

The Evening World

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The Merger Marauders.

In applying for a certificate of incorporation, the Interborough Metropolitan Company asks the State of New York to grant to two men, Thomas F. Ryan and August Belmont, the exclusive control of all transit facilities in Manhattan and the Bronx for 999 years.

It asks the State to say that for thirty times the length of an ordinary lifetime these men shall enjoy the sole possession of enormously remunerative franchises, with which

the city parted for a title of their value.

That they shall be vested with the right to collect from thirty generations of passengers in ever-multiplying number the extortionate tax of excess profit above the legitimate cost of transportation which they now collect from three million people.

That they shall be legally empowered, practically in perpetuity, to stifle just competition, to bond leaseholds for revenues which of right belong to the city, to water public stock for private gain, even to the capitalization of the very discomforts of city travel, and to foist upon innocent investors securities based on fictitious values.

No such brazen demand for an official authorization to plunder a community has before been made. License to loot is what the Ryan-Belmont merger asks—license to compel street-car passengers to generations yet unborn to stand and deliver; license to exact a double tribute from the public as a passenger and as a purchaser of its manipulated stocks.

Is it to be permitted? Is the buccaneer combination to receive its commission to prey?

Passes and Two-Cent Fares.

The Ohio railroads having cut off passes, the Ohio Senate has put through a bill making two cents a mile the maximum rate of fare in the State. The end justified the means, though the means may not reflect the highest credit on legislators' principles.

But the public gains, which is the main thing. It gains whenever the railroads do away with these special privileges. The number of trunk roads now pursuing this policy is considerable and the effect salutary. There is the promise of an abolition of express franks and of Pullman passes.

All this points to a time when the railroads will find it to their best interests to carry all passengers without favoritism or exemption at a minimum rate.

Getting to Brooklyn.

Comptroller Metz and his predecessor, Mr. Grout, discovered on Wednesday night that no trolley cars were running on the bridge. Any theatre-going Brooklynite could have told them that it is the custom of the B. R. T. to "economize" at night by stopping the trolleys and by packing the few elevated trains on the bridge to suffocation.

