baby. We settled among the Indians, about forty miles west of Chicago, which then had about 8,000 population. I will not wander on this subject, however. I served in the Civil War, have a soldier's record, and plenty of recommendations as to my poverty, which is apparent, and to my respectability and honesty. I have a family, and I can not make ends meet. My rent on Four-and-a-half street is due to-day, and I am trying to raise it to keep from being put out."

"Can't you get work in any of the Departments?"

"I have tried them all. I will sweep the floors; do anything for an honest living. I am still strong, as you can see, and can hold my own. I am a temperate man, as most all Germans are. I do not get drunk, nor wouldn't it if I could. I have the best of recommendations."

"What, then, is the trouble, Mr. Frett. Mr. McKinley, you know, claims that honorably discharged soldiers have the preference?"

"Yes, I know he does, and I know also that they have not. I was dropped for being a Democrat, although they say politics makes no difference where a man is an old soldier. But it isn't this particularly I came to see you about."

"What, then, Mr. Frett?"

"Well, sir, it makes my blood boil to think of it, and only for my little girl I would have murdered him."

"Who?"

"The Commissioner of Pensions."

"You don't mean Mr. Evans, do you?"

"No, sir, I do not, but an ex-Commissioner of Pensions. You see, it was this way. My girl, who is handsome, and as modest and virtuous as she is handsome, tried to get work as a soldier's daughter, in the Department. She passed the civil service, and was certified and all that, but she could not get appointed. She was turned down by every Department after the Appointment Clerk had a talk with and scolded her. The same with chiefs, auditors and the whole pack of them. You see, she was inexperienced and ignorant of the ways of the world, and didn't understand their hints, innuendos and covert propositions."

"On her virtue, Mr. Frett?"

proper to be asked, either, before she could get reinstated, notwithstanding President's order. We both worked through the Spanish War, and the Civil Service Commission tells us that we are entitled to reinstatement and to work before new hands, but we can't land, for, as you see, we are more than 'fat, fair and forty,' and that's the whole thing, a nutshell. No use beating about the bush—Venus and us two have parted company years ago, and now we are only hulks, although so far as merit and ability to do the work in the Bureau are concerned, either her or I can do as much work as any two of these simpering pretty-faced things, whose 'influence' keeps them at the trough while we are turned down."

"Yes; I worked under Roberts," chimed in the other lady. "Oh! he is a nice, sweet pill, he is. If the public knew him as we women know him he wouldn't be serving the Government as custodian of the Treasury vaults. But they are pretty near all alike. Women who have served from their youth up, like we have, know the villain. Look at the condition in that Bureau. We exports at this work get only \$1.50 and \$1.75 per day; now these pretty-faced things with big 'influence' get \$2. Why, it takes time to become expert at counting money, numbering, and other things. You don't understand, but they put these fresh ones on at \$2. That shows how the wind blows, Mr. Globe; don't it?"

And the two ladies, old and faithful employees of the Government, smiled significantly at each other and only as women can smile on certain subjects, as they rose and took their departure. It is very sad.

"Our lines do not come under your adverse criticism Mr. Globe, of the traction system in this city."

"Which are your lines?"

"Why, the avenue, 7th street, Chevy Chase and the 14th street. We are independent of the other and suburban lines of Washington."

"How are you treated?"

"Like men. I am a conductor, and my friend here is a motorman. We haven't a kick coming. Our president, G. P. DuBois, is a gentleman, and we couldn't get more considerate superintendent than Mr. D. S. Caryl."

"How are you paid?"

"Reasonably well. Two dollars for nine hours work. There is hardly a traction company in this country does what we do, and not one of them better. But money isn't everything, even to a workingman. What we praise our lines for is the consideration shown us."

"In what particular?"

"Why in numbers of ways. For instance, if any one of us is looking for a better job at something else and want a recommendation we can go to the superintendent and confide in him. He won't discharge us there and then, as he would elsewhere. On the contrary he will give us a recommendation, and we hold on to our jobs until we land in the place we are after. Now I told him I was coming up here to try and get that position you advertised of an advertisement solicitor. I got off and I can get a recommendation if I could fill the position."

"Sorry but it is already filled."