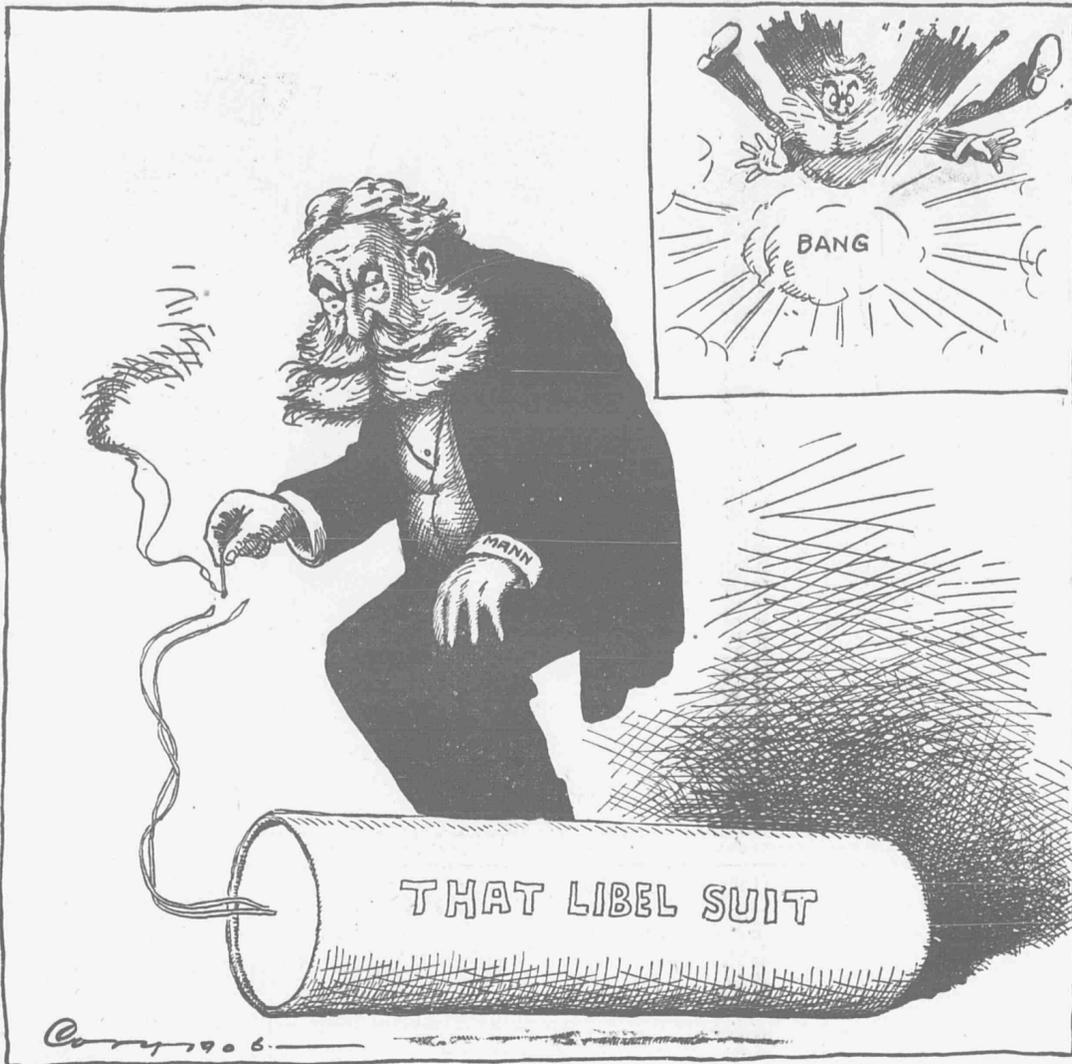
The Williamsburg ferry company now stops its boat service on both the Broadway and Grand street ferries because of the competition of the new bridge. They keep the cream of the "rush hour" business, but compel night-working patrons to go a long way around.

Meanwhile the splendid Jersey ferries do an increasing business. Two tunnels will soon be added to the westward-bound passenger capacity. Queens Borough, with the prospect of the Pennsylvania tunnel, is the fastest-growing section of the city.

In a time when means of communication are so rapidly improving it is a loss to the whole city that getting to Brooklyn is made so difficult by the greed, the folly and the inefficiency of the ferry companies and the B. R. T.

Blowing Himself Up.

By J. Campbell Cory.



Letters from the People

Old-Age Pensions. To the Editor of The Evening World: Seeing in your columns recently a plea for old-age pensions, I would like to add my voice in favor of them. Why is it that those commanding high salaries receive life pensions, while those less favored, but just as worthy, are often neglected in this respect? Many women who have been struggling for many years, many with others dependent upon them, find themselves now with their earning capacity decreasing each year and old age creeping on, worrying about the time when they will be forced to give up the struggle, or the possibility of their resignation being asked for in favor of a younger person at any moment. Out of their small salaries it has taken

every cent they could rake and scrape together to meet their necessary expenses, and it has been impossible for them to save for their old age. D. S. W. Cold Subway Cars. To the Editor of The Evening World: This afternoon I went downtown on the Subway at One Hundred and Forty-ninth street and was told I would have to go to Ninety-sixth street before I could take the express downtown, but when I entered the car at One Hundred and Forty-ninth street I found it cold. I asked the guard why the car was not heated. He said the car had just come out of the shop. That is a common excuse for a guard or conductor. When I reached the express train at Ninety-

sixth street I found that car about as bad as the other one. I asked the guard why he didn't get up some heat. His answer was: "You're foolish." In this city to-day there are a large number of people very sick from colds. I think many people get cold in the Subway and on street cars because employees are too lazy to put the heat on. R. P. W. Providence vs. the Trusts. To the Editor of The Evening World: Every dog has his day. So has the trust. So has the public. In anticipation of a severe winter the coal barons, according to habit, raised the price of coal to \$5 or \$7 per ton, notwithstanding the fact that mountains of the fuel are piled up through greed and overproduction—at the mines and elsewhere. The

presence of a mild winter and the various heating devices enable us to keep comfortably warm, so that His Coolship is now going begging for a customer. The egg, cornered as usual, is an indispensable article to the housekeeper, and to a person in-a-hurry-for-his lunch. Its price is three, four and five cents—very soon it will be a drug in the market, thanks to the benevolent consideration of the weather man. F. DEERMAN. Apply to Supreme Court. To the Editor of The Evening World: Where could I apply to have my name changed? A. B. Pink for Girl. Blue for Boy. To the Editor of The Evening World: What are the proper colors for a baby girl and for a baby boy? C. D.

Answers to Questions

A GROUP OF ODDITIES IN PICTURE AND STORY

THIS is a "sacred apron," made entirely of carved human bones. It was made in Tibet, where it is used in the religious rites of the Red Lamas. The bones are strung together like beadwork and their surfaces are polished and quaintly carved and chased. The "apron" forms one of the strangest and most precious relics in all the "Forbidden Land." The illustration is reproduced from the London Graphic.

A curious scarf pin worn by a Liverpool man is a petrified human eye set in a gold frame. The present owner of this singular ornament found it in Peru while he was on an exploring tour in the land of the Incas with a party of scientists.

The canaries of Germany excel all other canaries as singers. One has been recorded to continue a single trill for one and one-quarter minutes, with twenty changes of note in it.

As recently as the years 1901, 1902 and 1903 there were respectively thirteen, ten and nine applications for patents relating to perpetual motion made at the British Patent Office. From the year 1617, the date of the earliest patent, down to 1903, there have been over 600 applications for such patents.

In a London hospital the wave siren shown in this picture is used to test what sounds a deaf person hears. When once it is discovered that a certain note is not heard or only heard indistinctly a tuning fork of this note is selected, and an attempt is made to stimulate the muscles and arouse the nerve. If the tuning fork is not sufficient, the sound is increased by the means of a resonator.

Measuring a seven miles in length and signed by 630,654 persons, a petition is to be presented to the British Parliament next session asking that a bill be passed for the prohibition of the vivisection of dogs.

In the sense of smell excited by gases or particles? According to Dr. John Attkin, an English specialist, gas is the fundamental basis of the sense of smell. In experiments he first investigated musk, of which it is possible to detect by smell a microscopic quantity inconceivably minute, a fact well known to scientists. Dr. Attkin carried out his researches upon the cloudy condensation basis, according to which, if odors are attributable to particles, the latter form nuclei of cloudy condensation in supersaturated air, and thus make their presence visible.

A contrivance has been invented to make mountain climbing much easier. The foot is held with the aid of leather straps in a clamp. The heel is made in two parts; one is shaped like the boot; and the other, T, is screwed in the first, thus raising the heel on a level with the foot. These contrivances can be fastened onto the toe of the foot when the climber is descending.

A London money lender pressed his claim for money loaned in a City Court and the Judge, after an exhaustive inquiry into the merits of the case, directed the defendant to pay the debt at the rate of one penny per month, the entire amount to be paid by the end of the 26th year.

Some of the streets of Warsaw, Poland, are paved with straw pressed into blocks and made hard enough to be used for this purpose.

A Thought for To-Day. Brave, brave were the soldiers (high named to-day) who lived through the fight, But the bravest press'd to the front and fell, unnamed, unknown. WALT WHITMAN.

No. 1 The Lenten Croft Robberies SOLVED BY Martin Hewitt, Investigator. A New Detective Series By Arthur Morrison, No. 1 Author of "Tales of Mean Streets."