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TO BURN THE BUFFALO SHOW

And Charge an Admission Fee to see the Greatest Spectacular Exhibition Since Rome was Burned While Nero Fiddled. The Greatest Scheme of Modern Times and it will Pay, its Projectors Assert.

Special Dispatch to The Globe. Buffalo, July 27. A stock company is in process of organization and capitalization in Buffalo, that for uniqueness of purpose has never been approached in the country. The object of the company is to arrange for the most wonderful bonfire ever witnessed in the country, if not in the world. It is proposed on the night of December 1st to set fire to all the Pan-American Exposition buildings simultaneously, and, aided by mines and fireworks, create a great conflagration.

Although the projectors of the company which has set out to outdo the burning of Rome do not wish to be come identified with the movement at present, they are reliable, substantial business men of the city who have become convinced that the scheme is feasible. The exposition management has not yet been approached on the subject in a formal manner, although personal talks have been had, and it is considered that in the proper circumstances the management would cheerfully make over the titles to the buildings which are the objects of admiration on the part of thousands of people.

The contract the exposition has with the Rumsays requires the restoring of the plot of ground now occupied by the first of next July. At Chicago the buildings were razed by a wrecking company. The projectors here have made a proposition to tear down the Pan-American Exposition at the close of its spectacular life. Whether the wrecking company or the conflagration company secures the privilege of clearing the Ramsey tract of land will depend upon the remuneration offered the exposition.

Few details of the plans are made public at this time, it not being the purpose to divulge the plan of action to the profit of someone else. In general it is planned to tear down the exposition at frequent intervals, and the advantage erect seats sufficiently near the conflagration to enable a full and unobstructed view, and yet outside the radius of intense heat. A dollar or more would be charged spectators, according to the location of the seats.

The buildings would be prepared for the conflagration in advance. In the four corners of all buildings would be huge mines. All about would be scattered tanks of oil and other inflammable materials, so that when the first match was touched the flames would leap sky-high from every portion of the grounds at once. The fuel for the torch to be applied would be the discharge of the greatest bomb ever manufactured for exhibition purposes. The bomb would be sent flying a mile in the air and there exploded with a great report. Hardly would the vibrations of the immense bomb have died away when mines in all the buildings would be exploded. With each deafening report, flying debris, sparks and flames would shoot hundreds of feet in the air. As the flames swept over the grounds at frequent intervals, the devices of fireworks would be laced up by the flames, and the pyrotechnical display added to the grand spectacle.

The spectacle of destruction would be complete in every detail, not a single building on the grounds, with the exception of frequent intervals, being left to tell of the departed glories of the Pan-American. Beautiful statuary would crumble to dust before the terrific heat, the architecture which has aroused millions to admiration would disappear in a flash, and in a few hours all that would be left of the world's most beautiful exposition would be blackened areas of land, piles of debris alone indicating the former location of the magnificent buildings.

With the Electric Tower especially extensive plans are being devised. The structure of the tower is steel, but this would not retard the burning to any considerable extent. Great sheets of flame would envelop the tower and leap high in the air, illuminating the sky so that the flames would be visible for miles. The goddess of light, which now surmounts the tower, would be brought into prominence by some magnificent pyrotechnical display, at the conclusion of which it would be shot sky so that the flames would be visible for miles.

The conflagration would be advertised the country over, and cheap excursion rates secured on all railroads. The novelty of the scheme and the assurance that people would witness the most magnificent spectacle ever seen in this country would fill Buffalo with hundreds of thousands of visitors, whose admission fee to the seating concession would compensate the company for its outlay.

The only drawback to the scheme is the dubious prospect of being able to pull the conflagration off within a month after the close of the exposition in order to give time for removal of all exhibits. However, this is considered but a slight objection, as the conflagration would be so strong a feature as to draw people from any distance, even in cold weather. As view in outlines the scheme doubtless will appear impossible of execution to many people, although a study of the details would convince the most skeptical of its feasibility. It would, of course, be necessary to secure permission for the destruction of the buildings by fire, but the promoters claim they can satisfy the most pessimistic of the absolute lack of danger to other buildings, and furnish a bond to any amount to insure people from loss that might be occasioned by the spectacle. They claim there would likely be no trouble in securing the legislation permitting the fire, and in case their plans go through, Nero's spectacle will grow dim by comparison.

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