Martin Hewitt began life as a law clerk, but quickly developed such remarkable talents for the ferreting out of complicated mysteries that he took up the trade of private detective. His business was always conducted without the help of professional assistants. He maintained that he had no "system" beyond a judicious use of ordinary facilities. The following experiences were narrated by Hewitt to his friend Brett, a newspaper man.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS. Martin Hewitt is summoned to Lenten Croft by Sir James Norris to investigate a series of robberies. Several jewel thefts have occurred at Lenten Croft. In each case a burnt match being found lying on the spot whence the jewels have been removed. Hewitt at first goes to the right hand room. He takes to his room a parrot belonging to Sir James's secretary, Lloyd, and sends the secretary for the police. On the latter's arrival he charges Lloyd with the thefts.

CHAPTER IV. Crime's Old Agent.

"THIS is the person who will be accused, I think," said Hewitt. "What, Lloyd?" gasped Sir James, aghast. "No—not Lloyd—nonsense!"

"He doesn't seem to think it nonsense himself, does he?" Hewitt placidly observed. Lloyd had sunk on a chair and, gray of face, was staring blindly at the man he had run against at the office door that morning. His lips moved in spasms, but there was no sound. The wilted flower fell from his buttonhole to the floor, but he did not move.

"This is his accomplice!" Hewitt went on, placing the parrot and cage on the hall table, "though I doubt whether there will be any use in charging him. Eh, Polly?"



"This is his accomplice!" Hewitt went on.

ladies walking before dark on the day of the first robbery proved nothing, because, since it was clear that the match had not been used to procure a light, the robbery was not a match robbery. It was a jewel robbery. The match was taken place in daylight as now—must have so taken place, in fact, if my conjectures were right. There could be no other explanation.

"When Mrs. Heath left her window open and her door shut, anybody's climbing upon the open saah of Lloyd's high window could have put the bird in the bird's beak for the purpose I have indicated, and struck first, in case by accident it should ignite by rubbing against something and startle the bird—this match would, of course, be dropped at the spot where the missing article had been left—scarcely a likely triple coincidence had the match been used by a human thief. This would have been done as soon after the ladies had left as possible, and there would have been time for Lloyd to hurry out and meet them before dark—especially plenty of time to meet them coming back, as they must have been about the servants and a female searcher. The match was an article well chosen for its purpose as being a not altogether unlikely thing to find on a dressing table, and, if noticed, likely to lead to the wrong conclusions adopted by the official detective.

"In Mrs. Armitage's case the taking of an inferior brooch and the leaving of a more valuable ring pointed clearly either to the operator being a fool or unable to distinguish values, and certainly from other indications, the thief and the searcher, so to speak, on guard, and the window was only eight or ten feet above the ground. A human thief entering the window would have disturbed this arrangement and would scarcely have discovered the brooch in so great a hurry as to match it with the ring. The brooch to some human thief entering the window would have disturbed this arrangement and would scarcely have discovered the brooch in so great a hurry as to match it with the ring. The brooch to some human thief entering the window would have disturbed this arrangement and would scarcely have discovered the brooch in so great a hurry as to match it with the ring.

"Now in yesterday's case we had an alteration of conditions. The window was open—and only left for a few minutes, during which time no sound was heard either of coming or going. Was it not possible, then, that the thief was already in the room, in hiding, while Mrs. Cazenove was there, and seized his first opportunity on her temporary absence? The room is full of draperies, beams, and what not, allowing of plenty of concealment for a bird, and a bird could leave the place noiselessly and quickly. That the whole scheme was strange mattered not at all. Robberies presenting such unaccountable features are not infrequently met with, and the marks corresponded exactly. After this I felt very little doubt indeed. The fact of Lloyd's having met the

The second adventure of Martin Hewitt, investigator, "The Stolen Athlete," will begin in Monday's Evening World.